

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION

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**ENQUIRY**  
INTO  
THE CONDITIONS OF INTELLECTUAL WORK

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Second Series

**INTELLECTUAL LIFE**  
IN  
**VARIOUS COUNTRIES**

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**HUNGARY**

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**GENERAL SITUATION**

by

**O. de HALECKI**

Professor at the University of Warsaw  
Secretary of the Committee

With an Annex on Literary Production in Hungary from 1913 to 1922.

IN COURSE OF PUBLICATION

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## NOTE

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The object of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation in publishing this series of pamphlets is to call attention to the problems of organisation and intellectual assistance to which each subject gives rise. The Committee does not propose to treat these subjects exhaustively, but desires rather to bring them to the notice of the public and to provide an opportunity for further suggestions.

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# GENERAL SITUATION OF INTELLECTUAL WORK IN HUNGARY

BY O. DE HALECKI.

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The general survey, which is given in this report, of the position of intellectual life in Hungary is based primarily on the statement by the Hungarian Minister for Public Worship and Education which was forwarded by the Hungarian Government in reply to the questionnaire of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. Material has also been obtained from the report of the National Hungarian Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, more particularly from its introductory note and the statistical data which it furnishes in regard to the economic crisis. The information given in these two documents is confirmed by the general observations which in most cases preface the replies of the persons consulted through the questionnaire for specialists sent out by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.<sup>1</sup>

Among the documents annexed to the Hungarian Government's reply, special interest attaches to a report on the production of books in Hungary during the last ten years. The statement of the Minister for Public Education draws the Committee's attention to this problem, and emphasises its supreme importance in relation to intellectual activity and scientific progress in Hungary. The document in question is reproduced almost *in extenso* as an annex to this paper. The last portion only (Section 3) has been somewhat abridged.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing, replies have been received from the following : MM. D. Angyal ; V. Concha ; J. Fröhlich ; Z. Gombocz ; E. de Grosz ; V. Homan ; R. de Kövesligethy ; G. de Magyary and A. Pauler, Professors at the University of Budapest ; also from Count A. Apponyi, former Minister of Public Education ; A. de Berzevicy, former Minister of Public Education and President of the Hungarian Academy ; E. Császár, Professor at the University at Pécs ; Z. Ferenczi, Director of the University Library ; J. Kuerschák, Professor of the Polytechnic School ; C. Rados, Professor at the Polytechnic School ; Lad. Ravasz, Bishop of the Reformed Church ; J. de Végh, Director of the Museum of Decorative Arts ; Baron J. Wlassics, First President of the Administrative High Court. Two of these gentlemen (Baron Jules Wlassics and Dr Emil de Grosz) have published their replies in the *Revue de Hongrie* (Issue of June 15th, -July 15th, 1923). All these replies and many others which have been received from intellectual institutes and associations will be used in compiling the special reports on the various aspects of Hungarian intellectual life.

I.

## Past History and the Causes of the Present Crisis

The Minister of Public Education points out in his statement that it is essential, in order to form a just estimate of the intellectual life of Hungary, to take count of the isolation in which she has dwelt not only in such matters as race and language, but also, and more especially, in regard to her historical evolution.

After Hungary had been converted to Christianity, at the end of the tenth century, she had formed numerous intellectual ties with the Western nations. In the reign of King Matthias Corvinus, of the Hunyad dynasty (1458-1490), Hungarian national civilisation had attained its zenith, thanks to the influence of the Italian Renaissance. These links with the West were severed during the Turkish occupation (1526 to 1686), and for a further period of two centuries the intellectual development of Hungary was retarded owing to political causes. It was not until after the signature of the Austro-Hungarian Acts of Union of 1867 that Hungarian intellectual life was able to make serious progress and to carry on the traditions established by a thousand years of civilisation. This era of development dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century, a period marked by an accentuation of national sentiment in all the countries of Europe. This period witnessed the birth of the National Hungarian Museum (1802) and of the Hungarian Academy of Science (1825). The report of the Hungarian Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, which was created under the auspices of this Academy, points to the long list of Hungarians who attained distinction during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in every domain of science, art and literature.

After an era of great prosperity during the last half-century, Hungarian intellectual life is now passing through a very serious crisis. In striving to maintain the high standard which it had reached, it has to battle with unexampled difficulties, the most serious of which are mentioned in the statement by the Minister of Public Education.

