

HUMANITAS.

This Journal is engaged in a quest. It is in search of a home for the things of the mind.

We are the inheritors of four centuries of discovery, ranging over all the fields of man's faculties, but our heritage is slipping from our hands. For we have lost the capacity to hold the necessary fundamental beliefs. We are affected by a philosophic doubt which turns to dust everything we touch. Things of the mind are reduced to the status of ideologies. If they are not epiphenomena, they have no status at all: they are ideologies or utopias. Appetites masquerading as absolutes or else mere empty dreams.

The world is full of people who want to believe yet cannot. Many want to believe in God and vastly more want to believe in lesser things such as the independent status of plain truth and of elementary moral obligations. And above all in freedom. They feel that the pruning knife of scepticism which for centuries has slashed away so much error and released so much creative force, has at last struck at our indispensable beliefs. They want to arrest its blade, but know not how.

After four centuries of rebellion we see Europe largely ruled by narrow tyrannies. After four centuries of free thinking, we see fanaticism and suspicion devastating our civilisation. Threatening it with utter destruction.

Has man ascended from savagery only to perish through sophistication ?

This journal wants to focus the modern will to believe. Our hearts must be purified and our minds once more trained to hold the things of the mind without soiling or breaking them.

We must understand our real beliefs, must declare them and also learn to apply them. It is the privilege of our generation to meet the great problems of humanity in the daily decisions of public life. To these issues we shall often turn. And paramount among them will stand one - the problem of freedom. We believe that when we have found a home for the things of the mind we shall also find the foundations of a free society. When we recover the capacity to hold firm the truths we believe in, we shall also know how to rebuild the house of political liberty in Europe. In this sense, the philosophic, the religious and the political approach are one.