

NIETZSCHE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—A correspondent has kindly sent me Miss Corringham's intelligent essay, entitled "Nietzsche's Challenge," in your issue of March 16, which is a welcome sign that interest in the great thinker has now spread to Australia. The interest Europe now takes in Nietzsche is very great, all too great. I say so, because he is, just as during the war, misinterpreted by different sides. The politicians have got hold of him; the Nazis in Germany claim him as the patron saint of their Third Realm, while their enemies denounce him again as the evil genius of the Fatherland. Sir Herbert Samuel, for instance, in a speech before the House of Commons (March 21) has accused Nietzsche of being the author of European unrest. He thinks the Germans are infuriated by Nietzsche, while they hold themselves inspired by him.

May I suggest that both are wrong; for the obvious reason that Nietzsche would have nothing to do with masses and their ideals, but had addressed himself to an elite in all nations, asking these few men for a change of mind, of heart, of ideas, which, in his philosophy is called: "A transvaluation of all values?" How can those, who adhered to the old values, claim any kinship with Nietzsche or entertain any enmity against him? These people, I am sure, have read about Nietzsche, but have never, I am certain, approached his own works, which are now nearly all translated and published by Allen and Unwin, London. May I be allowed to advise your countrymen to read these first, commencing perhaps with "The Joyful Wisdom," or "The Dawn of Day," or even, if they do not mind being "challenged," with the short autobiography, "Ecce Homo" (published also in pocket edition). Australians who take an interest in the matter may then be enabled to judge by themselves, and will not run the risk of being misled by Nietzscheans or Anti-Nietzscheans with an axe to grind.

I am, etc.

OSCAR LEVY,

(Editor of the authorised English translation of Nietzsche's works).

Royal Societies Club, London, S.W.1, July 8.