

Vol. VII, No. 8

September, 1915

The
PLEBS
MAGAZINE



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at the same address.*

MONTHLY

TWOPENCE

The "Plebs" League

Object

To further the interests of Independent working-class education as a partizan effort to improve the position of Labour in the present, and ultimately to assist in the abolition of wage-slavery.

Methods

The holding of an Annual Meet: the issuing of a monthly Magazine, mainly devoted to the discussion of the various questions of Labour, theoretical and practical: the formation of local branches and classes for the study of social science, in connexion with the Central Labour College, and in every way to assist in the development of the latter institution, and its maintenance of a definite educational policy.

Membership

Open to all who endorse the object of the League.


Each Member shall pay 1/- a year to the Central Fund towards meeting the expenses in connexion with the Annual Meet, &c.

Management

An Executive of five members elected annually, and the Editor of Magazine, who shall be responsible as to publication and meets, &c.

The Magazine shall be 2d. per copy, 2½d. post free.

Subscriptions payable in advance: Quarterly 7½d., Half Yearly 1/3, Yearly 2/6

 The Eighth Annual Meet will be held in London (Bank Holiday), August, 1916

P.O's to be forwarded to

J. REYNOLDS, Secretary-Treasurer

13 Penywern Road, Earls Court,
London, S.W.

TO CONTRIBUTORS AND CORRESPONDENTS.—Please note that the last day for receiving copy for the *PLEBS* is the 18th of the month.

THE PLEBS MAGAZINE

"I can promise to be candid but not impartial."

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TO OUR READERS

At the Annual Plebs' Meet held at the College on August 1st, two main questions were discussed:—(1) How to increase the circulation of the Magazine, and (2) How to wipe out the burden of debt which is a depressing legacy from the earlier years of struggle. Full particulars of the discussion and of the suggestions made will appear in the Report of the Meet to be published in next month's issue. Meantime we may say, briefly, that it was decided (1) to invite individual supporters in the various towns and districts to act as distributing and canvassing agents; and (2) to open a Shilling Fund to clear off the debt—the Executive Committee being instructed to take steps to put these two schemes into immediate operation. We wish here only to point out that the debt, or the bulk of it, **MUST BE CLEARED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR**; and we ask our readers to do their utmost to increase their orders for the next (October) number, and to lay their plans for making the Shilling Fund an instant and complete success.

CENTRAL LABOUR COLLEGE

Sixth Annual Meeting, August 2nd, 1915

ON the invitation of the Board of the College and with the unanimous vote of the delegates, Mr. James Winstone, President of the South Wales Miners' Federation, occupied the chair.

Particulars of delegation are as follows :—

National Union of Railwaymen	...	...	by 57 delegates
South Wales Miners' Federation	...	...	„ 13 „
National Society of House and Ships' Painters and Decorators	...	...	„ 1 „
Building Workers' Industrial Union	...	...	„ 1 „
U.K.S. of Coachmakers	...	...	„ 1 „
Domestic Workers' Union	...	...	„ 1 „
N.U.R. Women's Guild	...	...	„ 2 „
Women's Co-operative Guild	...	...	„ 2 „
Amalgamated Engineers' Club and Institute	...	...	„ 1 „
Trades' Councils	...	...	„ 1 „
Independent Labour Party	...	...	„ 1 „
Central Labour College Class	...	...	„ 1 „

The Sub-Warden, in the absence of the Warden, presented the Warden's Report.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The College commenced its sixth session on September 23rd, 1914, and terminated the same on July 31st, 1915.

The following are the particulars of scholarships held during the session :—

South Wales Miners' Federation, Rhondda Valley, No. 1,	Mr. W. H. Mainwaring
	Mr. J. E. Williams.
South Wales Miners' Federation, Rhondda Valley, No. 2,	Mr. E. J. Williams.
South Wales Miners' Federation, Western Valleys (Mon.),	Mr. F. Murnan,
	Mr. W. Williams.

National Union of Railwaymen	Mr. R. Holder.
	Mr. J. H. Pratt.
Women's League of the Central Labour College,	
	Miss Mary Howarth.

In addition to the above, there has been in residence since March 2nd last, Mr. T. Teague, of Blaengarw, South Wales, who at his own expense has taken up a twelve months' scholarship.

Two changes have to be noted in the foregoing particulars:— (1) Mr. W. Williams, of the Western Valleys replaced Mr. F. Murnan of that district, from the beginning of January, 1915; (2) Miss Mary Howarth left the College at the close of April last to take up an appointment as organizer for the Women's Trade Union League.

The following changes in the Staff of the College have taken place:—On the 5th of October last, the Secretary, and Lecturer on Economics, Mr. George Sims, resigned for the purpose of joining the Army; the Assistant Secretary, Mr. James Reynolds, was appointed to act as Secretary, and has so acted since the departure of Mr. Sims, while the Sub-Warden has, since the beginning of 1915, taken on the work of teaching Economics.

With very deep regret it has to be reported, that the Warden of the College, Mr. Dennis Hird, has been absent from the College since the middle of May last, when he was attacked by a very serious illness, from which he has not yet sufficiently recovered, to his great disappointment and ours, to be able to be present at this meeting. He writes me as follows:—

The Leys, Bletchley,

30th July, 1915.

My dear Craik,—

Will you, please, express to my colleagues, the students, and all the delegates and friends, who assemble at the Meet, my deep disappointment at not being present with them?

Owing to the peculiar nature of my attack, there is nothing but *rest* which can be trusted to ward off any repetition of such attacks, so I am compelled to lie still for another month.

I expect to be well and strong long before the College opens in September, and to be among you then.

With every good wish for the Meet and the success of the C.L.C.

Yours truly, DENNIS HIRD.

The lectures given at the College during the past session have comprised Sociology, Political Economy, Industrial History, General History, History of Political Developments in Modern Europe, Biography, English, Logic, Essay Writing, Elocution and Organic Evolution.

In addition to the lecturers on the permanent Staff, Miss Clara Bunn, Mr. J. A. Fallows, M.A., and Mr. J. F. Horrabin, have again throughout the year, given freely of their valuable services, services deeply appreciated by both Students and Staff.

