

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i> by Professor Hans Kohn	VII
<i>Preface</i>	XIII
CHAPTER I Introduction. Life, Work and Thought	I
Early Life (1) – Die Fackel (1) – Lectures (2) – Associates (5) – Escapism in the thirties (5) – Kraus's works (11) – Poems (12) – Plays (15) – Epigrams and aphorisms (18) – Glossen (18) – Polemics (19)	
CHAPTER II The Absolute Value of Language	21
Language was central to Kraus (21) – Contemporary view of language (21) – Absolute value of language (21) – Content and form (23) – Importance of literal meanings (23) – "Unmaskings" (24) – Relationship to language (25) – Mysticism (26) – Reverence (27) – Languages (27) – Opposition to change (29) – Heine and the German language (29) – Criticism of the language of others (31) – Austrian German (32) – Cliché phrases (32) – Language of the Jews (33) – Kraus's own language (34) – Jokes about weaknesses (36) – Personal attacks to be viewed as art (37) – The satirist as counterpart of the poet (37) – Method (40) – Too much bitterness for satire (40) – Quotations (41) – Picturesque expressions (41) – Humor through surprise (42) – Humor by contrast (43) – Attraction due to wit (44) – Humor in language (44) – Claim of superiority (44) – Perishability of linguistic humor (45) – Kraus's utterances on his own writing (45) – Language as judge of good and evil (45)	
CHAPTER III Literature, Literary Figures, and Criticism	48
View of literature not purely aesthetic (48) – Main criticism is commercialism of writers (48) – Die demolierte Literatur (48) – Literature as another moneymaking racket (49) – Pretense of refinement (50) – Favored Biedermeier (51) – Emphasis on language (51) – Necessity of great poetry's being free from causal relationships (52) – Poetry and madness (52) – Inferiority of the novel (55) – Extremeness of his views (56) – Incidental references to favorite authors (56) – Acceptance and rejection of writers (57) – Rejection of authors on non-essential grounds (59) – Criticism of contemporaries (59) – Altenberg	

(60) – Nestroy (61) – Wedekinds and Kraus's similarity to Nestroy (62) – Nestroy and Hebbel (63) – Nestroy's politics (64) – Goethe (64) – Schiller (66) – Wedekind (67) – Brecht (67) – Bahr (67) – Other very much disliked authors (68) – Heine (69) – Grillparzer (70) – Harden (71) – Hofmannsthal (73) – Rilke (74) – Ibsen (74) – Schnitzler (74) – Salten (75) – Werfel (75) – Kerr (76) – War poets (77) – Burgtheater (78) – Deterioration of the theater (79) – Theater and modern political institutions (79) – Naturalism (79) – Expressionism (81) – Absence of heroism (81) – Relations of theater and press (81) – Necessity for good plays being read and bad ones acted (82) – Deterioration of acting (83) – The status of actors and actresses (83) – Reinhardt (84) – Piscator (84) – Operetta (85) – Bad operettas (86) – Offenbach (87) – Offenbach renaissance (88) – Deterioration of criticism (88) – Not Marxist literary theory (89) – Lack of an explicit theory of literature (89) – Critics (91) – Art (91) – Art and the times (92)

CHAPTER IV The Pernicious Press

94

Fundamental opposition to the press (94) – Harmfulness (94) – Commercialization (97) – Prestige (98) – Pretentious nonsense (99) – War (100) – Deterioration of the readers (101) – Values (102) – Lack of dignity (103) – Relations with business (103) – Plagiarism, sensationalism, and gossip (104) – Chattiness (105) – Publicity campaigns (106) – Language (106) – Attacks on specific papers (108) – Benedikt (109) – Preoccupation with topics insignificant to Kraus (110) – Feuilletonists (110) – Békey (110) – Social Democratic press (113) – Periodicals (114) – The radio (115) – "Authorities" (115) – Power (115) – Privileges of the press (116) – Opposition to freedom of the press (116) – "Totschweigetaktilk" (117) – Selfcomparison with the press (117) – Unfairness and mistakes (118) – Reason for failure (118)