These difficulties are due, in the first place, to the economic crisis — one of the results of Hungary's defeat in the Great War — to the burdens imposed upon her for reparations and to the depreciation of her currency. The Hungarian crown, which, before the war, was worth 105 Swiss centimes, had fallen in May 1923 to 0.10 centimes. The rise in prices produced by this depreciation of the currency may be seen from the following table :

	June 30th 1914	Dec. 31st 1922	May 15th 1923 (crowns)	June 30th 1923
1 bread roll . . . . .	0.04	9.5	24	31
1 kilogramme of fat . . . . .	1.50	800	2,250	5,200
1 — of potatoes . . . . .	0.14	32	34	120
1 — of sugar . . . . .	0.82	450	1,310	2,120
1 — of butter . . . . .	3.—	1,300	3,600	4,400
1 egg . . . . .	0.07	40	64	120
1 kilogramme of soap . . . . .	0.80	410	1,800	2,000
1 pair of boots . . . . .	15.—	7,200	22,000	25,000
1 suit of clothes . . . . .	100.—	40,000	98,000	120,000
1 man's shirt . . . . .	3.50	5,500	8,200	9,000
Washing one collar . . . . .	0.05	15	50	65

The Hungarian Government's memorandum also indicates that the present crisis is due in part to political causes. For instance, some difficulty is found in maintaining continuous intellectual relations between Hungary and the Hungarian-speaking subjects of the neighbouring States.

In addition to these economic and political causes, account must be taken of certain psychological factors, and finally there are the direct consequences of the long years of war. We cannot do better than quote, in regard to this matter, the reply of Count Albert Apponyi, former Minister of Public Education and Member of the Hungarian Academy, to the questionnaire sent out by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. He prefaces his reply with the following observations :

“Since the war ended an all-round deterioration has set in. This is evidenced by the intellectual inferiority of the younger generation which pursued its studies during the war at a time when it was necessary to shut one's eyes to many shortcomings and to pass candidates who were insufficiently prepared for their examinations owing to the interruption of their studies by military service. Hurried, abridged courses had to be substituted for the regular curriculum, with the results which might be expected. The same symptoms, due to similar reasons, may indeed be noticed in all the countries which took part in the war ; I have seen a report coming from France which records facts even worse than those met with in our experience.

“In these circumstances it is even more important than at normal times that our intellectual workers should intensify their efforts. Unfortunately, the contrary is the case, for reasons which are independent of the goodwill of individuals. In the first place, all our salaried teaching staff — professors, teachers, inspectors of schools, etc., are undergoing hardships which would depress even the most virile energy ; their endeavours are deserving of all praise, but it is very difficult for a man to put forth his whole intellectual powers when he is faced with the incessant struggle to obtain daily bread for himself and his family. The successive augmentations of salaries have failed to keep pace with the rise in prices which is caused by the depreciation of the paper currency ; the State budget shows a constantly increasing deficit and the public services necessarily suffer.

“Owing to these causes the writers of scientific works are compelled to remain almost idle because there is no market for the books which they might wish to produce ; for the classes who provide readers for these books cannot pay the prices which the publishers are forced to demand. The result is a distressing falling-off in the splendid scientific and literary output of the days before the war. The drama forms a solitary exception, and some plays of real value have recently been produced in our theatres.

“Our public and private libraries are sinking into decay owing to their inability to purchase foreign books. Our teachers and educational staff are thereby cut off from communication with the scientific world abroad and are unable to keep touch with its progress ; they cannot subscribe to foreign periodicals issued in countries where the exchange stands high. It is only the German periodicals which are available to them, and even they are difficult to obtain. The same applies with regard to technical inventions, new instruments, and all foreign scientific apparatus. Medical institutions above all suffer from this intellectual isolation.”

After alluding to the political difficulties, Count Apponyi concludes by urging the imperative need for his country, on the one hand, of receiving intellectual assistance, and on the other hand, of maintaining that “will to live” which — if economic restoration is not too long delayed — will enable Hungarian intellectual life to survive in spite of the unfavourable psychological conditions with which it has to contend.

## II.

### Efforts of Hungary

This firm resolve to save the intellectual life of Hungary, threatened with a disaster as complete as that which followed her defeat on Mohacs field, finds expression in the official statement of the Hungarian Government, from which we quote the following extract :

“We are working towards our goal by two methods. The first is to continue our intellectual work as intensively as possible in all the domains in which we are not dependent on material means. The second method is to utilise our limited resources in a manner best calculated to secure the co-operation of all the organs of our intellectual life, and thus to achieve the greatest possible output, while at the same time maintaining the standard of our higher education and of science and the arts in general, at all costs — even if our other cultural interests should suffer by this preference.”

It is true that in the Hungarian State budget the sums allocated to public worship and education now represent a smaller proportion of the total expenditure than was the case before the war. In 1913 this proportion was 6.7 %, in 1914-15 it was 7.2 %, in 1921-22 it was 4.23 % and in 1922-23 it was 4.61 %.

