

DISRAELI

A Picture of the Victorian Age

BY

ANDRÉ MAUROIS

TRANSLATED BY HAMISH MILES

WITH EXERCISES BY

J. C. DENT, M.A.

Late Head Master, Westminster City School



BLACKIE & SON LIMITED
LONDON AND GLASGOW

PREFACE

It is difficult, perhaps even impossible, to read and to study a book at the same time. To read is to move with some freedom and confidence along the path of the author's mind. To study is to call a halt and to scrutinize the trail more closely. The balance between reading and studying is determined by the ability, taste, knowledge, and purpose of the reader. When, however, the reader is under direction, as in a school, it is necessary to decide, if there is to be any such balance, how it shall be secured. There was a time when the question was settled almost always by the temperament or mood of the person responsible for directing the attention of the reader. To-day there is a more critical approach to the question. "Some books," said Bacon, "are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." But if this is true of books, it is equally true, at any rate so far as young readers are concerned, of passages within books.

This series aims at helping readers by focusing their attention, either at long range or at closer range, upon questions which, it is hoped, will enrich their acquaintance with the book. For this purpose the questions at the back of the books are of two kinds. Those under the heading *General Study* deal with the larger problems