The unfortunate delay in carrying out the negotiations for the taking over of the direct control of the College by the S.W.M.F. and the N.U.R., has made the life of the College a very trying one during the past twelve months, and it has been extremely difficult to hold out. The generous financial assistance of the S.W.M.F., which has twice during the year advanced sums of £150, and of the branches of the N.U.R., whose donations figure so largely in the College subscription list, has alone made it possible for the College to continue.

Normal working has, under these abnormal circumstances referred to, not been possible. It is pleasing, however, to be able to say, that in the midst of all these irritating embarrassments, the relations between the Students and Staff have been of the most harmonious character. The highest praise is due to the Students, not only for the close attention they have given to their studies, but also for the excellent assistance which they have in many ways rendered to the Staff, in the conduct of the domestic and general work of the College.

Again must grateful acknowledgement be made of the very helpful assistance in financial and many other ways, given to the College, by the Women's League of the College. The League is doing an exceedingly valuable and necessary work in extending the knowledge of the College and the need for its influence, among women of the working class.

The circumstances resulting from the European Crisis have prevented any appreciable development of that most important phase of the College's activities, viz., the Provincial Class Work.

The particulars of this work for the past session are as follows:—

North-East Lancashire Area, including Accrington, Blackburn Colne, Clitheroe, and Padiham: lecturer, Mr. E. Archbold. Subjects, Economics, History and Logic.

Rochdale District, including Rochdale, Bury, Halifax and Oldham: Lecturers, Mr. Harold Kershaw, Miss Alice Smith. Subjects, Logic and Historical Methods.

Ashington (Northumberland): Lecturer, Mr. Ebby Edwards. Subject, History.

Blackpool: Lecturer, Mr. H. Thompson. Subject, History.

Southampton: Lecturer, Mr. H. Wynn-Cuthbert. Subject, History

Barry (South Wales): Lecturer, Mr. A. J. Cook. Subject, History and Economics.

Birmingham: Lecturer, W. Paul, Subjects, History and Economics.
Coleford: Lecturer, Mr. A. Hicks. Subject, History.
Edinburgh: Lecturer, Mr. J. S. Clarke. Subject, History.
Mardy (South Wales): Lecturer, Mr. Noah Ablett. Subject, Economics.
Bristol: Lecturer, Mr. G. W. Brown. Subject, History.

Under the auspices of the Liverpool District Council of the N.U.R., and of the Sheffield (Midland) District Council, six lectures have been, in each case, delivered by the Sub-Warden, on Elementary Economics and the History of Trade Unionism respectively.

The following Lectures-by-Post Classes have been conducted during the past session:—

Carlisle City Branch, N.U.R.
Wellington (Salop) Branch, N.U.R.
Long Eaton Trades and Labour Council.
Glastonbury I.L.P.

Among the prospects for future extension in the direction of provincial classes, is the proposed scheme, now in course of materialization, which is being pioneered by the London Council of the National Union of Railwaymen. This Council is at present engaged in organizing classes among railwaymen who are members of the N.U.R., in various centres within the Metropolitan Area.

The College is now six years old. These have been six years of stern struggle. That it has come through that struggle stronger and clearer in its objective and outlook, is the best practical proof of the need, and of the growth of the need, for the development of working-class education. Now, at last, it is to pass directly under the control of the two foremost industrial organizations in this country, and, under their auspices, to become the educational citadel of the whole Army of Labour. The imminence of this change makes it impossible to say anything in detail about the arrangements for the seventh session. The existing Board has expressed its willingness to the two Unions concerned, to give its hearty co-operation to the new Board, for the good conduct of the College. For the rest, the ultimate responsibility rests upon the miners and railwaymen to see to it, that the principles of independent working-class education, for which the College has stood and now stands more convincingly than ever, principles, the materialization of which is now and will be more necessary than ever, shall be as rigorously and uncompromisingly maintained in the future, as in the past.

On the motion of Mr. E. Evans, Newport No. 1 (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. E. Farnsworth, Colwick Junction (N.U.R.), the Warden's Report was unanimously adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Wynn-Cuthbert, Worthing (I.L.P.), and seconded by Mr. A. W. Hall, Worcester No. 1 (N.U.R.), "that this meeting expresses its sincere sympathy with Mr. Hird in his recent illness, and regrets his consequent inability to be present, and assures him of its best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery." Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Skene Mackay (U.K.S. of Coachmakers) and seconded by Mr. A. J. Hacking, of the College Staff, "that this Conference place on record its warm appreciation of the services rendered to the College by the late Secretary, Mr. George Sims, and wishes him a speedy return to the fighting forces of the working-class movement." Carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Acting-Secretary, who was suffering from a severe cold, the Sub-Warden submitted the Secretary's report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The experience of the past twelve months, like that of all preceding years in the history of the College, may be summed up in the words: "struggle as usual." The financial clouds have been hanging heavily over the institution throughout the year, and the position at times has been very dark and gloomy, although we have not been without hope that the silver lining would eventually appear. Among some of the things which have contributed to our financial difficulties, has been the fact that there was a matter of outstanding accounts consisting of the sum of £250.

Again, the fees of the two students from Rhondda No. 1, were advanced and spent during the previous year, while, in addition, we have suffered financially through the N.U.R.'s four additional students not coming into residence, and thus in consequence we have lost the help of their fees.

We regret to have to report that the negotiations between the National Union of Railwaymen and the South Wales Miners' Federation, with reference to taking over the financial responsibility and the direct control and management of the College, have not yet been completed. Sub-Committees were appointed from and by the Executives of both Unions to deal with the matter. Several meetings were held during the month of August, but owing to difficulties arising over the question of the future control and management, the sub-committees were unable to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement of the business, they had therefore to report back to their respective Executives that, under the circumstances, an alteration of rule would be necessary in order to give effect to the resolutions passed by the members of the two Unions.

Owing to our anticipations of financial relief from the two Unions not being realized, the College was placed in a most critical position, although it is gratifying to report that, in response to an appeal made by Mr. Geo. Sims, the Secretary, to a conference of the South Wales Miners' Federation, a sum of £150 was voted by the miners to assist the College; also a splendid response to an urgent appeal for funds was at the same time given by the N.U.R. branches, thus we were once again able to breathe a little more freely, and the College was given a new lease of life.

