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The
Modern
Quarterly

EDITOR: DR. JOHN LEWIS

TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE

SUMMER 1946

ARAGON

MODERN BALLET

THE POWER OF MARXISM

THE MECHANISM OF EVOLUTION

ENGELS AND MATERIALISTIC
ÆSTHETICS

LAWRENCE AND WISHART

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Editorial

DURING the past three months the ideological offensive against Socialism has been in full swing in a stream of new books, in the Press, and on the air. We need only mention the successive series of broadcasts (four in each) by the Rev. D. R. Davies, Father Martindale and J. Middleton Murry, whose single theme was "The Defeat of Modern Man." "Civilisation has one possibility of survival," says D. R. Davies. "Somehow or other, by hook or by crook, *this world must be robbed of the importance which it has had*" (our italics). As an epilogue to these prophesies of woe comes the unrelieved pessimism of Koestler, Professor Woodward and E. M. Forster. We are gratified to note that both Koestler and Davies make their point of attack the articles by Haldane and Bernal in the *Modern Quarterly*.

We conceive it to be our task to continue the counter-offensive so ably begun by Bernal, Farrington and Haldane in their Sunday evening broadcasts, and we invite more articles on the current philosophies of our time, critical articles on literary tendencies, and reviews of recent books, to which we intend to devote more space. We are anxious for our contributors to take up and critically expound the "existentialism" which is so influential, especially in France, the personalism of Berdyaev, the irrationalism of Kierkegaard. We are glad to announce that in forthcoming issues Professor Haldane intends to deal with C. S. Lewis of *The Screwtape Letters*, Maurice Cornforth will write on *Logical Positivism*, which is receiving some attention in *Polemic*, and two further articles by Cornu will appear on *Marxism and Ideology*.

WE are most anxious to extend the field of discussion opened by the communications we have printed on Marxist economics and on art. Unfortunately, our supplies of paper are still greatly restricted. We therefore limit our editorial remarks to find the maximum space for the many lively communications which have reached us on these issues and for Mr. Blaukopf's endeavour to start another hare.

Mr. Hyman Frankel's second article on Whitehead will appear in the autumn number.