It should, however, be noted that the Ministry of Public Education, which is organised in sixteen sections, has effected very considerable internal economies in order to meet the most urgent requirements of the moment. The following table shows the allocation of expenditure in this Ministry in recent years :

	1913	1914-15	1921-22	1922-23
Universities and Higher Education . . . . .	11.37 %	10.44 %	28.44 %	37.86 %
Subsidies to Scientific Organisations, Public Collections and Fine Arts . . . . .	5.98 %	5.24 %	7.33 %	8.11 %
Popular Education . . . . .	42.64 %	42.11 %	33.13 %	29.87 %
Other expenditure, including secondary and special education . . . . .	40.01 %	42.21 %	31.10 %	29.16 %

The above table shows how great a transfer of credits has been effected to the benefit of scientific studies and higher education and at the cost of primary and secondary education. So great a sacrifice could only have been justified by the assumption that a slackening of effort in the latter domain would prove less disadvantageous in the long run than a lowering of the standard of scientific study, — a danger which it was desired to avoid at all costs.

Nevertheless, popular education has also made considerable progress during the last few years. The percentage of Hungarian nationals over six years of age who are able to read and write rose from 80.3 in 1910 to 84.3 in 1920 ; and there are grounds for hoping that the number of illiterates will be still further reduced. Similarly, the number of primary schools (6,386 in 1920-21, with 16,312 teachers and almost 1,000,000 pupils) and of various kinds of secondary schools (94 colleges, *i.e.* secondary schools for classical and secondary schools for modern subjects, 17 vocational schools, 32 secondary schools for girls — in all, 143 schools with 2,600 teachers and some 50,000 pupils) is relatively large, though almost 6 % of the children of school age are still receiving no school education, chiefly on account of the lack of schools.

The Ministry of Public Education has displayed particular activity in university matters (transfer of two universities ; organisation of a new Faculty in the University of Budapest).



We will deal with this question in closer detail in a special report on the establishments for higher education.

As the General Inspectorate of National Museums and Libraries has been abolished for the sake of economy, these institutions are now placed under the Ministry of Public Education. In pursuance of a law of 1922 the larger public national collections have been constituted as a distinct autonomous body known as "The University of Hungarian National Collections", which exercises its rights of autonomy through the agency of its Senate. The corporate body which has thus been created is entitled to accept donations and legacies. The object of this organisation is to interest the public in the larger national collections and to encourage gifts to libraries, archives and museums.

The development of libraries was greatly stimulated by a Ministerial Decree of 1923 which created a "Central Bibliographical Office for the Purchase and Exchange of Books". This institution draws up a general catalogue of the Hungarian libraries and affords facilities for the international exchanges which are referred to later on in this paper.

Efforts of this kind are necessarily limited by the economies which are demanded by the Ministry of Finance. Thus it has been necessary to abolish some of the national or subsidised institutions and, commencing from the school year 1923-24, the State has withdrawn the subsidies allocated to the independent Faculties of Law which are maintained by various religious denominations. The number of secondary schools has also been reduced for reasons of economy.

Finally, it has proved impossible to increase the number of scholarships and prizes. Scholarships amount, as a rule, to 300-1,000 crowns — the equivalent of 10-35 Swiss centimes. As the prizes granted by the University of Budapest only amounted to 100 or 200 crowns, they were raised, with the assistance of the Union of Higher Education, to 4,000 crowns; but this is only equivalent to 1.20 Swiss francs. We are thus faced with the full effects of depreciation.

### III.

## International Relations

One result of this depreciation is that travelling scholarships, which are indispensable for exchanges of students, have lost all their value and would be inadequate for the expenses of a single day. During the last two years, the French Government has granted scholarships of 6,000 francs to 8-10 Hungarian students at the University of Paris and at the Free School of Political Science. The Rockefeller Foundation also grants three scholarships annually to Hungarian doctors.

The Ministry of Public Education points out that, in the present economic situation of Hungary, it is only through assistance of this nature that the rising generation of scholars can make personal acquaintance with foreign countries.

As evidence of the great importance which Hungary attaches to intellectual relations with foreign countries, it may be mentioned that she adhered without reservation to the Convention of Berne for the Protection of Artistic and Literary Property, and that she has just adhered, at the invitation of the Council of the League of Nations, to the Conventions of 1886 for the International Exchange of Publications.

The Hungarian Government is also endeavouring to found and maintain Hungarian scientific institutions in foreign countries. One of these institutions, which was founded at Berlin in 1915 has, however, a regular Chair and School in the University of that city, so that its expenses are paid by the Prussian State. It publishes the "Ungarische Jahrbücher" (a quarterly publication).

