

## What Modern Age Needs

MODERN AGE needs, first of all, people to write intelligently for it. We hope that this initial issue may come to the attention of the writers and scholars whom we count upon to contribute to future numbers.

Second, this journal needs subscribers. We can do our work with a minimum of eight or ten thousand subscriptions; we do not expect, even with the greatest of good fortune, to find more than fifty thousand readers. This first issue has been made possible by a number of gifts from individuals and small foundations.

"Anyone who persists in politics in America," Mr. Leslie Fiedler writes in *An End to Innocence*, "whether he be right or left or center, McCarthy or the Communists or F.D.R., can get himself a millionaire or two." Perhaps this is true of everyone except the American conservatives. If it is difficult to find money to support conservative political movements, it is harder still, to find aid for a critical journal such as ours, which prescribes no party line and promises no material gains.

The audience we are trying to reach consists, for the most part, of those persons who form opinion in their own little circles—the relatively obscure men and women who, as Walter Bagehot says, knit together the fabric of society by the respect in which their friends hold their opinions. We hope to reach the present readership of the critical quarterlies, and to find subscribers

among the readers of the popular monthlies. We shall not seek to usurp the functions of the existing quarterlies, or the monthlies, or the daily press.

We think that the men and women exist who can write for such a magazine, and who can read it. E. L. Godkin used to hope that America someday would be governed by college graduates, their opinions formed by the reading of serious journals. We are by no means sure that, in the present state of the higher learning in America, such a domination of the diploma would be altogether a benefit; yet we do intend to try to appeal to that great crowd of Americans who have undergone some of the disciplines of higher education.

We do not have so mean an opinion of the American mind as to believe that only six or seven thousand people in the nation think, or need to think, the rest being sufficiently cared for by the ephemeral press. If the present gulf between scholarly and popular reading widens, this country may be confronted by the disagreeable reality of a specialized elite cut off from a culturally leaderless mass-public. Our endeavor is to give some intellectual coherence to our society.

We solicit, then, your good will, your criticisms, and your subscriptions. All correspondence should be addressed to the Foundation for Foreign Affairs, 64 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 4, Illinois.