

for infant mortality, the best evidence is the rise in the population to over a million (66 per cent. increase in 35 years!). There is a national bank, a national currency and a growing home trade—three-fifths of it done through the co-operatives, which have 250,000 members.

Mongolia has gone forward to the economic conditions and social services of a modern community. Ivor Montagu describes them in lively and humorous reportage of visits to country folk at their homes and to state farms, to an aimak (county) centre over 'roads' which haven't changed a lot since Jenghis Khan's horsemen thudded westward more than 700 years ago. He tells of the unique sports festival of wrestlers, archers and marathon horseraces—with jockeys mostly between 6 and 8 years of age! The author shows how this rebirth of the Mongols has yet preserved their most picturesque national customs. Tiny tots ride to school on horseback: cow's milk is eaten in solid squares, mare's milk drunk fermented in a skin pouch.

But how have they managed to make all the changes while remaining Mongols? Part of the answer is that they have become a People's Democracy—the exploiting classes abolished or (as regards rich peasants) their powers greatly restricted, and the working people freed to elect their Great Hural (Parliament) every three years, and county district and rural councils every two years, by secret ballot: without the 'aid' of capitalist-controlled newspapers and radio, or capitalist parties either. The Mongols, says Montagu, 'have an intense, irresistible, almost romantic pride in national independence'. And they also know that their 'security' is due to Soviet strength, 'nor can any sign be seen' of a time when the self-interest of either Mongolia or the

U.S.S.R. will demand a change in their present reciprocally contented relationships' (pp. 163-64). His factual account of why this is so is another most interesting side of a fascinating book.

Everyone who has Cyprus, Malaya, British Guiana, Kenya, Central Africa, Egypt on his or her conscience should read this book. And it would do no harm to Britain's delegates to the United Nations to read it too.

ANDREW ROTHSTEIN.

NAZI RECORD

The S.S., Alibi of a Nation, 1922-1945, by Gerald Reitlinger. (502 pp. Heinemann. 35s.)

'AT least we shall find out how it all worked before we die, even if we had to get here to do it.' This crack of Goering, commenting on a lecture with pointer and gigantic neat diagrams, whereby a naïve American company lawyer sought to guide a bewildered Nuremberg Tribunal through the tangled thicket of overlapping responsibilities in the Third Reich, inevitably comes to mind.

And really the author has done a marvellous job, both as accuser and historian—for how can the historian of such a subject not be an accuser—in dissecting his way through the incredibly interwoven alphabet of initials of State and Party institutions responsible for some four or five million murders under Hitler and Himmler. ('Four or five million'—the very magnitude of this margin of error is measure of horror for this blot on the history of mankind, more particularly on the history of what apologists alike for Suez imperialism, South African racialism and Cold War Crusading delight to call European, Western or even Christian civilisation, and forget, as they boast of its superiority).

As a work of scholarship, thread-

ing its pioneer way to the heart of the matter, livening and illuminating the way by the pungent, disgusted phrase, and invaluable indexing the available evidence *en route*, this solid book can be compared only to the same author's previous work *The Final Solution*, in which he was the first to identify and begin assessment of the mingled wilful and incidental elements in the extermination of the Jews. Indeed, this is a better and maturer work, because it benefits from the research which had gone into the former.

The main thesis of the book, expressed in its title, is exemplified in the following observation of Reitlinger on the Gestapo:

It is not realised how little the Gestapo was an independent agency, and how much its powers depended on the co-operation of the entire German bureaucracy. It is not realised that the massive machinery by which more than four million Jews were dragged from their homes to die in often very distant concentration camps, ghettos and gas chambers, could never have been handled by a single obscure department of the Gestapo, could never have been secret and could not have happened at all without the minute interlockings of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministers of Transport, Finance, and Economics, the two High Command Offices, the Ministries of Labour and Armaments, and above all the Foreign Office.

There can be no question but that it is established, remorselessly and successfully, and in relation to all the manifold activities, from the fantastic breeding of Aryans to the prosaic running of mineral water factories, of the wider parent body.

The lessons deriving from this

study, which will never degenerate into mere thriller-anecdote or revenge-satisfaction—are peculiarly vital and topical for to-day.

First, to realise the true nature of the characters involved and their interwoven complicity—an essential corrective to the fashionable heroising of such as Canaris, the July 20th 'Resistance Circle' and the Nazi Speer (e.g., by the gullible Trevor-Roper).

