

Crossing Two Cultures Poetry, Science and Criticism

A. Critical Perspectives

1) If the labours of Men of science should ever create any material revolution, direct or indirect, in our condition, and in the impressions which we habitually receive, the poet will sleep then no more than at present: he will be ready to follow the steps of the Man of science, not only in those general indirect effects, but he will be at his side, carrying sensation into the midst of the objects of the science itself.

William Wordsworth, 'Preface' to *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)

2) ... to what extent may science make obsolete the poetry of the past? ...

... Pseudo-statements to which we attach no belief and statements proper, such as science provides, cannot conflict. It is only when we introduce inappropriate kinds of believing into poetry that danger arises. ...

... A great deal of poetry can, of course, be written for which total independence of all beliefs is an easy matter. But it is never poetry of the more important kind, because the temptation to introduce beliefs is a sign and measure of the importance of the attitude involved.

I. A Richards, *Science and Poetry* (1926, 1935)

B. Poetry, Medicine and the Body

3a) Rosa Newmarch, *Horae Amoris XXXI* (1903)

3b) Edna St Vincent Millay, *Fatal Interview VI* (1931)

4) Dean Young, 'I See a Lily on Thy Brow' (2002)

5) Robinson Jeffers, *Cawdor* (1928)

6) Michael Donaghy, 'Grimoire'
(written 2003, published posthumously 2006)

C. Poetry, Evolution and Extinction

8a) Constance Naden, 'Natural Selection' (1887)

9) Thomas Hardy, 'To Outer Nature' (1898)

10) Judith Wright, 'Lament for Passenger Pigeons' (1972)

