

EDITORIAL

We were more critical of our first number than were some of our friends. We felt that excessive concern with the question of Russia and with the international scene gave it a lop-sided character. In this number we have tried to correct the balance. While the voices of Leopold Infeld and Nazim Hikmet give us authentic insights into the forces of decay and regeneration within Communist countries, our main emphasis is upon problems which are the direct responsibility of the British labour movement; and we are glad also to have been able to draw more freely, in creative writing, upon our own resources.

Our main discussion article, by John Hughes, subjects to close and concrete analysis the problems of power and policy involved in the nationalisation of the steel industry. We hope that this article will contribute to (and perhaps bring down to earth) the growing volume of discussion developing around the Labour Party's policy statement, 'Industry and Society'. In order to make room for this, we have held over until our third number Ken Alexander's discussion article on 'Workers' Control and British Socialism.' Meanwhile the discussion on socialist humanism initiated in our first number is continued, and will be carried further in future numbers.

The section in our first number entitled 'Chronicle, Polemic, Discussion' has now been divided into two. One section, 'Discussion' is intended for the use of readers who wish to carry forward questions opened up in these pages. The other, 'Chronicle and Review,' will carry various types of commentary or analysis initiated by readers, reports upon events or problems — especially in the international scene — neglected in the rest of the press, and (in future numbers) review-articles of important books.

We thank many readers who have sent in criticisms of our format, etc., and we have done what we can to meet them. In particular we are glad to publish Paul Hogarth's fine South African drawings. But if we are to continue to pay for blocks and other improvements, as well as meeting the extra cost of the new postal rates, we must either extend our circulation or find some new way of raising money. The entire editorial, circulation and distribution side of this journal is run on a voluntary spare time basis by the editors and their friends: all contributors are unpaid: and the help of the readers, especially in provincial centres, in acting as sales agents and in promoting circulation, will

be welcome. We thank those many readers who sent us donations over and above their annual subscriptions. We are not, as yet, making any further appeal, since we know that our present subscription is as much as many readers can afford. But if there are any readers who can help us out, they will know that all money sent to us will be used to improve the journal and to make it more widely known.

Our acknowledgments are due to the 'New Statesman' in which Christopher Logue's poem, 'The Song of the Dead Soldier,' was first published.

J.S. E.P.T.

THE NEW REASONER is a quarterly, published early in September, December, March and June. Subscription rates are 15/- a year (4/- singly copies) post free, from E. P. Thompson, 'The New Reasoner,' Holly Bank, Whitegate, Halifax.

All MSS should be sent to the Editors at this address, together with a stamped addressed envelope. Copy for consideration for the Winter Number should be sent by October 15th at the latest.