

## THE BOOK TRAIL

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In "The Democratic Way of Life" (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., \$2.50) T. V. Smith, who bears the very unique distinction of being a Congressman and a College Professor at one and the same time, exercises a sometimes dazzling erudition—but sheds little light on the practical problems which face embattled democracy. Smith, like so many other well-intentioned writers on the subject, is concept-bound by economic and sociological fallacies. There can be no real "democratic way of life" that does not include a democratic way of making a living; nor can there be a democratic way of making a living without democratic ownership of the basic source of production—the land.

Professor Smith does not concern himself seriously with the economic problems which by universal acknowledgment underlie the major part of our social disequilibria; but he does propose a "remedy" in the economic field—he suggests a plan to change human nature so that men would enjoy labor for its own sake, as an end itself. If a chemist proposed to change the natural laws of chemistry his colleagues would brand him at once as wantonly unscientific. Yet innumerable would-be reformers propose time and again to change human nature, i. e., the natural laws of human beings; and retain respected standing as authorities in the social sciences.

The cry "we must change human nature" is a convenient but not convincing "out" for those who come to blind alleys in their social thinking. The "democratic way of life" will be achieved when we have achieved democracy in the economic functions—and then from that point on human nature, without changing, will reveal its higher potentialities.

In "Hitler Is No Fool" (Modern Age Books, Inc., \$.50) Karl Billinger presents a well organized discussion of Nazi views as revealed in Hitler's

"Mein Kampf." However, the time has come, unfortunately, when Nazism can be studied better in the light of current events than in the heroics and vaporings of Der Fuehrer's literary masterpiece. A few years ago Herr Browder wrote a book entitled "What Is Communism," but the "party line" was changed shortly thereafter and for accuracy's sake the "is" should have been changed to "was." So with "Mein Kampf." The Nazi counterpart of the "Communist Manifesto" was outmoded by the Hitler-Stalin pact and from now on we must watch Hitler's deeds rather than his words. The truth is that if we had needed his words in time we might not now have to watch his deeds. Perhaps next time—if there is a next time—Europe's "peace lovers" will recognize a madman before he actually runs amok.