Efforts were made during the autumn months by the representatives of the two Unions to complete the financial arrangements, but without success. We are pleased, however, to be able to report that the S.W.M.F., at a special conference at Cardiff, on February 6th, decided "to accept the arrangement with the National Union of Railwaymen for a joint contribution for the purpose of paying off the mortgage on the buildings of the Central Labour College; the Federation in future to take over the maintenance and control of the College. Following upon the action of the Miners, the N.U.R. Executive, at their March sitting, agreed to recommend to a Special General Meeting the following alteration to rule, viz.: "To make grants to and share in the management and control of the Central Labour College." We are very pleased to know that the delegates to the S.G.M. agreed to the Executive's recommendation, the voting being 51 for 2 against; thus, we are now looking forward to the financial embarrassments of the institution, being removed at an early date.

We are also expecting that the report of the inquiry, held by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, at the College, last July, will be presented to Congress in September next, when we trust it will be favourably considered by the delegates.

The thanks of the Board are due to those who have so generously and freely assisted the College in various ways in the work of the institution, and in particular to Mr. J. A. Fallows, M.A., Miss Bunn and Mr. J. F. Horrabin (lecturers), and to Mrs. W. Horrabin and members of the Women's League. The Board also desires to thank, among others, the S.W.M.F for voting the College £150 on two occasions, the General Union of Braziers and Sheet-Metal workers for 2d. levy amounting to £18/18/10, and the Scientific Instrument Makers' Trade Society for their second annual donation of £10.

Our thanks are again due to the *Railway Review* for its valuable assistance in publishing matter concerning the work and needs of the College.

The Staff Committee wish to specially thank the whole of the students for their hearty and loyal co-operation and for the manner

in which they have endured the many hardships and inconveniences arising from the financial difficulties throughout the year.

We sincerely hope that the future financial position will be such as to allow of more favourable conditions for study. With an increasing number of students, it will be possible to train sufficient lecturers to conduct classes in an increasing number of industrial centres throughout the country, thereby enabling the members of the respective Unions to directly share in the advantages of the College, in return for their financial and moral support.

On the motion of Mr. J. Taylor, Bethnal Green (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. Robt. Mell, Hull No. 2 (N.U.R.), the Secretary's Report was unanimously adopted.

The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET.

Statement of Accounts, 1st July, 1914, to 30th June, 1915.

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Scholarship Fees	236	6	0						
„ Correspondence Dept.	33	3	8						
„ General Fund	249	15	11						
„ Sundries	2	12	6						
„ Loans	383	0	0						
„ Overdraft at Bank, 7/7/1915 ...				2,348	19	6			
							3,253	17	7

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Loans repaid	13	2	0						
„ Catering	244	14	2						
„ Laundry	8	2	7						
„ Rates, Taxes and Insurance	118	17	10						
„ Library and Furnishing	29	1	4						
„ Lighting and Heating	71	10	5						
„ Printing and Stationery	87	6	2						
„ Salaries	160	4	0						
„ Postages	24	0	4						
„ Sundries	4	5	4						
„ Bank Charges	139	6	1						
„ Travelling and Organizing Exs.	21	1	7						
„ Overdraft at Bank, 3/7/1914 ...				2,319	15	5			
„ Cash in hand				12	10	4			
							3,253	17	7

BALANCE SHEET, 1st July, 1915.

					LIABILITIES.					
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Accounts due	...	...	...	...	524	13	9			
Overdraft at Bank	...	...	...	...	2,348	19	6			
					<hr/>			2,873	13	3
								<hr/>		
					ASSETS.					
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand	...	...	...	...	12	10	4			
Premises	...	...	...	...	1,700	0	0			
Furniture	...	...	...	...	350	0	0			
					<hr/>			2,062	10	4
								<hr/>		
DEFICIT	...	...	...	...				£811	2	11
								<hr/>		

We hereby certify that we have audited and found correct and checked receipts this 26th day of July, 1915.

MAURICE LEAHY, *President London Council of N.U.R.*

WILLIAM T. A. FOOT, *Secretary London Council N.U.R.*

The Treasurer explained that a liability of approximately £100 for salaries due to officers of the College had not been included in the Balance Sheet. He also emphasized the pressing character of the accounts due to tradesmen, and urged the need for the immediate assistance of the two Unions negotiating the taking over of the College.

On the motion of Mr. M. Gaynor, Edinburgh No. 1 (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. E. Browning, Eastleigh No. 3 (N.U.R.), the above Report was adopted.

The Secretary of the Correspondence Department presented his Report.

CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

I have to report 100 students in the Correspondence Department.

There is, unfortunately, a considerable decrease on the number, approximately 150, reported last year. The students, owing no doubt to the war, and to the economic pressure consequent thereon, have fallen off largely. The examiners, owing to the claims put upon them by the exceptional character of the year, have been unable to attend to correction of work in a regular way, while the want of means for the purpose has rendered it impossible to stir up the energies of some students, who have, in consequence, failed to send in work. This reason is, in particular, largely responsible for the diminution in numbers. Students are, unhappily, in need of constant encouragement in their studies. Finally, a considerable number of students, and this will account for the irregularity of the work of those who are actually members, are earnest workers, who begin well, but find the claims of their

societies too strong to allow them to attend to their own individual education. All these causes have combined to render the work of the department difficult.

Some of these difficulties will be removed, without doubt, by the change for the better in the financial conditions of the College, while the rolling away of the war-clouds will cause a large return of prosperity to the work.

On the motion of Mr. G. W. Brown, Bristol No. 6 (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. H. Roberts, Oxford (N.U.R.), the Correspondence Department Report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Noah Ablett, Miners' Representative on the Board of Management, reported that the Board had made the following suggestions to the Executives of the two Unions taking over direct control of the College.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

The Board heartily welcomes the announcement that it is the intention of the N.U.R. and the S.W.M.F. to take over the direct control of the College. They desire to point out the extreme urgency of this step, because of the pressing problems facing the work of the next Session, which will have to be overcome by the 15th of September next, if the College is to re-open on that date. While the present Board recognizes that these problems come within the province of the New Board, they desire to express themselves as being willing and anxious to render any assistance in their power to the New Board. They suggest a joint meeting, to that end.

