

OCTOBER 1945

ONE YEAR OLD THIS MONTH

MY friend Albert Jay Nock wrote somewhere that you cannot teach a person anything which in a true sense that person did not already know. This puts in paradoxical form the truth that unless the student has a predilection and capacity for learning the teaching must be ineffective.

I recognized this when I started *analysis* a year ago this month. I told my friends who helped me that this paper would not attempt to teach individualism; it would attempt to find individualists. During the years I have devoted to preaching the doctrine of human dignity, as against the corruptive and corrosive character of the State, I learned that very few people have any inclination toward that doctrine. Many there are who memorize and repeat the words of freedom, but to whom, either because of their apperception or innate incapacity, the meaning of the words never penetrate; so that at the very first test their souls fly to the fetal security of State-slavery. Individualism is a matter of character, and in that field education is helpless.

That during the first twelve months *analysis* has been able to locate some 2,300 individualists is an achievement for which the readers should be proud, for to the success of an effort of this kind the cooperation of all kindred spirits is necessary, and I have been happily surprised by the quality and quantity of assistance that has come. In addition to the purchase of subscriptions by subscribers, the distribution of sample copies and circular matter by readers, the contributions of money, there was the invaluable help of proofreading, keeping the files in shape, addressing circulars, handling the books and a baker's dozen of detail jobs with which no one man could have coped alone.

There are many more of the "remnant" in the woods. I am sure that you readers will continue to ferret them out and add their names to the roster. Am I too sanguine in hoping that *analysis* will reach 5,000 before its second birthday?