

FROM THE EDITOR

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

Time is a relative experience. Six months is hardly long time in the life of a magazine, but it is of vital importance if it is the first six months, the period when dreams clash with reality.

THE HERITAGE was launched from a strong base, from a rock of faith that we have so much creative, intelligent and interesting aspects of our culture and literature, past and present, to project through its pages. And it was not launched into a doubtful sphere. We had also the faith that our people will welcome a good magazine, a magazine that does not distort their image, does not show men and women as inferior to what they really are, which presents life in a perspective that is wide and varied.

So far as THE HERITAGE is concerned, there has been no clash between the dreams and the reality. The magazine has been well received. To say that the welcome has surpassed our expectation will amount to underestimating the capacity and compassion of our people. But THE HERITAGE has instantly won the people's affection that is deep and meaningful. They don't view the magazine as a companion for a moment, they preserve each copy. A day does not pass without our receiving letters of commendation, messages of pleasant surprise from readers just discovering the publication. And the range of such responses is wide indeed!

THE HERITAGE has also met with spontaneous appreciation abroad.

We are grateful to our readers. At the same time we should share the reality with them. The magazine is continuing to suffer huge losses. It is because the cost of production per copy, at the moment, is as much as the price at which it sells. What ought to make good the losses is the revenue from advertisements. We are quietly waiting for the advertisers to realise the effectiveness of their message through the pages of THE HERITAGE. Of course, we have our limitations in that respect too. We do not accept all kinds of advertisements. Wares that are injurious to public health or morality, insertions that look unaesthetic, are not to be carried by THE HERITAGE.

ON THE TIDES OF TIME

Anything that can be easily defined is limited in its scope. We should wisely leave a few things undefined and among them, poetry. A child's pronouncement, "Poetry is the stuff the poets write," seems to be nearer the truth than definitions formulated by learned critics and philosophers. The poet's inspiration, surely, is his true language. Nevertheless, the inner language needs a written or spoken language to become communicable. The question is, can a language which is not the poet's mother-tongue, serve the purpose?

The language the poet uses has to be very close to his heart. He cannot otherwise express his dreams, his subconscious or his super-conscious revelation and images accurately. The subtleties and nuances of his inspiration can find proper expression only in the language that went intimately with the formation and growth of his consciousness.

This is a theory. There must be exceptions to this theory, as there are to any other theory. Indo-Anglian poetry is a reality, despite its illusory areas. THE HERITAGE will launch its poetry section from the next issue, to appear at intervals. It will highlight poets and poetry of yesterday who deserve to be read or reread and gifted poets of today- to the best of its judgment. However, THE HERITAGE will like to carry translations of poems from different Indian languages- or their best contemporary poets. Much, no doubt, will be lost in translation, but that cannot be helped.