The Board think it necessary to respectfully suggest to the parties responsible for the new control, the desirability of extending the scholarships of the five students (three of whom are S.W.M.F. and two N.U.R. students) for a given period. They make this suggestion on the following grounds:—

The present year has been very disturbed, largely due to reduction of the Staff caused by Mr. Sims having left at the beginning of the College year, and the illness of Mr. Hird, since the end of May last. The students have, as a consequence, been deprived of the advantages that with a normal lecture-list would have been theirs. The financial situation has also compelled many sacrifices which, in the opinion of the Board, entitles them to an extension. Another advantage would be derived from the extension, in that the new students would be at a considerable disadvantage in commencing the system of domestic control (which has been evolved after many years of experience) without the aid of the old students. The Board has always adopted the policy of arrang-

ing an over-lapping of students' terms, and has found the arrangement to be, in addition to other advantages, of great educational value.

On the motion of Mr. W. J. Richards, Eastleigh No. 1 (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. F. W. Hancock, Woodford (N.U.R.), the Board's suggestions to the two Unions concerned, were unanimously endorsed.

On the motion of Mr. Albert Bent, Wolverhampton No. 1 (N.U.R.) seconded by Mr. F. W. Hancock, Woodford (N.U.R.), and supported by a number of other delegates,

"That having regard for the fact that the C.L.C. has been established through the propaganda of working women and working-men on the principles of independent working-class education and grounded on a Marxian basis, this Annual General Meeting recommends to the Executive of the two organizations assuming direct control of the institution, that no change whatever takes place in those principles and basis."

Carried unanimously.

Mrs. W. Horrabin submitted a Report of the propagandist and social activities of the Women's League of the C.L.C.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF THE C. L. C. REPORT

Two things—the war, and the delay in the taking over of the College by the Railwaymen and the South Wales Miners—ought to have crushed us during the past year, but neither succeeded in doing so. It would be incorrect to say that neither had affected us in any way; but it is safe to say that we emerge with a clearer vision of what we want to achieve, a firmer will to do it, and a better organization to carry it out.

The Women's League, during the three years of its existence, has been more in the nature of a committee than an organization. Its obvious business was to do everything in its power to assist the College in whatever direction was at the moment most imperative—however small or trivial the task might appear. There have never been more than thirty of us, of whom about a dozen have done active work of one kind or another; but we have been able, since our foundation, to collect about £60 for the College, to organize socials and dramatic performances, and—most important of all—to keep two women students at the College (paying for lodgings while the College supplied board and tuition).

It was decided after our last general meeting to attempt to enlist the interest of the Railwaymen's Guilds on behalf of the C.L.C. An address on the aims of the College was accordingly prepared, typed, and duplicated, and an appeal sent out. No fewer than

47 Guilds sent for the address, and 23 of these have affiliated to the League. We intend to persevere, until every Guild has joined us. The importance of this work is increased now that the N.U.R. is admitting women to membership, and we hope that it may not be impossible that in the near future, scholarships may be granted to women by the N.U.R. and the Guilds, jointly or separately.

We have to thank two of our country members for arranging a splendid bit of propangada work. Mrs. Davies (Barry) and Mrs. Brown (Bristol), invited Miss Howarth, one of our students, to go down to their respective districts early this year and address meetings on behalf of the College. Miss Howarth spoke at more than 20 meetings, and has received many requests to go down again. She has recently left the College to take up organizing work among girl workers in munition factories, in the London district. We are very proud, also, to report that our other student, Miss Alice Smith, has been lecturing to a C.L.C. class in Lancashire—the first woman to undertake such a duty in connection with the College.

Financially, the past year has been good. We have been able to pay our way, and to print two propaganda leaflets.

At our General Meeting in June last, our constitution was definitely drawn up, and our object re-stated as—

“ To help in the educational propaganda of the C.L.C., and to establish a hostel for women students.”

The following were elected officers for the forthcoming year :—
Committee, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Westrope, Mrs. Chaytor, and Miss Howarth; *Treasurer*, Miss Grace Neal; *Secretary*, Mrs. Winifred Horrabin.

Mr. W. G. Davies, Barry (C.L.C. Class) moved, and Mr. G. W. Brown, Bristol No. 6 (N.U.R.), seconded that the report be adopted.
Carried unanimously.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Mr. T. C. Morris, Ystrad, Rhondda (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. G. B. Smith, Cardiff No. 5 (N.U.R.), and supported by other delegates.

“ That this Annual Meeting congratulates the South Wales Miners' Federation on their recent fight and great victory, and expresses gratification that the miners of South Wales were able to keep outside the Slavery Act.”

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. J. C. Finch, Barry No. 1 (N.U.R.), seconded by Mr. David Thomas, Rhondda No. 2 District (S.W.M.F.), other delegates supporting,

“ That this Annual Meeting being of the opinion that the working-class has every reason to believe that further attacks will be made on the rights and privileges they have obtained from the struggle of a century of Trade Unionism, and recognizing that several encroachments in this direction have already been made, although these are said to be only for the duration of the war, warns Trade Unionists not to implicitly rely on the restoration of those rights at the end of that period, but suggests that meanwhile an active propaganda in favour of immediately ratifying the Triple Alliance (M.F.G.B., N.U.R., and T.W.F.) on a mutually agreed programme of a defensive and offensive character, should be carried on, so that at the end of the war, action may, if necessary, be taken.”

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. W. E. Crawford, Doncaster No. 2 (N.U.R.), and seconded by Mr. W. G. Davies, Barry (C.L.C.),

“ That this Annual Meeting re-affirms the policy of the College and the principles of independent working-class education; expresses its gratification at the prospects of an early and effective conclusion of the negotiations between the S.W.M.F. and N.U.R., and, therefore, of the College being relieved of its financial difficulties and limitations; and pledges itself to use all efforts to extend the knowledge and influence of the College throughout the Labour movement.”

Carried unanimously

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed, to the Acting-Secretary, Mr. James Reynolds, for his excellent service, amid many difficulties, throughout the year, and to Mr. Winstone, for the helpful and happy way in which he had presided over the meeting.

The Conference concluded at 1.30 p.m.

JAMES REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

The Dry Bones of Robert Blatchford

IF my readers can imagine the feelings of a very small boy, who feels that it is his moral duty to approach his revered and beloved grandfather, and punch that venerable relative hard in the face, they will be able to form some idea of the painful sentiments that are agitating my mind as I pen these lines. While the C.L.C. was yet unmade and Marx was still unknown to me, the writings of Robert Blatchford were prominent among the books that enabled me to grope my way out of the darkness of mediaevalism. Hence,

like a good many more, I cherish sentiments of affection and gratitude for "the infidel editor of the *Clarion*," which his more recent Imperialistic utterances have in no way weakened. But when there appears in the *Clarion* three and a half columns of such "dry bones" as adorned the front page of a recent issue, it is time for a self-respecting Marxist to sit up and take notice.