The Hungarian Historical Institute at Vienna, which is accommodated in a building belonging to the Hungarian State, has for its object to facilitate research in the archives of the Court of Vienna (Haus-Hof-und-Staats-Archiv), in particular the examination of documents of interest to Hungary.

The Hungarian Historical Institute at Rome will be housed in a villa which was presented to it in 1914 by Bishop Wm. Fraknoi ; owing to the war, this institute was unable to begin its work. Recently, the Italian Government has generously released the building from sequestration and the Directors, who have hitherto done their work in the Hungarian Academy of Science, are exerting themselves to the utmost to overcome the financial difficulties so that it may be possible to open the Institute next autumn, if only on a modest scale.

The Hungarian Institute at Constantinople was founded in 1917 with a view to enabling Hungarian experts to study the relations of Hungary with Byzantium and with Turkey, and to encourage intellectual relations between Hungarian and Turkish scholars. It had to suspend its activities in 1918, but negotiations are in progress with a view to the resumption of its work.

Negotiations are proceeding at Paris with a view to founding in France a Hungarian Scientific Institute to which it is hoped that the French Government will afford support. This institute is to be created in connection with the Chair of Hungarian Language and Literature, which is at present vacant, the last occupant having been transferred to another Chair. The whole Hungarian nation will feel deeply grateful if these negotiations reach a successful conclusion<sup>1</sup>.

Finally, a Hungarian Institute is in process of foundation at Dorpat.

It would appear very desirable in the interests of the development of Hungarian scientific study that Chairs of Hungarian language and literature should also be created in other foreign universities, for instance, in the United States of America and in London.

With a view to encouraging and giving a systematic organisation to the intellectual relations between Hungary and other countries, a Hungarian Committee of Intellectual Co-operation has been created and serves as an intermediary between the Hungarian intellectual institutions and workers, on the one hand, and the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations, on the other.

This Hungarian Committee, which was constituted under the auspices of the Academy of Science, consists of eleven members of the Academy, including the Librarian and representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Education, the Committee for the Insurance of the Scientific work of the Universities, the University of National Collections, and the Hungarian Association for the League of Nations.

This Committee transmits to the Secretariat of the International Committee requests received from Hungarian institutions for the exchange of books and other educational material, at the same time expressing the views of the Academy in regard to the requests and indicating the objects which Hungary would be able to offer in exchange. It assists the League of Nations Committee in its enquiry into the intellectual situation in Hungary and it also seeks to facilitate the exchanges of professors and students.

As regards the exchange of books, the Committee makes use of the Central Bibliographica Office, of which mention has already been made. The national collections, and all other collections which desire its services, also acquire their foreign books through the agency of this central institution ; the latter also acts as the national bureau for exchanges under the Conventions of 1886, and it undertakes the bibliographical registration of foreign books and periodicals in Hungarian libraries.

<sup>1</sup> With a view to facilitating scientific relations between Hungary and France, a periodical entitled "Revue des Etudes hongroises et finno-ougriennes" has just been founded (published by Ed. Champion, Paris).

The object of this quarterly publication, which is being produced under the auspices of the Hungarian Academy of Science, is to give publicity to the chief achievements attained in Hungarian and also, to some extent, in the Finnish language, philology and historiography ; it seeks, by means of a central organ published in French, to contribute the results of researches in these fields to the common fund of scientific knowledge. It is making a special study of historical and literary relations between France and Hungary.

The Hungarian Ministry of Public Education attaches special importance to the exchanges of professors and students, but it considers that Hungary, with her depreciated currency, cannot at present offer complete reciprocity. It has been possible, in several individual cases, to find a practical solution of the difficulty. Thus, a certain number of English students who were studying in Hungary during their holidays were accommodated in boarding schools which were unoccupied at the time. It would be of great assistance to the exchange system if foreign countries would send some of their professors to take a course of at least one term in one of the Hungarian universities ; if these teachers continued to receive the salaries paid to them in their own countries their expenses would be easily covered, owing to the favourable situation of the exchange for foreigners.

#### IV.

### Conclusions

In the statement of the Minister of Public Education it is pointed out that no radical improvement can be effected except by means of the loan which Hungary is seeking to obtain from foreign countries, but that the support of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations may nevertheless prove of inestimable value in palliating the evils of the present crisis and in creating the psychological conditions which are essential for the development of Hungarian intellectual life.

In the view of the Hungarian Government, the Committee could achieve this object by the following means :

(1) By declaring that Hungarian intellectual life is in need of the moral and material assistance of the League of Nations.

