

Unlike Casaubon, Dr Lydgate is a genius. He is chosen by Bulstrode, the banker for his hospital, thus causing much displeasure to the old fashioned local doctors. Dr Lydgate falls in love with Rosamond Vincy, a selfish woman, and marries her. Rosamond, unlike Dorothea is not interested in helping a genius. She wants money and social position. As the ideas of Dr Lydgate about the human body are new, people become shy of him. His practice dwindles. He has to suffer financially. Bulstrode helps him with the money in return for treating Raffles at 'Stone Court'. When Raffles dies, it is rumoured that Dr Lydgate has been bribed to kill him. Thus Lydgate is humiliated and his idealism is shattered. With his wife he goes to London where he becomes a common doctor. After his death Rosamond marries an elderly doctor and moves about in his elegant carriage. Dr Lydgate's idealism



and his unwise marriage lead to his tragedy. George Eliot has made an analytical study of her characters and each character is endowed with such psychological appeal.

George Eliot's excellence lies in the way she analyses moral conflicts. Bulstrode has such a conflict when he waits on ailing Raffles who knows his infamous past. He entrusts the administration of medicines to Mrs Abel for a while at night with the result that Raffles is killed by an overdosing of opium. Though Bulstrode is not actually the murderer, his conscience cannot acquit him. Then there is the moral conflict of Mary Garth who is asked by dying Featherstone to burn his last will. She knows that if she obeys him, Fred Vinny will be a ~~win~~ gainer, but she cannot do so without any witness. Ultimately she does not obey the dying man. The result is that Fred gets nothing. He, however, continues to love Mary and is apprenticed to her father. Another case of moral conflict is actually analysed to show the nobility of Farebrother, the clergyman, who wants to marry Mary but has to bring



Fred and Mary together. The Fred Mary relationship shows how Fred has to make himself worthy of that virtuous woman before he can hope to marry her.

It is thus clear that Eliot is remarkable for the profound and psychological analysis of the individual. Her characters have no personal flavour because they do not impress us when they act or speak, but she creates them by analysing them. The moral code that is responsible for conflicts in *Bulstrode* is a feature of the static society in which the idealism of Dorothea and Lydgate in *Wrecked*, Mary and Farebrother are George Eliot's positives. As no one now considers the society to be static and accepts a moral code separated from religion which gave rise to it, George Eliot's analysis of human beings has its limitations. In spite of its loose structure, this novel reveals mature interests and a mature understanding of life. It lights up different vital aspects of social life never presented in fiction before. Thus she is a pioneer in this respect and for this we consider her to be the first great modern novelist in spite of her mechanistic and determinist view of society.