

spring 1959



Universities & Left Review

Bertolt Brecht

Michael Barratt-Brown

Paddy Whannel

John Rex

Clive Jenkins

Edward Thompson

Ralph Samuel

The Ginger Jar

Plan for Progress

Room at the Top

Labour's Task in Central Africa

BOAC: Anatomy of a Strike

Commitment in Politics

Class and Classlessness

4/-

Notes for our Readers

Most readers will have noticed from the inside front cover that a number of new recruits have been added to the Old Guard of Four on our Editorial Board. Three of those were companions-in-arms during the days of the "ancien regime" in Oxford before ULR went on the road: Alan Lovell, who did History at Magdalen, is now on the editorial staff of Peace News; Alan Hall has just come back to a lectureship at the University College of North Staffordshire from two years' field-work in ancient history in the Eastern Mediterranean; Michael Kullmann is now lecturing in Philosophy at the Royal College of Art. The other three are friends we have made since 1956. Alasdair MacIntyre is a lecturer in Philosophy at Leeds; Norman Birnbaum lectures in Sociology at the L.S.E.; Michael Barratt-Brown, who, after a varied career, is now in Adult Education in Essex, has been carrying the "economics" can for this journal for some months, and is also our "interlocking" editor with the Editorial Board of the New Reasoner.

Everyone had had a finger in the pie, this issue, editing and pasting up and counting words, etc. We have also had the help of Robert Cassen's agile red pencil: we are sorry to have to lend him to Berkeley, California, for two years, where he is going this summer on a Commonwealth Fellowship.

Over the months, there has been a considerable "growing together" of ULR and the New Reasoner. At a joint conference which was held at Wortley Hall, near Sheffield, in November, we laid the basis for co-operation in several fields, and we've begun to reap the rewards of that already. A number of ULR/NR Left Clubs have been started up—Leeds and Manchester—and there are plans under discussion for similar groups in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Cardiff. We are also planning a series of joint schools and conferences: there was an industrial conference for trade unionists at Wortley in April, and other plans for the summer and next winter.

There are two other projects under way which we hope very much will have the co-operation and support of our readers, and which will do a great deal to consolidate the earlier gains of the "New Left". The first is a projected series of ULR/NR pamphlets on different topics, which will enable us to work through some of our ideas and proposals in more detail and at greater length than has been possible in either of the two journals. The first venture in this field was The Socialist Wages Plan which John Hughes and Ken Alexander wrote for us. This pamphlet has had a wide trade union sale: we sold out the first print of 2,000 and have reprinted another 1,000. It has also provoked a good deal of discussion, and had favourable comment by Ian Mikardo in Tribune and in trade union journals. We hope our other pamphlets do as well.

Much of the material already collected for a projected issue of the Review on Colonialism, proved substantial and important enough to go into a pamphlet on the subject, which we hope to produce fairly soon: and we have plans for an "insiders" attack on the Conservative Party and Tory pressure groups which will give Colman, Prentiss and Varley something to think about.

The second project, now well under way, is for a series of reasonably priced books which will provide a much-needed Socialist Library of analysis and propaganda for use in the building-up of a new movement. These books will be roughly 60,000 words each. We have plans for some of the early titles—a book of analytic essays on the current political situation, edited by Edward Thompson and Alasdair MacIntyre, and an analysis of the General Election and its consequences for the Labour movement. We are also planning books on Imperialism, on Education and Advertising, and the first of a series of studies on the British Power Elite.

What this means, in fact, is that we have to divide the available talents, time and energy of those who have been almost entirely concerned, so far, with the production of the two journals. We need a more flexible structure, with the journals (or a joint journal?) taking its place alongside pamphlets, books, the Clubs, perhaps week-end schools and conferences, to carry through the task of analysis, education and propaganda which we feel the New Left, at this point in its development, urgently needs.

