

printing in the autumn. At least fifty thousand copies of the book in languages other than English will be distributed in the United States. Millions of people outside of the USSR are studying it. It is reported that the book has been translated into twenty-eight different languages.

It is a book that serves both the person that is more or less acquainted with the Soviet Union and also the one wishing to get such acquaintance. It will be read by the former and studied by the latter. The English translation is good. **MOISSAYE J. OLGIN.**

British Battalion

An English correspondent tells the story of "Britons in Spain."

WHEN the general back at the base draws a line on the staff map and moves some of his little colored flags forward, he is deciding the destinies of a number of men waiting, somewhere ahead, for orders. Military history up to now has been mainly concerned with the general and his little flags. *Britons in Spain*, by William Rust (International Publishers, \$1) is the story of the men.

It is the story of the British Battalion of the International Brigade, of men from the black industrial North of England, from the mining valleys of Wales, from the shipyards of Clydebank and the slums of Dublin. Men from all classes, stations, trades, from every corner of the British Isles, formed this battalion, fought this fight, died this death, to free the British people of the mark of Cain that is branded on the foreheads of the statesmen of Western Europe. This is the story of their hectic training, their baptism of fire, their victories and their defeats; it is the story, too, of the missing, the prisoners, the wounded, and the dead.

It is above all the story of a British battalion, British as Old Bill, the grumbling cheerful type of the Poor Bloody Infantryman of the Great War. The humorous cynicism of their song about the Jarama which grew out of ten weeks of boredom and bombardment in the same trench—

For 'tis there that we wasted our manhood
And most of our old age as well.

must have reminded many an old soldier of the songs they sang in France. They exercised what the author calls "the traditional British right to grumble." When their insular stomachs revolted against rancid olive oil and beans, they decorated the mess with a banner, "An Army Well Led Is an Army Well Fed." Behind the trenches at Jarama the ground dipped, and here, to quote again, "It was no unusual sight to see a dozen chaps pretty well naked save for their boots, playing away at a football game with perfect indifference, while a sharp artillery-tank duel was taking place just a few hundred yards away."

This was a volunteer battalion. Very few of its members had any military training be-



"like being paid to
drive a hole in one"

Most NEW MASSES readers thrill to the news that NM circulation is rising as much as they would to a beautifully executed "hole-in-one." The \$200 in prizes adds to the thrill of this slogan contest.

The Winner of the Week!

This week's prize of \$10 is unanimously awarded to Mr. Louis Milbauer of 86 Harper St., Brooklyn, N. Y. His prize winning slogan which was selected by the contest judges is:

"The Mirror of World Events."

Congratulations, Mr. Milbauer, your check is being mailed to you today. Present and future contestants note, you can still compete for next week's prize and the \$100 grand prize. Send your entry in today!

WIN WITH A SLOGAN

NEW MASSES wants a smashing slogan to describe the magazine that champions progress and democracy. New MASSES will pay \$200.00 in eleven (11) cash prizes to get the slogans. New MASSES will pay ten dollars a week for ten weeks for the best weekly slogan with a grand prize of \$100.00 for the best of all.

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Reach for a pencil. Start making lists of everybody you know, getting a buck or more from them for a sub, and then get them to enter the contest too. It's really a sort of a giant Build New MASSES chain letter idea, isn't it?

HERE ARE THE RULES

1. Everyone but NM staff members and their relatives is eligible.
2. The contest opens June 22 and closes September 4 (Labor Day).
3. Slogans must not exceed five words but may be less.
4. Here's how to qualify for the contest: Go to your friends, relatives, and professional acquaintances and convince them to become regular NEW MASSES readers. While you are showing them the magazine and talking about its fine points you will find yourself expressing its qualities in terms your listeners are interested in. This is what will make up the grand prize slogan—a sharp, terse, and dramatic description of the usefulness of the magazine to progressive people.
For every \$1 twelve-week trial subscription you secure you may submit one slogan.
For every \$2.50 six-month subscription you may submit two slogans.
For every \$4.50 yearly subscription you may submit three slogans.
There is no limit to the number of slogans you may submit. Simply accompany them with the required number of cash subscriptions. The greater the number of slogans you submit, the greater your chance of winning the weekly prize of \$10 and the grand prize of \$100.00.
If you are not a subscriber now, you may enter the contest by sending in your own yearly subscription (\$4.50). If you are a subscriber, you may enter the contest merely by extending the life of your own current subscription for one year (\$4.50).
5. The first contest winner will be announced in the issue of NEW MASSES that appears July 6. In that issue and in each of the next nine issues we will reprint the winning slogan and award the weekly prize of \$10.00. One month after the closing date of the contest, we will announce the winner of the grand prize of \$100.00.
6. All slogans submitted, whether winners or not, become the property of NEW MASSES, and cannot be returned. In the event of a tie for weekly or grand prize the full amount of the prize will be awarded to each tying contestant.
7. Judges of the contest will be three editors of NEW MASSES—Joseph North, A. B. Magil, Samuel Sillen. Their decisions are final.

