A LETTER FROM GERMANY

Salzburg, June, 1921

ARL LUDWIG SCHLEICH has now written his reminiscences, The ARL Lub Past (Besonnte Vergangenheit, Ernst Rowohlt, Berlin, 1921). Recollected 1 to one of the greatest benefactors of suffering humanity. Since schleich is one of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has the inventor of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has a surgeon because the inventor of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has a surgeon because the inventor of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has a surgeon because the inventor of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has a surgeon because the inventor of the antiseptic method, no surgeon has a surgeon because the surgeon Schleich is on Schleich by his method of local anasthesia. It Lister, the has Schleich by his method of local anæsthesia. His famous sick of so much pain as Schleich by his method of local anæsthesia. His famous sick of Ernst von Bergmann, has called it "absolutely the greatest Company," And it is very remarkable how Schlieber. sick of so much pain as method of local anæsthesia. His famous sick of so much pain as relieved the sick of so much pain as relieved the famous sick of so much pain as relieved the sick of so much pain as relieved to sick of so much pain as relieved the sick of so much pain as relieved to sick of sick of s sick of Ernst von Bergham, has cancer it absolutely the greatest German rescher, Ernst in surgery. And it is very remarkable how Schleich made this discovery.

Rescher as a poet does not think out a scientific investigations. His famous absolutely the greatest German rescher** and surgery. teacher, ment in surgery.

the result of long, strict, and methodical scientific investigations. He did

the was not the result out, just as a poet does not think out a poem or a musician of the strict out, just as a poet does not think out a poem or a musician of the strict out, just and unexpectedly comes to the It was not the result as a poet does not think out a poem or a musician a theme.

It was not the result out, just as a poet does not think out a poem or a musician a theme.

It was not the result out, just as a poet does not think out a poem or a musician a theme. The poem suddenly and unexpectedly comes to the poet, the theme to the musician.

The poem suddenly and idea of local anæsthetics came suddenly to Schleich as the poem. The poem suddenly idea of local anæsthetics came suddenly to Schleich as a gift of Just so one day the idea of local anæsthetics came suddenly to Schleich as a gift of Just so one day the law as a glückliches Aperçu, as Goethe used to call such things. And the moment, as a glückliches destined to medicine from his youth up, was not in the beigh, though he was destined to medicine from his youth up, was not the moment, as a such things. And the moment, as a such things. And schleich, though he was destined to medicine from his youth up, was not, in fact, schleich, the men who are born for science. He always wrote poetry in secret.

Schleich, thought he are born for science. He always wrote poetry in secret, and now, one of the men who are born for science between one old and famous man, he writes poetry in public. being an old and famous man, he writes poetry in public. He was a truly romantic child, with a strong bent for music, and in his He was a so enchanting a tenor voice that for a time he seriously considered the stage. And when he had been for a long time a successful youth he had been for a long time a successful surgeon in going on the stage. And when he had been for a long time a successful surgeon in Berlin he was still continually drawn towards art and the society of artists. He was Berlin in Goodely of artists. He was a friend of Joseph Kainz, the greatest German actor of that time, and the dearest a friend of his youth were August Strindberg and Richard Dal companions of his youth were August Strindberg and Richard Dehmel. Strindberg, then in his wild Berlin period, resembled a young northern Beethoven, called himself "a tired pilgrim in search of knowledge and a little happiness," often drank all night, and devoted himself passionately to alchemy. For he had got it into his head that he was to make gold and to wrest from nature the secret of the transmutation of metals which then, and until Madame Curie discovered radium, was thought impossible. Strindberg arrived one day with a substance he had really manufactured, and swore that it was gold. The chemists discovered on examining it that it was not gold; but none of them was able to say what it actually was. But it was not only with the manufacture of gold that Strindberg indefatigably busied himself. He wished to discover the nerves of plants and spent whole days drawing their ganglia-cells. Many of his guesses were later confirmed by scientific research, especially by the botanist Reinke. There was an atmosphere of Faust about young Strindberg—an atmosphere which, however, was strongly impregnated by alcohol. Genius, playing with all spiritual adventures even to the then fashionable coquetting with Satanism, attacks of real madness, mixed with such as were caused temporarily by intoxication, undergraduate tricks, jokes of the studios, Bohème, the cabaret, a breath of Montmartre, the insolence of the old unadulterated Berlin, the cynicism of the rising great city, the mysticism that beckoned from the romantic Berlin of the War of Liberation—these things changed and whirled in this eager, aspiring, still heated young generation of the early 'nineties. And in the darkness of this obscurely disturbed atmosphere rose also the element of music: Chopin, ravishingly played by a strange young Pole. This was Stanislas Przybzsewski, who had at that time an almost dæmonic power over young Berlin, but who suddenly disappeared and is lost to sight. He was a poet, a musician, a prophet of Nietzsche, an acti Nietzsche, an enthusiast and a passionate physiologist at once. With him one day sat Schleich, the way and a passionate physiologist at once of existence and turning Schleich, the young surgeon brooding over the problems of existence and turning over the pages of a over the pages of a pamphlet in which the Pole had marked certain observations of

