

A DANCER AND AN EDUCATOR ON FASCISM

OF INTEREST to the dance world, in consideration of the status of the dance amid these changing times, was an event sponsored by the Committee for Anti-Nazi Literature on Sunday evening, February 14. Speakers were Martha Graham, who is a member of the Committee, and Dr. George S. Counts, of Columbia University, who has recently returned from Europe. Both spoke on the manner in which art and education in Nazi Germany have been turned to imperialistic uses, not through changing the structure of the educational system, or changing, say, the movements in dancing, but by changing the entire basic philosophy from which these things are taught and applied.

Textbooks from Germany, Hitler's book "Mein Kampf," and newspaper dispatches were quoted, all showing that there is a madness rampant in Germany—the people doing, saying, and writing things they do not themselves believe in, because they are terrorized. With regard to Germany's dancers, Miss Graham said no one really knows their status. It is known that Mary Wigman has been forced to disband her profes-

sional group, indicating that she has received no support from the Reich; that Laban is in bad favor and has temporarily been asked to stop working; and that others have been intimidated into acquiescence to the system because their families were threatened.

The warning of Dr. Counts, that Fascism arose out of our western world and is therefore not entirely removed from this country, and Miss Graham's plea that dancers be watchful of their world and sincere in their art, carried over the emphasis that the very real and terrible developments taking place in the world leave no one unaffected. Spain is at present the scene of tragedy and horror; all western Europe is looking on, vulture-like; America has its own enemies within. Such hysteria can be curbed only by united resistance against it, and dancers and other artists must know and play their part with others in that resistance.

March, 1937

"Dance Observer."