Although Mr. Blatchford's views on the war have had a very extensive circulation, it is safe to assume that not one tenth of the people who enjoy his weekly tirades against "the Huns" have ever seen his books on Socialism. Indeed, he has had so much to say about the Germans, and so little to say about Socialism, that many of his present admirers are quite unaware of his Socialistic views—the *Clarion* notwithstanding. To some of us this is a matter for little regret, for it requires but a slight knowledge of Marxism to realize that however helpful his works may be in enabling the beginner to break with conventional ideas, his facile pen is really of very questionable value to Socialism.

The truth of this assertion may be proved by a glance at his pageful of "dry bones." The article is entitled "The Valley of Dry Bones: What the Socialist Party have to do, and how they are to do it." The "dry bones" are those of the dead body of the Socialist Movement. Socialism in this country, it seems, has been slain by the action of pacifists, cranks and others, "who have muddled up Socialism with a score of other theories, every one of which is more or less obnoxious to the vast majority of the people." Freed from these "obnoxious theories" Socialism would rapidly win its way to popular approval on its own merits. But the matter is not quite so simple as it appears to be. For whilst "it (Socialism) must not be asked to carry the fads or private views of all its adherents," it is clearly implied throughout the article that Mr. Blatchford's own "private views" of full-blooded Imperialism and anti-pacifism must form an essential part of the flesh that is to clothe the bones. This is made plain in the following extract: "The Empire is sick of pacifist cant. Europe has no use for these gentry; the British Empire has no use for them. Any recrudescence of their doctrines in the ranks of the new Socialist Army will be deadlier than dry-rot in the timbers of a fabric." Clearly no "pacific" Socialist need apply for membership, even if he were to keep *his* "private views" in the background. This appears to be a trifle illogical, not to say autocratic, especially in view of the following sentence which appears a little further on. "To a Socialist the main issue is the victory of Socialism; all the minor questions must wait." R.B. must have allowed his mind to wander from the war when he wrote this, or he has very seriously reconsidered his position since November last, when he wrote in the following strain: "The war will absorb most of us for a long time, to the exclusion of all other subjects. It is the most vital,

the most serious, the most dreadful thing I have ever known ; it makes the movement seem a long way off." The victory of Socialism was certainly far from being the " main issue " to the writer of those lines. It is, however, unfortunate for Mr. Blatchford that he seems so blissfully unconscious of the fact that these contradictory pronouncements do much to rob his work of value or authority. Perhaps we may take it that he is getting a little tired of the Germans ; certainly his more recent denunciations of Teutonic enormities have lacked much of the force and gusto with which he sought to slay the Kaiser with his pen in the earlier days of the war. Be that as it may, it cannot be denied that there is a grave inconsistency in his statements that rather shakes one's confidence in his ability to say what the Socialist Party ought to do, or to indicate how they are to do it. In the article we are criticising these discrepancies are so very obvious that a lengthy and redundant definition of Socialism is set forth to give some appearance of consistency to this succession of contradictory sentences. In this the " private views and fads " of those who differ from him are thrown overboard wholesale, whilst under the guise of " Britain for the British and not for the Germans " his private views are adroitly included as part and parcel of the New Socialism.

What the Socialist Party are to do, then, is to get together a number of people who, for the most diverse reasons, fervently believe that Collectivism is a policy well calculated to insure the continued safety and prosperity of the British Empire. Upon every other subject under the sun the new Socialists are to agree to differ. " Of any person professing Socialism " he says, " the Socialists have a right to demand one thing : that he shall be a good Socialist. With any other convictions or interests of his we, as Socialists, have no concern. Socialism in itself is a very simple theory." It is indeed, but it is to be feared that its simplicity will be its destruction.

Observe that these people agree to differ upon every matter of practical experience and upon every theory about religion, science and philosophy, and to agree only in accepting the one idea of Collectivism. The result is, of course, that they can never accomplish anything. For it would be impossible to apply the principle of Collectivism to the national life without it affecting in the most drastic manner the convictions and interests of every member of the community. Hence the mere fact of agreeing as to the utility or justice of the Collectivist idea is not sufficient to insure united and successful action on the part of the Socialists. They must also be quite agreed as to what is to be their attitude towards all those theories and institutions which Collectivism would certainly modify, if it did not entirely destroy. If A outlines a policy which upsets the convictions or (more probably) the interests of B, then

this proposal must be relegated to the valley of dry bones. The action of a group of individuals, in order to be successful, must be based upon theoretical agreement. Hence if two people expound Socialism from entirely different or opposing standpoints, united action by these exponents becomes an impossibility.

Having shown that the basis for Socialist unity and action which Mr. Blatchford proposes is an impossible one, I pass on to deal with Socialism as he defines it:

“ Socialism means collective ownership. . . . Britain for the British : it does not mean Britain for the Germans or for the cranks. The success of the new Socialist Party depends absolutely upon their keeping the principle of Socialism clear and unencumbered before the minds of the people.”

Now all this means that Socialism is a policy which can at any time be put into operation, after the manner of Tariff Reform or the Single Tax, without any fundamental readjustment of the national life. It is essentially intended for home consumption only, for even the greatly belauded Allies are not so much as mentioned in connection with the scheme. All this is not only very confusing to the would-be recruit to the new Socialist Army, but it is also gravely misleading. To accept this position is to ignore the historical evolution of society, and to imagine that “ the Empire ” can exist without the slightest regard for the rest of the world. Mr. Blatchford cites the coal strike as an example of the crying need that exists for the adoption of the “ new ” Socialism :—

“ Had the Government taken over the mines, there would have been no strike. The competitive system benefits the mine owners, and is detrimental to the men who get the coal and the State that needs the coal. What is the remedy for the bad system? The only remedy is collectivism : which is Socialism. For the Government to take over the mines would be an act of pure Socialism.”

