

calculate that it is better to live by the skills which they are able to recruit, possibly after a deliberate decision to spend more on salaries, than to spend time and money on training? The board, in its statement of its own proposals, complains that the engineering industry's interest in training has by no means been consolidated, and cites as evidence the way in which, last year, when employment in the engineering industry declined by five per cent, the amount of energy spent on training declined by 20 per cent. But may it not be that these economies by industrial firms were a measure of their discontent with industrial training as at present organized rather than a measure of fecklessness?

The central feature of the British government's proposals on industrial training are that there should be a National Training Agency and, at this stage, it remains to be seen precisely what relationship there will eventually be between the agency and the boards. The strongest argument for a central direction of affairs is, however, that industrial training, like other forms of education, should be a national responsibility. Once governments are committed to the view that industrial and commercial organizations should be responsible for the cost of training their own employees, they are quickly caught up in questions of whether employers can or should be expected to equip employees for better jobs elsewhere and whether, in any case, training conducted on a company basis is likely to provide the kind of flexibility that will in due course suit the national interest. If, one way or another, the government can devise a way of channeling substantial support for industrial training through the Industrial Training Agency, it will have gained a substantial benefit. If it has sense, the government will seek to use the vast apparatus of institutions for further education as a vehicle for training. This has for too long been a neglected sector of British education. The biggest danger, in the months ahead, is that the government will fail to incorporate in its new proposals a sufficiently radical approach to the educational research and curriculum development on which industrial training might be more soundly founded. But there are also dangers that the government will spend too little and that it will concentrate on types of training which are comparatively well understood. For all their faults, the industrial training boards did at least have an incentive to tackle new kinds of training which were, by definition, more difficult.

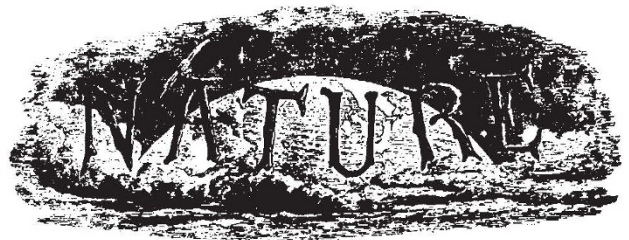
New Statesmanship

NOBODY should take pleasure in the events which have, in the past few months, attended the sad metamorphosis of the *New Statesman*. For donkey's years that other weekly journal has been a powerful focus of radical expression. On the face of things, Mr Richard Crossman would have been a splendid inheritor of Mr Kingsley Martin's legacy, a journal of controlled subversion. In the event—and nobody should complain—he was too old, and by a long chalk far too busy. The result was that the *New Statesman* became what it always might have become, a journal of prejudice, not of opinion. There is a limit to the extent to which it is permissible for editors to write as if the centre of the world is where they are, and in particular there is a limit to the patience

of the world at large with the doings of and the goings-on within the British Parliamentary Labour Party. So much, by unfortunate demonstration, is now self-evident. It will no doubt be a perpetual cause for discontent that Mr Crossman seems not to have found it possible to import into his conduct of the *New Statesman's* affairs the urbanity which has made him one of the best of all literary critics, especially on German affairs.

What will happen now? On the face of things, the outlook is not cheerful. Mr Anthony Howard, Mr Crossman's successor, is a political animal. He is the kind of fellow whose strength is that he can quickly tell which way the wind is blowing. To acknowledge, as Mr Howard has apparently done, that further opposition to the European venture on which Britain is now engaged is useless may be sensible enough, for that is how the dice are stacked, but even those who applaud what may seem in some quarters to be a death-bed conversion will await with interest and with some alarm the development of this unfashionable but laudable line of argument. Will Mr Howard and his colleagues address themselves to a radical examination of what the European Community should be like, or will they continue to reflect, as Mr Crossman has done, conventional prejudices about what the Left requires of the future? Only time, alas, will tell. Comparatively passive (for the time being) weekly journals such as *Nature* must of necessity be sparing with advice. It remains, however, a simple fact that the most obvious gap in contemporary radical journalism is reporting. Telling it like it is is at once too difficult and too expensive. The result is that most weekly journals in Britain have fallen back on opinion, *sui generis*, which has at least the advantage of being cheaper. So is it any wonder that the *New Statesman*, like many other journals with the same constituency, has fallen back on simple declarations of belief? Mr Howard, by all accounts, is his colleagues' man. His first task will be to persuade them that accounts of the world as it is are as powerful an argument for change as any theoretical doctrine.

100 Years Ago



NOTES

AFTER we went to press last week, a most cheering telegram was received in this country respecting the fate of Dr. Livingstone, as follows:—'Aden, May 1, 1872.—The *Abydos* has returned from Zanzibar. She brings news that Dr. Livingstone is safe with Stanley. The news is brought by natives.' It may fairly be hoped that still more authentic intelligence will shortly be received respecting the fate of the great traveller, with respect to whom such anxiety has been manifested in this country. Another despatch speaks also of the destruction of a large portion of the town of Zanzibar by a terrible hurricane on April 15.

From *Nature*, 6, 32, May 9, 1872.