Together the poets published in 1798 "Lyrical Ballads", which marked a revival in English Poetry. Together also, at the end of the same year, the poets proceeded to Germany where Wordsworth began "The Prelude" and also composed "Ruth", "Lucy Gray", "She dwelt among Lucy" and other poems. He married in 1802 Mary Hutchinson of Penrith. Events abroad now changed his political attitude to one of patriotic enthusiasm. In 1805, he completed "The Prelude" which, however, was not published until after his death. In 1807 he moved to Rydal Mount, Grasmere, which he occupied till his death. In 1843 he succeeded Southey as Poet Laureate and died in 1850.

Theme :-
In a nutshell, the theme of the poem "Ode to a Nightingale" can be described as the aspiration towards a life of beauty away from the oppressing world.

Argument :-
The Poet wants to leave behind him the worries and cares of human life and be united with the Nightingale. In order

Ode to a Nightingale : John Keats

Life and works :-

William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850) was educated at the grammar school of Hawkshead and St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1790 went on a walking tour in France, the Alps, and Italy. He returned to France late in 1791 and and spent a year there. At that time the revolutionary movement was at its height which exercised a strong influence on his mind. It was in France that he fell in love with the daughter of a surgeon at Blois, Annette vallon, who bore him a daughter. When the French revolution was followed by the English declaration of war and the terror, Wordsworth republican enthusiasm gave place to a period of pessimism. In 1795 he made the acquaintance with S.T. Coleridge. A long and close friendship developed between the poets and Wordsworth with his sister Dorothy and Mr. and Mrs. Coleridge lived for a year in close contact and at Alfoxden and Stowey in Somerset

fly. to the bird, sitting among the leaves singing of the beauties of the summer, the poet at first thinks of drinking wine, but then gives it up and takes to the wings of poetry. He the describes the effect of the Nightingale's song whom he calls immortal being. The Poet, however, finds that noth- can remove the gloom of his mind

Critical Appreciation :-

"Ode to a Nightingale" was written at Hampstead where the poet had gone to meet a friend. One morning he took a chair to the grass plot under a plum tree where he composed this poem. This poem is supposed to be one of the most reflective poems of Keats but sensuous element, which is the main characteristic of the poet, is also present. In fact here we find a unique combinati- -on of the reflective and the sensuous elements of Keats' poetry.

Another point to be noted in this poem is the aspiration to joy livi-

Metre?

As far as the Rhyme and Metre of this poem is concerned the poem consists of eight stanzas to the iambic lines to each stanza the charm of the verse depends partly on the inevitable, yet unmonotonous recurrence of the rhymes partly on the effect of the shortened eighth line in producing a momentary pause that heightens the force of the full music of the last two lines.

— x — x —

— H. P. Jha

for DI./Paper II/Poetry

side by side with the enjoyment of sorrow. There is a perfect adjustment between the theme of the poem and the poet's mood. The sad thoughts of the bird give us the aspiration of the poet and raise in him the sorrow which at the time was pervading his mind. There is deep personal in this poem which is seen in the plaintive associations of the nightingale.

What makes this poem particularly affecting to the reader is the contrast between the joyousness of the bird and the cheerlessness of the poet. Leigh Hunt's criticism of this poem runs as follows:" The Poem will be more striking to the reader when he understands that the author's powerful mind has for some time past been inhabiting a sickened and shaken body; and that, in the meanwhile it has had to contend with feelings that make a fine nature ache for its species, even when it would disdain to do so for itself."