the great anatomist Walderzer, his master. And in the middle of a conversation with his own delight in parties of the great anatomist was a sudden inspiration, with his own delight in parties of the cried out, following a sudden inspiration of fine supporting cells in parties. the great anatomist Walderzer, his master the great anatomist Walderzer, his master the great anatomist Walderzer, his master than the great anatomist walderzer than the great walderzer that schleich cried out, following a sudden hispanion of fine supporting cells in the brain of Stanislas! Man! The neuroglia [a framework of fine supporting cells in the brain of Stanislas! An electric Sordino, a soft pedal, the neuroglia [a framework of fine supporting cells in the brain of Stanislas! An electric Sordino, a soft pedal. Stanislas! Man! The neurogina la the meaning is a damper for the piano-strings. The two mad young men as if they heard the that moment it must have seemed to the two mad young men as if they heard the that moment it must have seemed to the two mad young men as if they heard the they heard the whole in the two mader. I Heaven I Brother whole in the two maders are the whole in the two maders. that moment it must have seemed to the that moment it must have seemed to the that moment it must have seemed to the that moment it must have seemed to that moment it must have seemed to the that moment it must have seemed to the the whole implies the wings of genius hovering about them. And immediately grasping the whole implies the idea, the Pole yelled, "Thunder! Heaven! Brother, say it again! It was a revelation. Schleich! wings of genius hovering about them. The Heaven! Brother, say it again! He tion of the idea, the Pole yelled, "Thunder! Heaven! Brother, say it again! He had only to the last the prove it and the last only to the last them. tion of the idea, the Pole yelled, it was a revelation. Schleich had only to think gone mad! Or else it is a revelation!" It was a revelation. Schleich had only to think gone mad! Consecutively to the end, and then to prove it, and the discovery of the consecutively to the end, and then to prove it, and the discovery of the consecutively to the end, and then to prove it, and the discovery of the end, and the discovery of the end, and the discovery of the end, and the e gone mad! Or else it is a revelation?

gone mad! Or else it is a revelation?

out his idea consecutively to the end, and then to prove it, and the discovery of local out his idea consecutively which has been used for twenty-five years all over the local out his idea consecutively. out his idea consecutively to the che, an assert the second of a lucky moment. Schleich needed two years to put it to record anæsthetics followed, which has to schleich needed two years to put it to practical It was the idea of a lucky moment. Schleich needed two years to put it to practical it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult It was the idea of a lucky moment.

It was the idea of a lucky moment.

Use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. But the most difficult part use and to test it daily in dozens of painless operations. use and to test it daily in dozene and to test it daily in dozene hearly ten years, in which hardly a day part was still to come. It took Schleich nearly ten years, in which hardly a day passed was still to come. It took Schleich nearly ten years, in which hardly a day passed was still to come. It took believes, to overcome the opposition of his learned colleagues without such painless operations, to overcome the opposition of his learned colleagues without such painless operations, to and to obtain scientific recognition. At first Schleich and his discovery were simply and to obtain scientific recognition. Surgeons, and he was driven from the simply and to obtain scientific recognitions of Surgeons, and he was driven from the meeting ridiculed by the Berlin Congress of Surgeons, and he was driven from the meeting by the animosity of his colleagues. But he was not much surprised, for he had made up his mind that "every advance in medicine requires a struggle of fifteen years."

Nothing is triumphant earlier than that."

