
NEW TITLES

History

KARL KRAUS AND THE SOUL-DOCTORS: A Pioneer Critic and His Criticism of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis
by Thomas Szasz
La. State Univ., 1976
180 pp. \$9.95
L of C 76-17004
ISBN 0-8071-0196-6

Between the two world wars, Vienna was the intellectual capital of the world; Karl Kraus, a crusader for purity of language and precise thinking, was Vienna's foremost literary critic. Admired by the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein and despised by Freud, he got what he called "the silent treatment" from newspaper editors and the literary cliques that he criticized. His importance is increasingly recognized, and Szasz's book is an effort to make him known to the American public in his role as a foe of psychoanalysis. Kraus's corrosive criticism of Freud and his disciples is often outrageous. ("On the seventh day, God rests. That's the day the psychoanalyst picks to demonstrate that there is no God.") The "soul-doctors," he believed, had "greatly enlarged the frontiers of irresponsibility."

THE FABIANS
by Norman and Jeanne MacKenzie
Simon & Schuster, 1977
446 pp. \$12.95
L of C 76-41350
ISBN 0-671-22347-X

George Bernard Shaw, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, H. G. Wells, and many lesser-known (but just as talkative) Fabians fill this objective, anecdotal book. The most influential group to emerge out of the proliferation of London's socialist sects during the 1880s, they took their name from pseudohistory—"a dubious political reference to a Roman general [Fabius]" who defeated Hannibal by tactics "supposedly both cautious and forthright." But the Fabian Society was serious, survived for 60 years, and had a profound effect on English life. Its members believed in an "ascetic obligation" to serve the poor and "raise them from the lower depths." Dedicated to the spread of socialist opinions through education and influence, the Society established the London School of Economics, founded the *New Statesman*, and saw its ideas become official Labour Party policy. In 1945, Clement Atlee took office as Britain's first "Fabian Prime Minister."