

## CONTENTS

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

1940

	PAGE
Editorial Note . . . . .	129
X A French Catholic to Herr Hitler By Georges Bemanos	132
The Religious Origins of European Disunity By Christopher Dawson	142
X Christian Equality By Jacques Maritain	160
Christian Individualism and Scientific Individualism By A. D. Lindsay	178
X Sociology of Politics By J. P. Mayer	188
X Christianity and Humanism By E. I. Watkin	197
X The Fall of France By Barbara Ward	213
Father Eric Burrows, S.J.: A Tribute By V. Burch	229

Some Recent Books - - - - - 240

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC IN FRANCE; ITALY IN THE MAKING; ROSSAU AND BURKE; THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY; GERMANY: JEKYLL AND HYDE; CHRISTIANITY AND CLASSICAL CULTURE; IRISH ART IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN PERIOD; LIVING RELIGIONS AND A WORLD FAITH; BOETHIUS; DANIEL—MAN OF DESIRES; ROGER FRY; THE ROOT AND THE FLOWER; THE POOL OF VISHNU; THE HISTORY OF COTTON COLLEGE.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

THE DUBLIN REVIEW is the oldest English Catholic periodical, and almost the oldest surviving English review. It was founded in 1836 when the great reviews were at the height of their influence and played a great part in moulding English thought. Today all this has changed. The famous reviews of nineteenth century England have diminished and disappeared and the social conditions under which they flourished no longer exist.

Nevertheless, the need for organs of opinion which are not tied to a political party or confined to specialist studies is greater than ever before. England and the whole world are passing through a terrible crisis. We are fighting not merely against external enemies but against powerful forces that threaten the very existence of our culture. And therefore it is vital that all the positive intellectual and spiritual forces of Western culture should come together in defence of their common values and traditions against their common enemies. It is here that Catholics have a special responsibility. They are not involved in the immediate issues of the conflict in the same way as are the political parties, for they belong to a supranational spiritual society, which is more organically united than any political body and which possesses an autonomous body of principles and doctrines on which to base their judgements. Moreover, they have an historical mission to maintain and strengthen the unity of Western culture which had its roots in Christendom against the destructive forces which are attempting its total subversion. They are the heirs and successors of the makers of Europe—the men who saved civilization from perishing in the storm of barbarian invasion and who built the bridge between the ancient and modern worlds.

Today the need is greater than ever. For the present  
Vol. 207

conflict is not just a material struggle for markets and territory, it is a battle for the possession of the human soul. Western civilization is threatened not by the blind violence of the barbarian, but by a far more sinister power which strikes directly at the moral foundations of our civilization and releases the forces of destruction which have been held in check by a thousand years of Christian culture. Western democracy has been so divided against itself by ideological and social divisions that its spiritual vitality has been lowered and its power of resistance weakened. It is, therefore, the duty of those elements in Western Society that still possess a principle of spiritual unity to rally the divided forces of our civilization. They stand for principles and values which modern civilization had denied or forgotten, but without which European culture cannot exist. Political freedom cannot be preserved by political means, no military victory can by itself save civilization. Behind the war of arms there is a spiritual conflict which is described as psychological or ideological and which extends far beyond the province of propaganda in the old sense of the word. Defeat in this war involves a spiritual disintegration which leaves no aspect of human life unaffected and it is, therefore, just as necessary to unite our intellectual forces in the defence of the spiritual foundation of our civilization, as it is to mobilize our material resources for national defence.

The great obstacle to any common intellectual action of this kind during the last twenty years has been the division of thinkers and writers as well as politicians and economists into two opposite camps—"The Left" and "The Right", which gives a partisan character to all intellectual activity and leaves no room for common action. Nevertheless, this division rests on a fundamental misconception of the situation which obscures the real issue.

The revolutionary forces which inspire the two rival extremisms of the Left and the Right are both alike the enemies of Europe and they have far more in common with each other than with either the conservative or democratic elements in Western society with which

each respectively attempts to form a common front. European civilization is then fighting a battle on two fronts against enemies that are co-operating for its destruction and if it is to survive it must base its resistance on its own spiritual resources and not on ideologies borrowed from its enemies. These resources are still great, although they have long been systematically depreciated and decried from many different quarters. It is the function of a Catholic review to consider these fundamental issues in the light of the Christian principles from which they have sprung.

Much has been done in this direction by French Catholic reviews during recent years and the present crisis which has united England and France so much more closely may provide the opportunity of closer intellectual collaboration between Catholic writers in the two countries. But the appeal is limited neither to Catholics only nor to the citizens of France and Britain alone. The Christian cause at the present moment is also the common cause of all who are defending our civilization against the blind assault of mass despotism and the idolatry of power which has resulted in a new paganism that is destructive of all moral and intellectual values. All the Western powers, whether they are involved in war or not, must face the consequences of the totalitarian challenge. A first necessity is to make public opinion alive to the issues that are at stake and to develop the consciousness of Western culture and the spirit of loyalty to the Western tradition. It is to this work of clarification that it is hoped that the new DUBLIN REVIEW will make a definite contribution.

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON.