



Henry Moore

Reclining Figures

COMMENT

A magazine should be the reflection of its time, and one that ceases to reflect this should come to an end. The moment we live in is archaistic, conservative and irresponsible, for the war is separating culture from life and driving it back on itself, the impetus given by Left Wing politics is for the time exhausted, and however much we should like to have a paper that was revolutionary in opinions or original in technique, it is impossible to do so when there is a certain suspension of judgement and creative activity. The aim of *Horizon* is to give to writers a place to express themselves, and to readers the best writing we can obtain. Our standards are aesthetic, and our politics are in abeyance. This will not always be the case, because as events take shape the policy of artists and intellectuals will become clearer, the policy which leads them to economic security, to the atmosphere in which they can create, and to the audience by whom they will be appreciated. At the moment civilization is on the operating table and we sit in the waiting room. For so far this is a war without the two great emotions which made the Spanish conflict real to so many of us. It is a war which awakens neither Pity nor Hope, and what began as a routine police operation, a military sanction, is now hardening into the grim prehistorical necessity of Keeping Alive.

The original *Life and Letters* which flourished ten years ago had no political aspect. But the change that has come over literature in the last decade is an increased consciousness of its political and economic basis. This is the only Marxist lesson that writers have soundly learnt, and so *Horizon* will have political articles, though it will never imitate those journals, in which, like pantomime donkeys, the political front legs kick and entangle the literary hind ones. *Horizon* is concerned with the general issues of peace and war and will consider the origins, ethics, conduct, and