Build New MASSES Slogan Contest

Room 1204 **July 25, 1939**
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fore they arrived at the base; it was there, in the little park or on the outskirts of Albacete, that they learned the bare essentials, how to load, how to fix bayonets, how to run head down, and how to take advantage of the three-inch rise in the ground that will take the bullets meant for you. Their officers were men of the rank and file, and those who lived long enough to acquire really thorough experience of command were the exceptions. Yet this half-trained, ill-armed battalion showed in attack, defense, and retreat a military effectiveness that put the goosestepping conscripts of Mussolini to shame.

Their baptism of fire was surely the hottest any unit experienced in this most murderous of wars. At the end of the first day of action, their commander counted only 225 left standing of the six hundred who had gone up that morning. At the end of the third day of this Jarama battle, scattered and in retreat, they were rallied by an officer escaped from the hospital, and in a magnificent counter-attack recaptured from an entrenched enemy the positions which they had lost the day before. The story of this rally, told in this book by the Irish captain Frank Ryan, now a prisoner in Franco's hands, is an epic account of one of those military "miracles" which time and time again saved the republic, to the astonishment of the retired colonels and the flag-moving experts. It was no miracle; it was another proof that men who know what they are fighting for will fight longer and better than men who have only got a black shirt and a Leader and superior armaments.

The acid test of an army's discipline and morale is its conduct in retreat. If there is anything lacking in a unit, it will come out then. When the Roman legions faced, for the first time, equal armaments and superior generalship at Guadalajara, they broke and ran, leaving behind them their mechanized equipment, their blackshirted officers, their neatly typed orders for the day, the whole paraphernalia of fascist military efficiency. It was a turning point in world history, the first demonstration that ten years and more of arm-raising, flag-waving, and bootlicking had not given these Italians anything they thought worth fighting for. When the republic's front collapsed in Aragon, the British Battalion, faced with an offensive of much greater power, outflanked and out of contact with the rear, often without food and ammunition, retired fighting, like the other battalions of the People's Army; scattered units that had lost contact became their own generals and conducted their own campaign; single soldiers lost in that wilderness kept their rifles, took to the hills, and made their way back to the brigade.

William Rust, who wrote the book, was correspondent for the English *Daily Worker* in Spain. He knew the men of the battalion, in England, in action and out of it. He knows what war is like, and what it is all about. His book is complete with maps, illustrations, Roll of Honor, and an appendix of important documents. For Americans it is a timely re-

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minder that the British people which produced these men is alive to and ready for the tasks which confront it. The lights have not yet gone out in Europe; they shine clear and steady in the deeds of these men.

BERNARD WALKER.

J. D. Bernal

A British physicist on "The Social Function of Science."

NO MATTER how rich or poor you may be, you will not live as long as you could were all the knowledge that is now in the world utilized properly. And no matter how well you may feel, you could feel much better, and suffer much less if you got sick. Your social and intellectual life could be a thousand times more rational, interesting, and creative.

All scientists know this, no matter which branch of science they work in. They know that science has made it possible not only to produce plenty of food, clothing, and shelter for all who are now alive (and for a much larger world population) but also to enable people to live longer, healthier while they are alive, psychologically unstrained and non-frustrated, and what is most important of all, *actively and joyously* glad to be alive.

The scientists know all this. They also know that more than half of their research goes for purposes of destruction, and that the remaining half only indirectly makes life better for human beings. They also know that they are considered curious individuals with whom it is difficult to converse, who are tolerated only because they turn out useful gadgets. But very few scientists ever think that science need not be used for deleterious purposes, and that it is quite possible for science to be so diffused throughout society that everyone understands it.

Only a few scientists, even now, realize that science itself can be destroyed by such political systems as fascism, and that the scientist as an individual can be deprived of his job, arrested, persecuted, and exiled. Even fewer scientists believe that it is possible to get better wages, adequate tenure, and work in science for the sake of direct human benefit instead of dollar-and-cents profits to persons who do not even understand what science is.

Why do not all scientists realize these things? Why doesn't the public realize it? What can be done to make both scientists and the public aware that this great human tool, the scientific method, is not being utilized to one-billionth of its potentiality? How can we go about making scientists and the public aware?

In answer to these questions a very fine British physicist, J. D. Bernal, has written a book which will be a landmark in the social history of the future—*The Social Function of Science* (The Macmillan Co., \$3.50). Being a scientist, he is particular about mustering facts and not relying upon *ipse dixit*. Therefore the first part of his book is a com-



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