Second, to realise the political implications of the facts, both for internal politics inside Bonn Germany, and for nearer home. The directly guilty numerous survive in life, influence, office and honour in the one. Their protectors and abettors here, who shared the guilt for World War II and all its massacres by fostering and abetting them in the Chamberlain days, still metaphorically dine and wine—and physically and morally arm—them now.

Third, to debunk the appellations 'free' or 'refugee'—with all their overtones of nobility or bids for sympathy—in respect to whole bands of Baltics, Ukrainians, Poles, Hungarians, entertained in Western Europe, U.S.A. and these islands under these disguises ever since 1946. Himmler's S.S. in its latest days comprised these just as abundantly as Germans, but that one's victims were Communists or were Jews is in many contemporary eyes a sure passport to oblivion, even glorification, of such crimes as treason and massacre; and a guarantee for lifelong subsidy to plot, broadcast, foment and promote their repetition. (Remembering this fact might be salutary for some who have been panicked by current events in Hungary into forgetting their common-sense and A.B.C.)

Indeed, on this particular point the author, alas, hovers near a judgment of Himmler that history shows to be

over-harsh. Reitlinger shows it probable that Himmler 'believed that within a few months the Western Allies would ask him to restore order in Europe or would need his S.S. to fight the menace of Bolshevism', and considers this a final example of his undoubted simplicity and folly. He sought to go underground briefly until that moment came. For the Reichsfuehrer S.S. this hope was no doubt an exaggeration and the period necessary in any case an underestimate. But hosts of his accomplices have barely had to disguise themselves at all to receive the embraces of the fur-coated, the golden approval of the Brothers Dulles, and at last, even blessings from the platform of the Albert Hall.

IVOR MONTAGU.

Shorter Notices

AFRICA SOUTH

Africa South, a quarterly magazine published in Cape Town and distributed mainly in Southern Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States, represents a courageous attempt to present expression of liberal thought and opinion on the problems currently plaguing the Union of South Africa. The magazine is without political party allegi-

ance, but the declared aim is to promote and encourage the founding in South Africa of a multi-racial democracy based on the principle of equal rights for all that country's inhabitants whatever their race or colour. The second number (Jan.-March, 1957), like the first published last October, contains a number of authoritative articles which in the light of the recent treason arrests and bus boycotts provide an excellent and informative background against which much of the internal strains and stresses of a strife-torn country may be more easily understood. *Africa South* wisely avoids the temptation of treating Southern Africa in isolation. It does this by including articles on East Africa (with its somewhat similar multi-racial problems), the rising Negro nations of West Africa and on the Negro emancipation struggles in the United States. A special literature section affords a welcome opportunity to read short stories by obviously talented but little-known (outside South Africa, that is) authors. These include translations from African vernacular literature—a rich source of human feeling and expression.

D.B.

(Price per copy 4s.; annual subscription 16s., from R. Ainslie, 25, Cambridge Gardens, London, W.10.)

CONTENTS OF PREVIOUS NUMBERS IN 1957

JANUARY: *Britain and the World* (R.P.D.); *Socialist-Communist Relations, III* (Ben Parkin, M.P.); *Housing* (Sir Richard Coppock); *Hungary's Background* (Commander E. P. Young, R.N., Ret'd.); *Letters from Jenny Marx: Youth at Work* (Frank Stanley); *Labour Discussion Forum*. **BOOK REVIEWS:** *Unmeasured Hazards* (World Federation of Scientific Workers); *Nuclear Explosions and their Effects* (Foreword by Jawaharlal Nehru); *After the Thirties* (Jack Lindsay); *Ivan the Not-so-terrible* (Archibald Johnstone); reviewed by D. G. Arnott, Alick West, C.P.D.

FEBRUARY: *True Blue Democracy* (R.P.D.); *Racial Discrimination* (Fenner Brockway, M.P.); *Economic Forecast: Set Stormy* (Henry Collins); *China First Seen* (R. Page Arnot); *Marx and the Fenians: Marx Family Letters; Unstable Giants* (Angela Tuckett); *A Bacchanalia of Lies* (V. I. Lenin); *Labour Discussion Forum*. **BOOK REVIEWS:** *The Changing Germans* (Paula Wiking); *Science and Civilisation in China, Vol. II* (Joseph Needham, F.R.S.); *From Witchcraft to World Health* (S. and V. Leff); reviewed by Gordon Schaffer, Benjamin Farrington, Bruce Cardew.

Published by the Proprietors, The Trinity Trust, 134, Ballards Lane, London, N.3, and printed by Wembley News, Wembley, Middlesex, Great Britain. Registered for transmission by Magazine Post to Canada, including Newfoundland.