(2) By meeting any requests forwarded to it by the committee formed under the auspices of the Hungarian Academy.

(3) By developing the international exchange of books and periodicals through the agency of the Central Bibliographical Office, and by using its good offices with the highly civilised countries to induce them to accept, in exchange for their publications, books which might not be of the same value, either as regards quantity or quality.

(4) By facilitating the international exchanges of students and especially of professors, in accordance with the suggestions made earlier in this paper.

(5) By facilitating the organisation of Hungarian scientific institutions in foreign universities. The Hungarian Government would gladly subsidise any corresponding institutions in Hungarian universities.

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**ANNEX.**

LITERARY PRODUCTION IN HUNGARY BETWEEN 1913 AND 1923

In making a comparative study of literary production, account must be taken of three important statistical factors ; namely, (1) the number of volumes published ; (2) the number of copies printed of each volume ; and (3) the number of pages of each volume.

The classification of books published in Hungary in the different branches of literature is shown in the following table, which appeared in the "Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel", No. 71, 1923 (Leipzig), supplemented by data for the year 1922 collected by Dr. Charles Erdösi :

*Production of Hungarian books in 1913, 1921 and 1922, classified according to branches of literature.*

<i>Branches of literature.</i>	<i>Annual production</i>		
	1913	1921	1922
Theology . . . . .	133	113	84
Sciences, literature and arts :			
<i>a)</i> philosophy . . . . .	52	21	12
<i>b)</i> philology . . . . .	27	34	19
<i>c)</i> natural science and mathematics . . . . .	35	41	34
<i>d)</i> law, political science and statistics . . . . .	122	71	13
<i>e)</i> laws and commentaries . . . . .	127	80	55
<i>f)</i> medicine and hygiene . . . . .	67	16	39
<i>g)</i> geography, ethnography . . . . .	21	7	30
<i>h)</i> practical science, commerce, technical industry . . . . .	155	121	73
<i>i)</i> history and biography . . . . .	91	35	160
<i>j)</i> rhetoric . . . . .	14	3	—
<i>k)</i> social science . . . . .	61	39	48
<i>l)</i> occult science . . . . .	11	5	9
<i>m)</i> encyclopædic publications . . . . .	9	—	—
<i>n)</i> literature . . . . .	34	51	20
<i>o)</i> drawing, painting, sculpture . . . . .	16	15	17
Total . . . . .	826	539	529
Text-books of instruction . . . . .	294	258	365
Popular Education . . . . .	301	122	22
Belles-Lettres . . . . .	419	665	559
Children's books . . . . .	65	111	150
Works on current events and miscellaneous works . . . . .	311	44	287
Sports . . . . .	13	4	6
Music . . . . .	295	354	233

This table shows that the falling-off in the number of publications is not as serious as might have been expected in view of the economic situation. It must, however, be noted that, as a rule, the only increase has been in regard to school text-books — the stock of which had been exhausted during the war, children's books, and above all, "belles-lettres"; the increase in the latter must be ascribed to the great stimulus which the war gave to reading throughout the world: and this encouraged publishers to intensify production, in many cases at a great loss to themselves. On the other hand, it will be observed that there is a great falling-off in the total number of books published, particularly as regards scientific, literary and artistic works, a fact which is very detrimental to intellectual life.

Moreover, in considering the above table, account must be taken of the number of copies printed and the number of pages in each volume. These data could not of course be shown in a table of this kind, but they can be deduced from the following examples:

(a) *Encyclopædic Literature.*

In 1910 the publication had been commenced of an important encyclopædia entitled "The Great Révai Lexicon" (Révai Nagy Lexikona) which was to have run to eighteen volumes; the price had been fixed at 18 crowns per volume. When the war broke out, fourteen volumes of this work had appeared in editions of 32,000 copies per volume. During the war, publication of this encyclopædia was suspended. The publisher has just decided to go on with the last four volumes, but he only thought himself justified in printing one volume — the fifteenth — in the first instance, and only 10,000 copies of that volume; and yet he only succeeded in disposing of 5,000 copies though it was in the interests of all the purchasers of former volumes to complete the set.

In 1914 the publication of the "Library of Civilisation" (Műveltség Könyvtár) had been begun. The object of this series of large illustrated volumes was to make readers acquainted with the chief branches of knowledge expounded by the most eminent Hungarian men of science. The first eleven volumes were issued in editions of 20,000 copies per volume. It proved impossible to publish the twelfth and last volume owing to the cost of printing and to the lack of subscribers, so that this important encyclopædia is destined to remain incomplete.