Yet a second time has Schleich experienced the flash of such a fertile aperque. When he was taking a State-examination, Dubois-Raymond, then one of the scientific lights of Berlin, asked him what the Sympathicus was. "The Sympathicus," answered Schleich, "is a sort of intermediary between the cerebro-spinal system and the apparatus of the senses." Dubois-Raymond, beside himself, demanded whence the Herr Examinand had got this "mad mirage." Schleich answered modestly, "I thought of it myself, Herr Geheimrat!" But the Herr Geheimrat cried out, "When you are here you mustn't think, you must know something!" And he almost broke his neck in the examination. But the "mad mirage" grew in him in secret, and from it was evolved the conception that the Sympathicus is the sympathetic nerve that brings us the world-will, the organ in which our consciousness of the world is placed, through which we communicate with the world-spirit-so that, for example, he calls consciousness a short circuit between the cerebro-spinal apparatus and the sympathicus. Out of this he has made a philosophical system which by means of the decision with which it champions "the cardinal diversity of spirit and nature" undertakes to prove from the pathology of hysteria the truth of Plato and to show the possibility of the origin of the world from ideas. This unexpected confession of idealism by a physician has aroused a healthy horror in all religious Nihilists. And if ever again it becomes possible in Germany to confess one's belief in God without being ceremoniously expelled from the society of the "cultured," then the courageous Schleich will have had a great part in bringing about the change. His virtues as a surgeon are now praised suspiciously loudly so that his philosophy may be made to seem the work of a dilettante. As formerly, when he made his great surgical discovery, the surgeons attempted to kill him by silence, so now the philosophers are killing him by silence. And so it happens that the decisive intellectual achievements of Germany in Hysteria appared in Tribut twenty years late. Freud's decisive first book, Studies in Hysteria, appeared in Vienna in 1895. But the Freudian method in England and France is hardly five years old. It may therefore be prophesied that there will be a fashion for Schleich in Land. fashion for Schleich in London in about 1940. This is advice to translators that they may assure themselves of the majority of the public may assure themselves of the work at the right time! The books which the public will then most eagerly demand as W. C. I have the public will then most eagerly demand as W. C. I have the public will then most eagerly demand the control of the con will then most eagerly demand are Vom Schaltwerk der Gedanken, Das Ich und die Dämonen, and Gedankenwacht und II. Dämonen, and Gedankenmacht und Hysterie, the first two published by S. Fischer, Berlin, the third by Ernet Powelle Police. Berlin, the third by Ernst Rowohlt, Berlin.

