In examining the intersection of literary discourse and cultural rhetoric, Shaffer draws on the interpretative strategies of Mikhail Bakhtin, Terry Eagleton,
Clifford Geertz, and others. He demonstrates that such disparate fictions as Heart of Darkness, The Secret Agent, The Plumed Serpent, Dubliners, Ulysses, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, and Under the Volcano all portray civilization in the paradoxical image of blindness and insight, obfuscation and enlightenment - as a blinding torch that captivates the eye while it obscures vision." As the product of a particular culture, literature draws life from tensions with and impacts on the cultural context from which it has emerged. Resistance reproduces social development in aesthetic terms without directly imitating it. Children's Literature Association Quarterly. Folklore and the Fantastic in Nineteenth Century British Fiction (review). Martha Hixon. Children's Literature Association Quarterly, Johns Hopkins University Press. Volume 34, Number 1, Spring 2009. The subject of Jason Harris's Folklore and the Fantastic in NineteenthCentury British Fiction is, the author claims, the intersection of folklore and Victorian fantasy fiction, or "how nineteenth-century writers imitate, revise, and transform preternatural folkloric material into narratives of the literary fantastic" (1). The actual scope of the work is rather less ambitious, in that Harris examines only a representative selection.