CHAPTER V War as a symptom of the contemporary crisis

120

The war as a cultural revolution (120) – Destruction of moral values by profit principle (120) – Corruption in the intellectual sphere (121) – War instigated by profit seekers (121) – The masses as tools (121) – Disappearance of heroism (122) – Extension of society at peace (122) – Pretenses (123) – Danger of victory (124) – War against militaristic expansion (124) – Prophecy of conquest by Asia (124) – Die letzten Tage der Menschheit (125) – Businessmen (125) – Opportunities (126) – The military (126) – Rottness of the culture (127) – The unscrupulous and profitmaking press (128) – Art in the service of the business man (129) – Poetry (129) – Science (130) – Medicine (130) – Education (130) – Religion (131) – Union-smashing (131) – Paradox (132) – Conclusion (132)

CHAPTER VI Reactions to political events

133

Limited interest in politics (133) – A shady business (134) – Lack of understanding and faith (134) – Interest in politics (135) – Personalities (135) – Lueger (136) – The emperors (137) – The Balkans (138) – The Germans (139) – Opposition to nationalism (140) – Nationalism of which he approved (140) – Nationalities (141) – The Republic (141) –

Disappointment in the Republic (142) – Antagonism toward Social-Democratic personalities (144) – Liberalism and parliamentarism (145) – Belittling of politics, especially democracy (146) – Actual distance from the masses (147) – The Communists (148) – The Christian Socials and Schober (148) – Dollfuss (149) – National Socialism (150) – The retreat of Kraus (152) – Conclusion (152)

CHAPTER VII The Social Role of Woman

155

Interest in woman (155) – General attitude (155) – Excessive interference (156) – Kraus's opposition to the public attitude (156) – Demand for maximum freedom (157) – Private and public morality (157) – Freedom for union of mind and sensuality (157) – Man and woman (158) – Woman as the erotic creature (159) – Secondary importance of the mother aspect (159) Limited social responsibilities (160) – Wedekind's Lulu (160) – Character of woman (161) – Opposition to the emancipated woman (161) – Woman and the artist (162) – Prostitution (163) – The prostitute and the journalist (164) – Need for discreetness (164) – Opposition to public interference (165) – Jesus as Kraus's authority (167) – Conformity with nature (167) – The Chinese as examples of naturalness (168) – Two kinds of homosexuality (168) – Remedy (169) – Only second-hand enjoyment is perverted (169) – Conclusion (170)

CHAPTER VIII The Jewish Problem

171

The historical situation (171) – Jews were strangers (172) – Antisemitism (172) – Attempts at a solution (173) – Der jüdische Selbsthass (173) – Kraus and his Jewishness (174) – Language and Jewishness (177) – Materialism of the Jews (178) – Acceptance of antisemites (179) – Explanation of antisemitism (179) – Plea for assimilation (179) – Lack of discussion of Jewish religion (181) – Objections to Jews often contradictory (182) – Attacks against Jewish big business (182) – Antisemitic jokes (183) – The Dreyfus affair (183) – The Hilsner affair (185) – The Zionist movement (185) – Kraus's authority and his misuse of it (186) – The question of Kraus's antisemitism (189) – Other "negative Jews" (189) – Contrast with conscious Jews (190) – Attitude at the time of the Nazis (191)

CHAPTER IX Balance

192

Negative and hidden social concept (192) – Difficulty of following Kraus (193) – Sensitivity as Kraus's criterion and goal (194) – Life the supreme value (195) – View of death (195) – Explanation of Kraus from his Austrian background (196) – Kraus's idea of himself as a judge (197) – Prophecies (197) – Kraus's basic motivation (198) – Kraus's purpose (198) – Revolt against the unbound intellect (199) – Rejection of the economic view of man (203) – Technology (204) – The loss of imagination (206) – The arrogance of the mediocre (207) – The plight of contemporary culture (207) – Pessimism concerning man (210) – Rejection of liberalism (211) – Religion (212) – Kraus's view concerning philosophy (216) – Psychiatry (217) – Complaints about lack of results (220) – Exaggerated opinion of himself (221) –

Awareness of audience (223) – Kraus's self-consciousness (223) – The fighter against the world (224) – Kraus in his world (225) – Lack of originality (226) – Political orientation (226) – The areas of his limitations and his greatness (228)

Bibliography 230

Index 246