No, it would not be Socialism ; it would not even be Collectivism ; it would be merely nationalization—and this is the “ new ” Socialism ! Britain for the British means State-owned industries. Does the Community control the State ? No, the State controls the Community, as we are forcibly reminded by all recent legislation. What is the State ? It is the political expression of capitalism. In France, railways are nationalized, and conscription is the law of the land. During the French railway strike, the Government called the strikers to the colours as soldiers, thus using conscription to smash the strike. In England we have national police and naval forces, and in neither of these bodies does the State allow the men to form Trade Unions. My sole reason for writing this article is to protest against any clap-trap nonsense about nationalization being Socialism or anything approaching Socialism. The Welsh miners defied the State and so beat the Government to their knees. Had they supported the State it would have robbed them of £5 a day per man. Even Mr. Blatchford seems to have little real

faith in the State. With illogical sincerity he declares that the Government has no real solution for social problems. "They are impotent, ignorant and incapable." Yet it is to this same Government that he would entrust the nationalized industries! "The coal strike" he tells us, "would not have occurred had the Government taken over the mines." He has presumably never heard of strikes in nationalized industries. And yet, in the previous paragraph he insists that if the Government had not been able to conciliate the miners, "the Government would have been helpless." Oh, Robert! Do write about the Germans and leave Socialism and the workers alone!

It only remains for me sadly and regretfully to take leave of him, as he sits there looking wistfully at the dry bones of his Imperialism and of his muddled, illogical "Collectivism," asking himself doubtfully, "will these dry bones ever live?" And the dreary valley echoes back a faint but emphatic "Never!"

H. WYNN-CUTHBERT.

Letters on Logic

ECONOMICS

TWELFTH LETTER OF THE SECOND SERIES.

YOU will surely reply to my last letter that my speaking of the world spirit, which drives uncultured men without desire and will on the way of politico-economic development, has a strange mystical flavour in the mouth of your father, who calls himself a "materialist." I must ask you to bear in mind that materialism, which has gone through the school of German philosophy and of the discoveries of natural science in the second half of the 19th century, is no longer the spiritless materialism which prevailed in the 18th century.

When, in the 17th century, Descartes had made men from animals, Lamettrie wrote in the following century, his work, *L'homme machine*.† At present we think dialectically in this matter: the machine is a mechanical animal, the animal an animal machine. As idealists and materialists essentially differ in their opinion of the human function of the brain, so it is the same difference which distinguishes the materialist of the 18th century from that of the 19th century.

The old materialist identified the brain with its function, whilst for us, both are in connection. We do not only know the connection of the brain with its intellectual function, but also the point wherein

† The Human Machine.

they differ. The materialism of the past century, which has its followers even to-day, wished to have only the touchable side recognized; at least, according to this materialism, the most essential should be the substance, and everything else only appendix or attribute. We duly recognise the weight, but we do not touch it so grossly. Light, sound, heat, electricity and other imponderable forces, even words have weight for us. Whether one distinguishes between proper and improper weight* does not count much. Such imponderable things or unreal weights are necessary for the explanation of the spiritual nature of the material and the material nature of the spiritual; they are necessary as a bridge between the tangible and the spiritual existence.

The great point of controversy between materialists and idealists, viz., whether spirit is attached (or attributed) to substance or substance to spirit, is a thoroughly relative point, similar to the question, what is right and left, at the bottom or at the top. When we speak of a certain left and right bank of the Rhine, this is derived from the fact that we have agreed by custom to range the bank of the river from the source and not from the mouth. Like right and left, so also substance and spirit is a distinction, a relative but not absolute differentiation. Right and left, substance and spirit, are not aggregated subjects but predicates, i.e. attributes of the absolute or universal world-subject that is manifested here as spiritual and there as material. Seen from the relative standpoint of the greater volume, the drop is hanging at the bucket, but as far as both are connected, the bucket is also hanging at the drop.

Let me explain my logic to you still better, with this example of the bucket and the drop. If Hegel had been called upon to explain the case, he would have said: according to human mind the drop is hanging at the bucket, human mind makes formal logic, which has weight in the language of men of the day; but according to reason which speaks God's language, the bucket is hanging as much at the drop as the drop at the bucket. Both are hanging together in the double sense of the word, one to the other and both to the infinite universe.

In speaking of the things of the world as separate beings without consideration of their absolute or universal connection, then they are large or small. It is required in reasonable language that I subject the small one to the large one, the drop to the bucket. But now reason requires that the common-sense speech be reasonable as well, that it has the consciousness that things are not only separated beings, that not only even are they in relation to one another, but that they have also an absolute (or general)

* That is between the weight of coal, for example, and the weight of an argument. (Ed.)

relation to the universe ; they live in infiniteness. Here the great is small and the small is great, here every difference is disappearing, the drop is here as much as the bucket.

The special inquiry into the relation between the bucket and the drop is only an illuminating instance for the general inquiry into the relations between subject and predicate. This is the pith of the inquiry : where and what is the substance, the resting-pole in the run of the appearance, the highest and greatest order with which logic directed to criticise the preceptions deals ?

Supposing the drop is hanging at the hoop of the bucket, and an objector should say, the drop does not hang at the bucket but at the hoop, i.e., at a part of the bucket, then you can clearly see how sophistical this man is, who hangs the drop absolutely at the bucket and not at the universe.

But where should it lead if every inquiry into the kind of the subject, into the causes of the appearances, would be directed to the general subject ?

Not much would be gained thereby. (That is to say, if we know no more than that something belongs to the general order of things.—Ed.)

Common-sense hangs the drop at the hoop, the hoop at the bucket, the bucket at the nail, etc., and when reason hangs it at the universe, it is at least obvious that reason is not reasonable without common-sense and not sensible without reason. You must not be induced by the distinction between common-sense and reason to think too greatly of this difference.* They belong to each other ; they are the sides of one thing which supplement each other.

I am also a "Materialist." That which I can touch is to some extent the substantial. First, comes eating and drinking, first, economy and, after politics, leisure and science ; first, the bucket and then the drop. But we do not want to overlook the relative element, the passing and conditional existence of such a system. There are also relations when the bucket hangs at the drop, when a drop of water weighs ever so much more than the clumsy bucket, and a spark of spirit has more value than the most precious material thing.

