

# Letters to the Editor

## AMBASSADORS OF ENGLISH

Sir,—May I be permitted to offer some observations on your leading article on the "diffusion of English culture after the war" in your issue of January 10?

1. I am glad to endorse your remark that "citizens of small States, well disposed as they may be towards England, resent strongly the notion of their being converted into a kind of Englishman." Unfortunately, it is just this notion which seems to prevail still in colonial English circles, and I have not met any genuine acceptance of the fact that local languages and cultures exist. There is all too prevalent the desire to thrust on the young "native" (and his forebears) the educational and social prejudices of the English garden suburb or public school.

2. It is desirable that the diffusion of English culture should not be considered the task of British institutes only. Chairs and Departments of English should be established and fostered in local universities and secondary schools. This was done for French and Italian by the French and Italian Governments everywhere in the East before the war, and the "well-disposed small States" have never understood why the British Government cannot carry out this primary duty for English.

3. The most important method of bringing home the "message of English culture" is the provision of good books at a fair price. In this country prices are exactly double those in England, and by the price in England I mean the increased war price, not the pre-war price. Certain illustrated papers have now been brought down to English prices, I understand through the efforts of the British Council; but however much one appreciates the *Illustrated London News* (for example) at 1s., one cannot help feeling that even more good could be produced by providing (say) Penguins for 6d. (the regular price here is 5 piastres—i.e., 1s.—while some enterprising shops have taken to charging 6 or 7 piastres—i.e., 1s. 2½d. or 1s. 5d.). The greatest service the British Council could do would be to arrange for the provision in plenty of the great popular series (the World's Classics, Everyman, Collins's and Nelson's) at English prices.

4. When I say we want good books and plenty of them at a price we can afford I am not thinking of propaganda literature, though it is a pity that such an admirable series as *British Life and Thought* should not be made available at the English price. Nor am I thinking only of fiction. If you are right in speaking of English as an "indispensable second language for many foreign nations," it would seem to follow that English text-books should be provided for their schools and colleges, English biographies and memoirs for their leading libraries, English works on politics and religion and philosophy for their more serious-minded. A recent visitor here from Turkey spoke with enthusiasm of the admirable collections of books on all scientific subjects received during recent years in Istanbul. Young men there anxious to study the latest technical developments have now adequate resources to draw on: but all these—the gift of the German Government—happen to be in German, so the young Turk is driven to learn German. Need one stress the point that when a beginning is made with scientific and technical books in German (and only these would seem to be available) the natural result is the making of German the "indispensable second language," with all the consequences thereby entailed. (May one urge the parallel from Spain? When in Spain in 1933 I found to my amazement that the second language there was not—as I had assumed—French but German.)

5. To sum up: you speak rightly of the "missionary of English culture," but the "missionary" must have an adequate—and cheap—supply of Bibles. Without books preaching is useless.

Yours faithfully,

LEON ROTH, Rector.

The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

dentium agmine, usque in hodiernum d  
chirche vocatur pracagnomine."

The resemblance between Childes  
Chieldhelles Chapel suggests strongly t  
marking refers to the same ecclesiasti  
as is mentioned in the "De Nativ  
"helles" of the later form might be  
Northumbrian haelig (holy), an add  
would be appropriate after the canon:  
Cuthbert.

Hitherto it has been supposed  
Childeschirche is to be looked for at  
higher up Lauderdale, but the identifi  
suggested seems the more probable o  
helles Chapel occupies a pleasant spot  
suited to the romping in which we are  
future saint and his playmates indulged.

I am, &c.,

JOHN H. RC

8, Mortonhall Road, Edinburgh, 9. J

### WELSHMAN'S BUT

Sir,—I was not thinking of the scienti  
between the alder and the Welshm  
merely of a certain similarity of appe  
the word "type" should, no doubt, no  
used, as likely to cause misappreher  
ambiguity is much regretted, also t  
of "Hampton" for "Houghton."

Perhaps the attribution of the usefu  
alder on the Lower Itchen was to  
generalization from the particular. I  
on the recollection of two fish of 2½lb.  
with the alder below Eastleigh in a pat  
some forty years ago. But I think we  
it with success in that water.

YOUR REV

### DR JOHNSON'S LIB.

Sir,—May I point out that Mr. I  
misquoted my article "James Thomson"  
I did not say that Dr. Johnson was said  
650 books. I said, "He is said to hav  
650 works"—a very different matter.

Mr. Roberts does not distinguish  
"works" and "volumes," as I have d  
son's library was also divided into (261  
is one work to a lot, generally sp  
the total number of volumes is  
Assuming that Mr. Roberts means th  
had 3,000 volumes, it is not impossibl  
were only 650 works, though some of t  
possibly multiple: I am not in a posi  
I do not think my statement gave a fals  
to those who read it carefully.

I am indebted to Mr. Meyerstein  
out the authorship of two books wh  
had escaped me.

THE WRITER OF THE A

## Faber boo



### Spitfire Pilot

Flight-Lie

D. M. CROFT

A first-hand account of the most fi  
exciting air fighting of the war. Mo  
book was written while the fam  
Squadron was at readiness, ready  
off, and the result is that rare  
narrative which avoids any atte

**Ambassadors of English.**

Roth, Leon

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