The question of the joint journal is still a matter for discussion between the two Editorial Boards: but by the time our next number goes to press we should have something concrete to say on this. We feel now that, with the steadily growing support and readership which the two journals command, the movement can sustain something more regular even than a quarterly. Any such journal would, of course, keep in general to the agreed basis upon which both ULR and the New Reasoner were built: that socialism without humanism is nothing, and that a socialist journal of this kind would keep the breadth of interest, subject-matter and approach which we have tried for so far. We think perhaps we have the resources now to carry such a project through. And we hope very much that our readers would see such a development as a tremendous step forward, and be prepared to give it the support, and the financial help which the venture would require. Without that kind of help we would not have come even so far as we have.



Dissent

—Spring issue just out—features:

The Second Industrial Revolution—Fritz Sternberg
Meaning in Work—Daniel Bell
American Education (Part I)—Michael Walzer
Socialism Without Marx—Ben Seligman
Trotsky's Diary reviewed by Erich Fromm
Castro in Cuba—Livio Stecchini
C. Wright Mills on War—two reviews by Irving Howe and A. J. Muste

AND A HOST OF OTHER FEATURES, REVIEWS, ETC.

Obtainable, price 4/-, from Better Books, Freedom and Fabian Bookshops, or direct from BOM/PLASTRIK, London, W.C.I., price 15/- p.a. post free

Many back issues still available



Faber Books

Chinese Art in the 20th. Century

By **MICHAEL SULLIVAN**. The first comprehensive survey, in any language, of the art of China in this century. Introduced by Sir Herbert Read. *With 68 plates, four in colour.* 63s.

Modulor 2

LE CORBUSIER

Le Corbusier describes the world reception of his "harmonious measure to the human scale", set forth in *THE MODULOR*. Criticisms are reported and answered and further examples of the practical use of the Modulor are discussed and illustrated. *With 198 illustrations, mainly photographs, and diagrams.* 42s.

Critique of Religion and Philosophy

By **WALTER KAUFMANN**. "The most intellectually exciting modern book on the philosophy of religion that I have come across."—*Anthony Quinton*.

Anabasis

ST-JOHN PERSE

Translated by T. S. ELIOT. A revised version, with the original French text of this landmark in modern French poetry. Prefaces by Valéry Larbaud, Hugo van Hofmannsthal and Giuseppe Ungaretti and a note by Lucien Fabre. 15s.

Trotsky's Diary in Exile 1935

This important document, written in France and Norway, gives the exiled Trotsky's day-to-day reflections on politics and affairs, together with his anxious thoughts for his family. The volume concludes with his Testament, written in Mexico in February 1940. 21s.

The Seven Years

By **EARL WEINSTOCK & HERBERT WILNER**. The autobiography of a Roumanian who experienced Nazi and Soviet oppression and finally escaped to America. 18s.

A Time to Speak

By **MICHAEL SCOTT**. "The exciting thing about this autobiography is the way in which it shows . . . how effective an instrument one man can be if he guards his integrity. . . . An intensely personal record [and] an essential historical document."—*FR. HUDDLESTON, NEW STATESMAN*. 21s.

Down Second Avenue

By **EZEKIAL MPHAHLELE**. The autobiography of an African born and brought up in South Africa. He writes of his early life in the country as a tribal herd boy; his sudden diving into a city slum at 13; his climb to high academic honours and a post on *Drum*; his experiences at the hands of white people. *Down Second Avenue* gives a vivid impression of how Africans live and talk and work together. 18s.

JOHN BEAVEN (The Twentieth Century)

'Among the young, not to know about — I won't say have read — **THE USES OF LITERACY and CULTURE AND SOCIETY** is to brand oneself as the intellectual equivalent of a square.'

RICHARD HOGGART

The Uses of Literacy

25s net

RAYMOND WILLIAMS

Culture and Society

30s net

Obtainable from all bookshops and libraries and both published by

CHATTO & WINDUS