A digest of all the Hungarian laws, under the title of "Codex Hungaricus", was commenced in 1911, and supplements containing the new laws were issued in each succeeding year. This important work had extended over ten volumes printed in editions of 4,000 copies per volume; for the volumes of the years 1918-20 the numbers printed had to be reduced to 2,500 copies, and in 1921 publication had to be suspended altogether.

(b) *Belles-Lettres.*

It has become utterly impossible to publish the works of the most famous Hungarian authors. The writings of Maurice Jókai are completely exhausted and no publisher would take the risk of bringing out another edition. The works of Coloman Mikszáth and of Baron Joseph Eötvös have disappeared from the market for several years past.

As regards the more popular contemporary authors, the works of Francis Herczeg and of Coloman Csathò were formerly published and circulated to the extent of 5,500 copies per volume; the present editions only run to 2,500 copies and it will take many years to find purchasers for them. The works of Nicolas Surányi were formerly printed and sold in editions of 7,700 copies; the latest edition only amounts to 1,650 copies.

In 1914 a "Library of Standard Novels" (Klasszikus Regénytár) was commenced with a view to making known the great masterpieces of universal literature (*e.g.* the works of Balzac, Bulwer, Dickens, Daudet, Dumas, Dostoievsky, Flaubert, Anatole France, Scott, Stendhal, Thackeray, Tolstoi, Turgénief, Zola, etc.). Before the war, these volumes were issued in



editions of 10,000-14,000 copies and 8-10 volumes were brought out every year. This series was suspended during the war, but publication was resumed in 1918, the issue amounting to 6,000 copies of each volume per annum ; the present rate of publication is only one volume per year in an edition of 3,000 copies.

The Athenæum Library (Athenaeum Könyvtár), a similar enterprise of a more popular character, somewhat on the same lines as the "Nelson Library", was started in 1912. On an average, twelve volumes were published each year in editions of 30,000 copies ; after the war there was a sudden decline and in 1922 the publisher was obliged to suspend the issue although the series had already run to 85 volumes.

Another publication of an even more popular character, issued at the rate of one crown per number, was commenced in 1917 under the title of "Novels at Popular Prices" (Olcsé Regény) ; the numbers of this series were brought out in editions of 12,000 copies. In this case again there was a rapid decline after 1918. In 1922 a few numbers were brought out in editions of 6,000 copies, but, since the issue of the 73rd number, publication has had to be suspended.

In 1915, an edition of very cheap novels was launched under the title of "Books for the Millions" (Milliók Könyve), some 180,000 copies being issued every fortnight. At present only one issue of 26,000 copies per volume of this edition is published every six weeks.

Another literary enterprise is bringing out small pamphlets on the lines of "Reclam's Universal-Bibliothek" under the title of "The Hungarian Library" (Magyar Könyvtár). In 1914, 250,000 of these pamphlets were printed, of which 66,253 were sold. In 1923 51,500 copies were printed and 11,131 were sold.

(c) *Children's Books, Almanachs, Popular Books and Dictionaries.*

Children's books play a very important part in the book trade in all countries, for they are the presents which children value most highly. Under this heading it will be best not to give the data for any single book, but for the whole production of a publishing enterprise of this kind. In the years prior to the war a single firm — one of the chief publishing houses in Hungary — disposed of some 200-250,000 copies of 100 different publications each year. At present it brings out not more than 30 such works, in a moderate edition of which it is able to sell only 30-35,000 copies per annum.

What has been said above is equally applicable to dictionaries. Formerly, the sale of small dictionaries for general purposes was about 8-10,000 copies per year ; the sale has now fallen to 1,000-1,500 copies per year.

Almanachs are a form of literature which satisfies the most elementary requirements of the public. It is, therefore, both interesting and instructive to note that one publisher sold, in 1913, 450,000 copies of 52 different types of almanachs, comprising 276 pages per volume. In 1922, the same publisher sold a total of 233,000 copies of 19 different types, comprising 73 pages per volume.

(d) *Scientific Literature.*

It is in this domain that the outlook is most depressing and that the decline has been the most disastrous. As will be seen from the table given above, there has been a terrible falling-off in the number of works issued. The publication of university manuals meets with almost insuperable obstacles ; indeed it has become impossible, unless by the intervention of some special agency, such as aid proffered by devotees of science, or relief afforded by the State, and even in such cases the books have to be issued in editions of 1,000/1,500 copies instead of 2,000/3,000 as formerly, and the publisher endeavours to keep the number of pages down to the lowest possible figure. It is practically impossible to find a publisher for a book of more than 800 pages, or for an illustrated work. The publication of professional legal works must

be regarded as completely at a standstill ; and medical literature finds difficulty in maintaining its existence.