Gustav Landauer, formerly in the old imperial Germany a socialist on a lone hand, gustav Landauer, formerly in the old imperial Germany a socialist on a lone hand, and population of the official Social-Democrats, waiting quietly in quiet Hermany as a socialist on a lone hand, and population of the official Social-Democrats, waiting quietly in quiet Hermany as a socialist on a lone hand, and population of the official Social-Democrats, waiting quietly in quiet Hermany as a socialist on a lone hand, and population of the official Social-Democrats, waiting quietly in quiet Hermany as a socialist on a lone hand, and population of the official Social-Democrats and population of the official Social-Democratic Gustav Landauer, formerly in Grand Meister Eckhard, the greatest of translating Meister Eckhard, the greatest o Gustav opposed to the official future, thinker and poet of the dreamy kind, reaching hitterly opposed a more beautiful future, thinker and poet of the dreamy kind, reaching Meister Eckhard, the greatest of the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, thinker and poet of the dreamy kind, reaching the Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, then translating to the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, the great old Committee Mark for a more beautiful future, the great old for th hitterly of for a more beautiful Meister Eckhard, the greatest of the dreamy kind, reaching meister Mark for a more beautiful Meister Eckhard, the greatest of the great old German in the mysticism, translating Meister Eckhard, then translating Kropotkin, then St. into mysticism, friend of Fritz Mauthner, then translating Kropotkin, then St. into mysticisms, a Millionaires, and also, in collaboration with the mysticisms, and also, in collaboration with the mysticisms. in the Marie of Fritz Mauthner, then translating Kropotkin, then Shaw's into mysticism, a friend of Fritz Mauthner, then translating Kropotkin, then Shaw's Dominicans, a Millionaires, and also, in collaboration with Hedwig Lachmann Dominicans, a Millionaires, and Gray—Gustav Landauce. on my a triend of and also, in collaboration with Hedwig Lachmann, his Dominicans, a Millionaires, and also, in collaboration with Hedwig Lachmann, his Socialism for Picture of Dorian Gray—Gustav Landauer was called from his family. Dominion for Munonaires, then Shaw's Socialism for Picture of Dorian Gray—Gustav Landauer was called from his fruitful Wilde's Picture of the Bavarian Revolution, summoned by Eisner to wife, pliness by the outbreak of the Eisner's assassination. It is the outbreak down after Eisner's assassination. Social Wilde's Picture of the Bavarian Revolution, summoned by Eisner to his wife, Wilde's the outbreak of the Bavarian Revolution. He left behind him a bouldistry, and struck down after Eisner's assassination. He left behind him a bouldistry, and struck down been published by Monti. Delet behind him a bouldistry, and struck down been published by Monti. loneliness by the odder after Eisner's assassination. He left behind him a book on loneliness, and struck down after Eisner's assassination. He left behind him a book on ministry, and struck has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare down in the speare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare which has n honemanner, and struck do now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare, dargestellt ministry, and struck do now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare, dargestellt Shakespeare which has now been published by Martin Buber, Shakespeare, dargestellt Shakespeare (two volumes, Rütten & Lænig, Frankfort a/M.). It is Gooth Cortragen (two volumes, the Cormon worth the Cormon worth) Shakespeare which has now established by Warun Buber, Shakespeare, dargestellt Shakespeare (two volumes, Rütten & Lænig, Frankfort a/M.). It is Goethe and in Vorträgen (two introduce the German youth to life. How far Landauer's has been and the speare who introduce the German youth to life. How far Landauer's has been and the speare who introduce the German youth to life. Shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I Shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shakespeare has in it anything new and real and important for English readers I cannot shake the shakespeare has a shake shake shake shakespeare has shake shakespeare has a shake shake shake shakespeare has a shake shake shakespeare has a shake shake shake shakespeare has a shake shake shake shakespeare has a shake shake shakespeare has a shake shake shake shakespeare has a shak Shakespeare has in really Landauer speaks here for himself. He sees in Shakespeare a decide. To us Germans Landauer speaks here for himself. He sees in Shakespeare a decide. To us humanity, a way to the future, in which the eternal conflict landauer speaks here for himself. decide. To us definantly, a way to the future, in which the eternal conflict between way opened to humanity, a may to the impulse spiritualised, but so that spirit here. opened to humanity, and impulse is aided, the impulse spiritualised, but so that spirit becomes spirit and impulse is aecond nature. He believes that his own ideal is provided and morality a second nature. spirit and impulse and morality a second nature. He believes that his own ideal is preached by impulse and morality a second of this supposed Anarchist was common to the ideal of this supposed Anarchist was common to the ideal of this supposed. impulse and morally ideal of this supposed Anarchist was common to all men of Shakespeare, that the ideal of this supposed Anarchist was common to all men of shakespeare, nature. Therefore he is enthusiastic about "the manly love of the state of the st Shakespeare, that Therefore he is enthusiastic about "the manly love of freedom aristocratic nature. Therefore he is enthusiastic about "the manly love of freedom aristocratic nature not in subjection and refuse to he." By this he may be a seen to be a subjection and refuse to he are not in subjection and refuse to he is a subje aristocratic nature. The subjection and refuse to be." By this he means Brutus, and of those who are not in subjection and refuse to be." By this he means Brutus, and of those who are memorably in that in reality he has himself in mind when he expresses himself more memorably in that in reality he has himself in mind when he expresses miner in mind when he calls Brutus "a nature fundamentally private . . . which can endure its he private only when all men without are free and hearth in the private only when all men without are free and hearth? he calls brutes only when all men without are free and happy." Perhaps this is desire to be private only When all men without are free and happy." Perhaps this is desire to be provided and Germans who now, to their own astonishment, are becoming Spartacists or see themselves taken for Spartacists without having the least talent ing Spartacists of see themselves unter for Spartacists without having the least talent for the rôle. They are born "private men" whom the all-interfering state disturbs and will not allow to be "private." It is for this right, "to be private," that they

In the February number of THE LONDON MERCURY I complained that our struggle with so much bitterness. exchange had now quite cut me off from England, that we could no longer buy English books or periodicals. A week later I was overwhelmed with English papers, and now again every week I can enjoy the Times Literary Supplement. This fills me with heartfelt gratitude: I am touched, and also almost ashamed. For what I wrote was meant otherwise. I was thinking not so much of myself as of the future connection between Germans and Englishmen. Now I have been helped, but no help has been given to the generality; and the danger I so much fear, the danger of a growing estrangement between the Germans and the English, remains. I am no Pacifist, I am not a member of Clarté. I do not believe that the war can be wiped out of memory, nor do I wish that it should be: I believe that it is "the father of all things," of the most contemptible but also of the noblest. "For every great people," said Dostoievski once, "believes and must believe that in it and only in it lies the salvation of the world." Thus Dostoievski believed of his people and d'Annunzio and Barrès also, and I would and, I would wager, even Bernard Shaw, though he may not know it; and thus I must be allowed to believe of mine. Conflict will always be. But we would attempt to conduct our struggles in a humane, chivalrous, Christian manner, or, to say it in a single word. single word: fair.* And that will be easier the better we know one another, the more closely we learn to understand one another. And so it seems to me to be dangerous if the hundred thousand Germans who formerly shared in the spiritual life of England What help alice in the application of it. And it will be worth while for the English to consider what help this will be to them

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