The drop hangs at the bucket and the bucket is more important than the drop. This is quite true within the limits of a narrow horizon and in so far as it is understood in the narrow sense, there can be no objection to it. Taking a large view, the earth-ball is also but a little drop that once was rounded from liquids and has become congealed in the course of time. Many a bucket is hanging at this little drop. Hence weight, bucket and drops are relative

* The difference should not be exaggerated ; it is a relative difference (Ed.)

things, transitory forms, which are not universal, but are all in a restricted way here or to-day, there or to-morrow, subjects or hooks. In general, the infinite world is the hook at which everything is hanging. The world is nothing apart, nothing independent of the reduced drops, little buckets or hooks, but all these reduced things form together an infinitely great, important and reasonable thing, which is no appearance but "*the* thing as such" (Ding an sich) at which all relative things are hanging and from which everything is driven that is driving.

In so far as the materialists consider the touchable things as "substance," we do not belong to their circle. According to our logic, the imponderable and spiritual things are as substantial. On the other hand, if idealists believe in a great spirit floating above the waters, we are not of their circle, for our science has never traced the existence of such a monster-spirit. We understand spirit and substance only as temporary changes of the eternal oneness which is simply named, "world." I speak of this world as from the world-spirit in the sense that it is no dead substance but a living being, a "process."

What I call "world-spirit," Hegel has called the "absolute" thing, and if you hear people talking of the "Hegelianism of Social-democracy," it is likely that misunderstanding begins to arise.

Watt invented the steam-engine. His first experiments were miserable, but still it would be unjust to call the invention which was immanent in these experiments, scornfully "Wattism." It is just as unreasonable to speak with scorn of Hegelianism because of the mystic veiling which covers the great invention of Hegel.

There is no doubt that our arms and legs are not only the organs of the body but still more of our will and our mind. There can be no mysticism, but also by no frivolity, be denied that there is a higher spirit than our individual meaning, guessing and seeking. What is your spirit and my spirit? What are the seven wise spirits of Greece if there is no connection with the collective spirit of humanity, which has developed from pre-historic times and which will develop still further and more widely. Your brain and my brain, your reason and mine, are parts of a collective reason, which is the central organ of the world-spirit. They say that human reason rules the material, but this rule is a very restricted one; in the last resort, we have to deal with the autonomy of the world or nature, which is as much materialistic as idealistic, which started materialistically and which develops on an idealistic line through human action.

Just as private economy is bound to national economy, so the national economy hangs at the infinite world-economy, which is driven by a world-spirit having an organ on the earth-ball like to that which our soul has at her little finger.

My logic is just such a kind of thinking, and I want to finally emphasise this, by quoting a passage from Henry George, who "physically" agrees with me, but who lacks a grasp of the spiritual consequences. Henry George writes, in the 3rd chapter of the 2nd book, in a way which characterises the theory of the surplus population very well:—

"For that man cannot exhaust or lessen the powers of nature follows from the indestructibility of matter and the persistence of force. Production and consumption are only relative terms. Speaking absolutely, man neither produces or consumes. The whole human race, were they to labour to infinity, could not make this rolling sphere one atom heavier or one atom lighter, could not add to or diminish by one iota the sum of the forces whose everlasting circling produces all motion and sustains all life. As the water that we take from the ocean must again return to the ocean, so the food we take from the reservoirs of nature is, from the moment we take it, on its way back to those reservoirs. . . . Life does not use up the forces that maintain life. We come into the material universe bringing nothing; we take nothing away when we depart. The human being, physically considered, is but a transient form of matter, a changing mode of motion"*

If the human being is seen from the "spiritual" standpoint as something else, if there is a disposition to consider some idea next to (and not included in) the material universe, then the so-called universal movement is not universal, and our author is, in spite of all the clear by-matters, still a man in the dark or at least a logical bungler.

* Henry George, in this paragraph, implies that there is something else for man apart from the "material universe," e.g. "The human being, physically considered, is but a transient form of matter, a changing mode of motion." See however, the closing chapter of *Progress and Poverty*, where what is in this quotation implied, is asserted openly by the author, as his belief. (ED.)

(Translated for *The Plebs Magazine* from the German of JOSEPH DIETZGEN by Miss Bertha Braunthal).

Reports

C. L. C. ANNUAL MEET—DANCE AND "SOCIAL"

Everybody was there. According to advertisements, the ball should have commenced at 7 prompt; it started rolling somewhere about 8, so we lived up to our reputation. All the customary star turns were in the programme. Craik and Mackay led the dance with their usual graceful *abandon*; Ablett sat in obscure corners and looked sardonic; George Brown smiled and smiled again; Crawford of Doncaster and Mell of Hull consumed vast quantities of tobacco and hatched fresh plots for sending up the circulation of the *Plebs* to somewhere near the *Daily Mirror* figure; Miss Bunn recited, and Davies of Barry sang; and another Davies (of London) also lent valuable assistance in the minstrelsy department. The Women's League and the students between them made a really good job of the refreshment arrangements. Everybody signed a 'good luck' message to Sims; and everybody hoped that Reynolds would find his missing voice again soon. . . . And everybody enjoyed themselves.

Reviews

H. G. WELLS

H. G. Wells. By J. D. Beresford (*Writers of the Day Series*, Nisbet, 1/- net.)

This is a very interesting little book on a very interesting subject. Mr. Beresford by no means confines himself to merely literary criticism. He regards Wells as a Man with a Message—as *the* man with *the* message for this generation; and he does to some extent succeed in giving a semblance of coherence and unity to Wells' vagaries and vaguenesses. But in support of his thesis he makes not a few astonishing statements. He claims, for instance, that the secret of Wells' greatness is his possession of what Shaw once boasted of—"normal sight," i.e., freedom from tradition, bias, prejudice of any kind. Whereas (as I believe Mr. Henry James has observed) Wells, granting his sincerity and his remarkable power as an artist, is a veritable tumult of passions, intuitions, prejudiced ideas, and half-knowledge—"a chaos of emotions and intuitions" (as a recent critic has put it) "lost in a universe that is a chaos of unrelated facts of experience."

Another of Wells' qualities, Mr. Beresford claims, is a wonderful power of detachment, of standing apart from life and viewing it from a 'reasonable distance'—broad vision—impartiality, in short. Whereas the truth is surely that no man of any standing in our day is less "detached" than Wells; no man is more swayed hither and thither by the wind of every new "movement"—wholeheartedly enthusiastic for none, but influenced by all. One pictures him, in fact, standing pathetically puzzled like Kipps, thinking "what a Rum Go everything is."