In this field again, we note that the editions which aim at popularising knowledge find the readiest market. These editions have played an important rôle and have done much for the development of education in general.

In 1911 a popular edition of this kind was launched under the title of "The World Library" (Világkönyvtár). This "Library" published the most famous works of the great authors and scientists of the world, *e.g.* Shaw, Carlyle, Ostwald, Boelsche, Darwin, Bergson, Brandes, Walter Pater, Menchikoff, Spencer, Macaulay, Nietzsche, etc. Before the war eight to ten volumes of this library were issued annually in editions of 5,000/10,000 copies. After 1918 these volumes were only printed in editions of 3,000/4,000 copies, and not more than two or three volumes were published each year. Since 1921 only one volume has appeared each year, and the edition has been limited to 2,000/3,000 copies.

An even more popular edition, at a very low price (40/80 centimes) is the "Modern Library" (Modern Könyvtár). It was first published in 1903, and developed so rapidly that in 1916 volumes were being printed in editions of 24,000 copies. Since that date the decline has been very rapid, and in 1922 the publisher was obliged to suspend publication, after making a final issue of 1,600 copies.

An edition in the form of small pamphlets sold at 50 centimes each has appeared for the past twenty-five years under the title of "Pocket Library of Science" (Tudományos zsebkönyvtár). These pamphlets contain 64 to 80 pages each, and consist of treatises on the different branches of science, adapted to the intellectual standards of students, of the less educated public, of the working classes, etc. The issue amounted to 5,000/6,000 copies per pamphlet and several pamphlets ran to four, five and even six editions. Since 1918 it has been found impossible to bring out any more of these pamphlets, though the stock of more than half the previous issues was completely exhausted, and they could not be re-published ; the few numbers which it was considered absolutely necessary to publish were issued in editions of not more than 2,000/3,000 copies.

One of the most important publishing firms is the "Saint Stephen's Publishing Co." (Szent István Társaság) ; in 1913 this company published ten scientific works, containing more than 3,000 pages, and printed in editions of 30,000 copies per volume ; 25,000 were sold during the same year. In 1922 this company published seventeen scientific works, containing nearly 3,800 pages, but it was only possible to issue 17,000 copies and only 8,500 were disposed of.

(e) *Reviews.*

Numerous learned societies have been founded in Hungary, and it is these societies which publish scientific reviews. The falling-off in this form of production is illustrated by the following figures :

	In 1913	In 1922
<i>Academic Review</i> , organ of the Hungarian Academy of Science . . . . .	746 pp.	363 pp.
<i>Universal Philological Review</i> , organ of the Philological Society of Budapest. . . . .	808 "	140 "
<i>Geographical Publications</i> , organ of the Hungarian Geographical Society . . . . .	586 "	176 "
<i>Athenæum</i> , organ of the Hungarian Philosophical Society . . . . .	454 "	203 " (In 1921)
<i>The Hungarian Language</i> , organ of the Hungarian Linguistic Society . . . . .	480 "	220 "
<i>Hungarian Pedagogic Sciences</i> , organ of the Hungarian Pedagogic Society . . . . .	668 "	122 "
<i>The Centuries</i> , organ of the Hungarian Historical Society. . . . .	806 "	306 "

	In 1913	In 1922
<i>Historical Review</i> , publication by the Hungarian Academy of Science . . . . .	640 pp.	196 pp. (In 1921)
<i>Numismatic Review</i> , organ of the Hungarian Numismatic Society.	150 »	60 »
<i>Bolanical Review</i> , published by the Hungarian Society for Natural Sciences . . . . .	254 »	64 » (In 1921)
<i>Chemical Review</i> , published by the Hungarian Society for Natural Sciences . . . . .	192 »	68 » (In 1921)
<i>Review of Mathematics and Natural Science</i> , published by the Hungarian Society for Natural Sciences. . . . .	787 »	328 »
<i>Mathematic and Physical Notes</i> , organ of the Mathematical and Physical Society. . . . .	445 »	110 »
<i>Hungarian Bibliographical Review</i> , organ of the Széchenyi Library	518 »	240 »

However, it was not only scientific reviews, but also those dealing with art and subjects of general interest which were obliged to suspend publication ; thus the beautiful artistic review "Art" (Művészet), of which 7,200 copies were printed in 1914, has since been suspended, leaving a noticeable gap. The review entitled "Hungarian Decorative Art" (Magyar Iparművészet), which has been appearing for twenty-four years, has been obliged to dispense with illustrations of all sorts. Nearly all the reviews of general interest have been wound up, and only the "Budapest Review" (Budapesti Szemle), which was founded a hundred and fifty years ago, continues to flourish, thanks to the financial support which it receives from the Hungarian Academy of Science. It is, however, only a quarter of its former size.

