

Reproduced by kind permission of Evensford Productions Limited and
Pollinger Limited. Copyright c Evensford Productions Limited, 1950.

Letters To The Editor—continued from page 4

READERS REPORT ON SPAIN

I recently completed a tour of over 2,000 miles in Spain and was occupied in studying, with my trade unionist colleagues, the welfare work and living conditions of all sections of the community. From our personal observations we cannot subscribe to the article by H. E. Bates ("Report on Spain"). In fact his remarks are completely contrary to conditions as we found them.

Our tour extended to the coalmining area of Oviedo and the industrial district of Bilbao. We were greatly impressed by the extensive building of homes, the provision of clinics, schools, and so on, and also with the cleanliness and contentment of the children.—COUNCILLOR A. VITORIA, J.P., Barratt Avenue, London, N.22.

The article by H. E. Bates was most biased. My wife and I know the street in Barcelona to which he refers. We did not find it reeking with the stench of garlic, cheese or cheap meat. On the contrary, we found there one of the finest markets for cleanliness, beauty of layout and quantity of food that we have ever seen.

A taxi-driver wished us a happy holiday and refused a tip. A railway porter purchased our tickets for us at the correct price, found us seats and refused a tip. In a month's stay, we were accosted by beggars only three times.—H. E. HAND, Heathway Court, London, N.W.3.

Having just spent four months in Spain, I was angered by H. E. Bates's article. His account is so one-sided that it is unworthy of serious consideration as a picture of that country today. Mr. Bates does not like excessive State control as found in Spain. Very well, but can he suggest an effective alternative régime for the Spanish people at the present time?—R. E. H. KING, Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, W.1.

The following points from my own observation during a recent visit to Spain directly contradict remarks by H. E. Bates: (1) Dyed hair is conspicuous by its absence among adult women, and I have never seen a child with dyed hair. (2) I saw no evidence of

prostitution, which Mr. Bates says is rampant. Certainly there were none of the blatant street-walkers or hopeful young girls hanging about, which may frequently be seen in this country. (3) The children are the most natural, happiest and best beloved that I have ever seen. Poverty and filth do not go together in Spain as they do in any British slum. Even barefoot urchins are clean in their much-patched rags.—MRS. JEAN WALKER, Bentley Heath, Knowle, Warwicks.

By his article on Spain, this novelist has forfeited any claim he ever had to the position of an impartial, objective reporter. His prejudices are ugly and do him no credit. His arrogance is insufferable.—W. J. M., College Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

Apparently Mr. Bates saw Spain through the eyes of that typically insular Englishman abroad whom two world wars should surely have relegated for ever to his rightful place in the pages of comic papers.—CECIL MCCrackEN, Parnell Place, Cork, Eire.

Mr. Bates wrote that the children of the poor in Spain never smile, and that broke his heart. I suggest that he should take some interest in, and write a few words about the 40,000 cases of cruelty to children which came to light in Britain last year.—A. W. PRIDE, Church Street, Gibraltar.

A most unbalanced report. I took photographs of a very friendly peasant woman outside her cave dwelling on the outskirts of Madrid. She had four comfortable rooms in her cave, lit by electricity, and a bedside switch in each sleeping room. Outside, six happy children were playing on the rocks. May we all set our own houses in order before we criticize a nation that is doing its best to right itself without the help of Marshall Aid.—A. SWANSTON, South Town Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor," ILLUSTRATED, 189 High Holborn, London, W.C.1. The full name and address of the sender should be given.



Author's Spain



Readers' Spain

H. E. BATES ANSWERS BACK

I HAVE read with much interest the many letters from readers following my article on Spain. Since they do not make the slightest difference to what I think or feel on this subject, may I briefly and simply re-state my attitude, just in case the force of its conclusions should not have been apparent?

Spain is still a dictatorship. I do not like dictatorships, whether religious or political, red or blue, Eastern or Western, Left or Right Wing, and for that reason I do not like Spain. I am well aware that Miss Rose Macaulay, with whom I have discussed Spain on several occasions, Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell, Miss Marguerite Steen and other writers have written of Spain in terms that differ very much from my own.

But it so happens that I do not go about the world looking at things with the eyes of Miss Macaulay or Mr. Sitwell any more than I go about looking at them with eyes of Press attachés, doctors of divinity, or the couriers of travel agencies. I prefer to use my own.

If, in the process, I see things that other people do not see, I can only conclude that I observe more closely than they do. Nor is it at all surprising that the conclusions I draw are my own. Other people may have found the Spanish dictatorship an amusing, gay, tolerant, democratic, uncorrupt or delightful affair that could serve as an enlightened example of living to the rest of Europe. I did not.

I do not condemn Spain any more than I blame its soil or climate on General Franco. On the contrary, I grieve for it. Indeed, the entire impetus of my article is directed towards offering Spain as an example of what happens to countries when armed intolerance, backed by Church power, is substituted for government by free will.

Everything that is English in me is revolted by that intolerance and its consequences; and the fact that Britain has once again shown its firm refusal to admit Spain into the company of freer nations is proof that I am not alone in that attitude.

A MAN LIKES A MANIKIN

because he knows that only finely conditioned tobacco gives these grand little cigars their Mild Havana Flavour.

5 for 2/10
MILD HAVANA FLAVOUR

Manikin CIGARS

Made by J. R. FREEMAN & SON LTD. (Established 1839) royds 50 1/1

SWEETEST STORY EVER!

ADORA SWEET ... the darling of them all!

MOORE WORTH ... a star who wins all hearts

A MARS Production

Banjo 4th PER PACKET

Two double-thick, crispy, nut-flavoured wafer bars smothered in luscious milky chocolate

NOW SHOWING IN ALL SWEETSHOPS

A SPLITTING HEADACHE



calls for Phensic's QUICK action

People take Phensic because it is REALLY QUICK and ABSOLUTELY SAFE

When nerves are taut and your head is throbbing with pain—just take two PHENSIC tablets. PHENSIC tablets disintegrate quickly, thus ensuring quick relief. They contain a blend of ingredients which work perfectly together with a threefold action—bringing RELIEF from pain, SOOTHING the nerves, and COUNTERACTING depression. PHENSIC tablets act quickly without causing stomach upsets or harming the heart. Don't suffer PAIN—take PHENSIC tablets. You can get PHENSIC tablets everywhere for 4d., 1/6 and 3/8.

Phensic
— the SAFE way with RHEUMATIC PAINS, HEADACHES, NERVE PAINS, SUMMER COLDS & CHILLS