

it is to place him. He belongs to the intellectual demi-monde of late nineteenth-century European liberalism. He is one of those 'clever devils' whose advent the Duke of Wellington, with his acidulated eighteenth-century commonsense, foretold. Stalin, it is clear, represents something more permanent, as old as the Arabian Nights and as modern as Tammany Hall. Behind that enigmatic face the Caliph of all the Faithful and the party boss of the Age of the Common Man have joined forces to destroy the 'rotten West' and the Latin tradition, and to enforce the undisputed empire of a Third Rome which owes nothing to Constantine. Not that he has anything essentially different to offer what is left of Europe. In a decaying culture the new masters come first from the provinces and then from the outer lands on the periphery. The Caucasian, as might have been expected, has proved more forcible than the 'clever devil' with his West Russian, Hebrew background.

That pickaxe was the inevitable conclusion; but to Trotsky it seems to have come as a surprise. And it is this which gives its ultimate and fascinating interest to Trotsky's book.

T. CHARLES EDWARDS

LA RUSSIE SOVIETIQUE. (Editions Univers, Lille; frs. 260.)

The full title of this 'cahier de culture comparée pour un humanisme sans frontières' is *La Russie Soviétique à la recherche de l'homme nouveau*, and short of a long article it can hardly be reviewed otherwise than by giving a brief note of its contents. Soviet literature, theatre, cinema, painting and education are examined, with all the apparatus of *dossiers*, documentation and bibliography, and all the thoroughness, that we now expect from contemporary French popular research (Cinema, for example, is looked at under the headings *Climat, Technique et orientation, Mystique*). There is an essay on the 'fundamental problem', i.e. the philosophy of the new man, a 'profile' of Arthur Koestler, book reviews, and illustrations (some of them poorly reproduced). The index of Russian authors cited runs to nearly 150 names.

Over-simplified views of the U.S.S.R., whether *pro* or *con*, are as dangerous as they are widespread. Such works as this *cahier* undermine such simplifications among the more lettered. It is written by various hands, notably by the professor of French literature at the Catholic University of Lille, Bernard Amoudru.

D. A.

FORCED LABOUR IN SOVIET RUSSIA. By David J. Dallin and Boris I. Micholaevsky. (Hollis & Carter; 25s.)

The existence of an efficient, highly developed and widely spread system of slavery in Russia has long been a matter of common knowledge to students of politics. So far as the man in the street is concerned it is only comparatively recently that any knowledge