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All the above data show that literary production in Hungary has to compete with most serious difficulties ; the production of scientific books is on the eve of extinction and the whole scientific life of Hungary is, in consequence, threatened with disaster.

We have not yet mentioned the fact that scientific works do not provide their authors with any income whatever ; as a rule, it is not possible to publish the results of scientific research at all. Scientific criticism and the formation of a new generation of scientists have thus been rendered impossible, and even the publication of short essays in the scientific reviews presents almost insurmountable difficulties. Moreover, owing to the differences in the rates of exchange, it is even harder for the public libraries of Hungary than for private individuals to acquire new scientific publications which appear in foreign countries.

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The causes of a crisis fraught with such serious consequences for the production of scientific works in Hungary are as follows :

1. The unprecedented increase in the cost price.

The paper technically known as "famentes" (paper without wood fibre) cost, per gross kilogram :

In 1913. . . . .	52 cent.
In 1921, month of February. . . . .	58 crowns
» » » May. . . . .	70 »
» » » September. . . . .	78 »
» » » November. . . . .	92 »
» 1922 » March. . . . .	105 »
» » » May. . . . .	140 »
» » » September. . . . .	285 »
» » » December . . . . .	365 »



Its cost is thus increased 700-fold.

The minimum weekly wage of a skilled workman was :

In 1913 . . . . .		35 crowns
» 1921, month of February . . . . .		585 »
» » » August . . . . .		865 »
» » » October . . . . .	1,040	»
» » » December . . . . .	1,300	»
» 1922 » February . . . . .	1,385	»
» » » April . . . . .	1,717	»
» » » June . . . . .	1,914	»
» » » August . . . . .	3,225	»
» » » October . . . . .	5,059	»
» » » November . . . . .	6,152	»

The wages of a compositor have thus increased 175 times.

The increase in the authors' royalties has been on a much more modest scale — an additional proof that the standard of living of intellectual workers has fallen far below that of manual workers. In the case of literary works, the author's royalties are 10 % of the selling price of the book, and as the selling price is below the gold parity (at the end of 1922 the index number was 150), it follows that the author's royalties also remain far below the former level, with a result that to-day no author in Hungary can maintain himself unless he possesses other sources of income than his royalties.

As regards scientific works, the situation is even worse.

Text-books and university manuals are still published from time to time. The author's royalties are fixed in such cases either at 10 % of the price of the books sold, or at 5,000 kr. per 16 pages (1.5 Swiss francs), as compared with the pre-war figure of 500 kr. (525 Swiss francs). Thus, the author's royalties are only ten times their former amount.

2. The most lucrative enterprises, from the publisher's point of view, used always to be literary and popular publications issued in serial form. In such cases the profit increases in geometric proportion with the number of copies printed, and in former times it was the profit on such enterprises which made it possible to publish scientific works possessing no interest except for a limited number of people, and of which only a limited number of copies could be printed.

It will be seen from the facts given above that enterprises of this kind no longer offer any return, or at least that the profits have been immensely reduced ; it is chiefly for this reason that it is so difficult to find publishers for scientific works ; but there is also another reason of equal importance. In consequence of the territorial losses of Hungary, the public — never a very large body — to which Hungarian scientific publications made their appeal, has suffered a still further diminution ; moreover, these scientific works were read for the most part by the educated middle class, consisting of university men and officials with fixed incomes, and it is precisely this class which has been most seriously impoverished in consequence of the economic crisis. The fact that the section of the public which formerly purchased scientific works has so greatly diminished has caused a reduction in the number of copies printed, and this in turn has led to a considerable rise in the cost price per copy. Hungarian intellectual life is thus caught in a vicious circle, from which it cannot extricate itself by its own endeavours.

3. These difficulties are aggravated by the fact that it is now impossible — or at any rate hazardous — to despatch Hungarian books to places in the territories which were detached from Hungary by the Treaty of Peace.



*Hungary :*

The General Situation . . . . . } by O. DE HALECKI,  
The Universities. . . . . } Secretary of the Committee.

*India :*

The General Situation . . . . . } by D. N. BANNERJEA,  
The Universities. . . . . } Member of the Committee

*Italy :*

The Movement for the Renewal of National Culture, by J. LUCHAIRE, Expert of the Committee.

*Japan :*

The Teaching of Foreign Languages, by Dr. I. NITOBÉ, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

*Lithuania :*

General Report by K. BALOGH, Professor at the University of Kovno, Rapporteur of the Lithuanian Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

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The Universities. . . . . } TION (Foundation for the  
encouragement of scientific work at Warsaw).

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ATHENS.

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