That he *aims* at detachment, at impartiality, one would not deny; indeed, that very aim is surely the real root of his ineffectuality. There is a very interesting criticism of Wells in an article by Simeon Strunsky in a recent number of the *New Review*.

Why is it (Strunsky asks) that the life of the masses always appears dingy and futile precisely to those *whose interests lie with the future of those masses*? I suppose Wells cannot be called a Socialist, but social-minded, forward-looking, constructive, democratic. I imagine you cannot help calling him. Why does Wells, why do other forward-looking, social-minded people like him, invariably visualize the people as a slum proletariat, devoid of aim, devoid of beauty and dignity, devoid, by implication, of capacity for improvement?

To which question one would reply that it is precisely because Wells (though a proletarian by birth and upbringing) has never realized that his interests, his hopes and ideals, lie "with the future of those masses," precisely because he has striven after an impossible detachment, that he visualizes the people in this way. It is because he has failed—with all his versatility and adaptability—to grasp the root of the whole matter, that he can write (as he did to the *Independent* recently) that he regards Trade Unions as, at the best, a necessary evil, "collective haggling and striking on the part of workers" being merely "the answering blackness to private profit on the part of the directors of industry, the two blacks that fail to make a white civilization"; and that "as a Socialist, I curse both sides in the economic scramble with all

my heart." As a Socialist, forsooth! It is just because Wells, with all his professed enthusiasm for science and his biological jargon, has never had a glimmering of any science of society or grasped the bare idea of social evolution, that he is as muddled a Prophet as ever reduced himself and his readers to pessimism.

He remains a great artist, a keen observer, a very mirror of this muddled age. But a man with a "message," Mr. Beresford—no!

"His fecundity, his mastery of languages, his comprehension of character are gifts and abilities that certain of his contemporaries have in equal or in some particulars in larger measure. But he *alone* has used his perfected art for a definite end.

Mr. Beresford, Mr. Beresford! Have you never read your Shaw? . . . But it looks as though you would scarcely comprehend him if you did.

J.F.H.

The Plebs' Bookshelf

Comrade Alf. Barton, of Sheffield, sends us his pamphlet, *The War: How it was made: Who shall profit by it?* (2½d., post free, from the author, 46 Stannington Road, Malin Bridge, Sheffield, or from the printers, Wadsworth and Co., The Rydal Press, Keighley). Comrade Barton claims to be "neither Jingo nor Pacifist, but Socialist." Starting with the axiom that "If there was no Class Rule there would be no wars between nations," (the German Empire is fighting to *obtain* commercial and economic advantage, the British Empire to *maintain* it) he goes on to insist that "to be indifferent is impossible"—to refuse to support one side is indirectly to assist the other. His rough summary of the two sides, from the point of view of the class-conscious worker, is that "The British Empire is Capitalism tempered by Democracy; the German Empire, Capitalism hardened by Militarism." He therefore sees sufficient reason to oppose German domination; but rightly lays emphasis on the necessity for the Socialist movement to "maintain its distinctive character and not become merely a pro-war or anti-war organization." His pamphlet, indeed, is in refreshing contrast to the "ethical society" attitude of the I.L.P. on the one hand, and the brazen trumpeting of the Blatchford group on the other.

* * * * *

The writer of "Notes of the Week" in the *New Age*, commenting (in his usual omniscient way) on the South Wales strike, scoffed at Fleet Street for "having never forgotten a pamphlet that South Wales has long ago outgrown—*The Miners' Next Step*"; and proceeded—"May we assure our learned friends that Syndicalism is obsolete, . . . that it no longer exists as an active force? We buried it ourselves." A week later, Fleet Street catches it again—this time for denouncing the "Syndicalism" of the strike, which it seems was "the only element in the agitation that made for public advantage." All of which was a little confusing; and the writer of "Trade Union and Labour Notes" in the *Herald* of August 14th, remarked:

Whilst on the question of South Wales, we should like to point out to a contemporary that if the only good thing in the strike *was* Syndicalism, then Syndicalism cannot have been buried. Our view is that the success of the strike was due in large measure to the Plebs League and its adherents—and they are not National Guildsmen.

* * * * *

I do not often spend sixpence on Mr. Cecil Chesterton's organ, the *New Witness*, but the title of an article in a recent number was irresistible—"The Treachery of Karl Marx," by Herbert Vivian. I wish the *Plebs* could afford to run a comic supplement, for then we might give the article in full. It purports to be a review of a book (same title as the article) by Arturo Salucci, whose name I blush to own I had never heard before, but who, according to Mr. Vivian, "is one of the clearest thinkers among Italian Socialists." (My own conclusion is that Signor Salucci must be a sort of Italian Victor Fisher). The thesis of his book appears to be that "German Socialists, in their treachery to internationalism, have been quite faithful to the teachings of their founder." According to him,

Karl Marx is the Bismarck of Socialism, with all the defects of the German thinker: pompous and positive, heavy and pedantic, insular while professing to be international. He dreamed of Germany at the head of the world, and himself at the head of a Socialist Germany (!)

Evidently Marx had terrible dreams. "He was a horrid man, I'm telling ye." And of course Mr. Vivian, to keep up the melodramatic atmosphere, refers to Engels as "his accomplice." But the world, it seems, is saved from the machinations of these dark conspirators. Marx's system has now been "demolished by criticism." Also,

the attitude of its German exponents has given it the final mercy-stroke, and we may safely assume that it will never again find support among decent democrats. That assumption is supported by the cover of Arturo Salucci's book, where a portrait of the treacherous Boche (!*!*!) has been contemptuously erased by a few scratches from an angry pen.

This is *the* latest in Marxian criticism, and it should become very popular. Take a portrait of Marx, an "angry pen," and a bottle of blue-black; and amuse yourself by "demolishing" the "Bismarck of modern Socialism." And the *New Witness* prints stuff like this!

THE READER.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Edward Carpenter. By EDWARD LEWIS (Methuen, 5/- net.)
Lowland Scotch. By SIR J. WILSON (Milford, 5/- net.)

W. H. Mainwaring asks us to correct two errors—due to haste in composition—in his article, *The Battle of the Welsh Miners*, in last month's issue. Middle of p. 148, for "July" read "June"; and p. 150, line 17, for 75% read 60%.

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J. REYNOLDS

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will appear in the October issue.

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