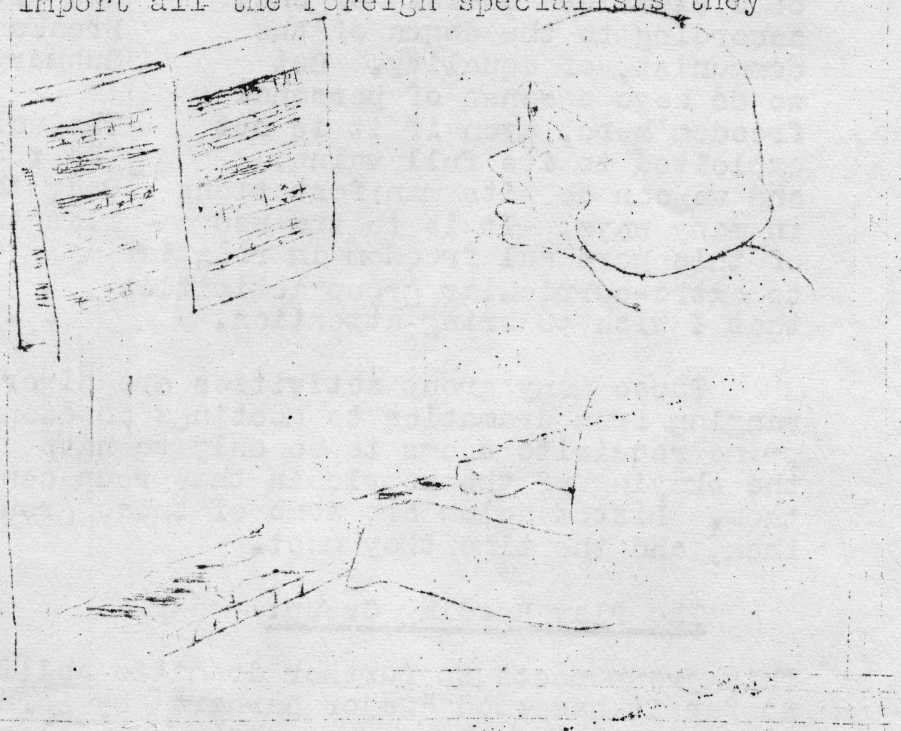
CHARLOTTE SCHLESINGER

Most of us read in the last number of the "Bulletin", among the notes on new faculty, a brief account of Charlotte Schlesinger's academic background. It was pretty dull stuff - schools, prizes, etc. - and we felt that Miss Schlesinger had more to tell. She did. After leaving Germany in 1933, she went to Vienna. After being there only a short time, during which she taught at the Montesorri School and The Social Democratic Workers' School (which last, she commented, was far superior to similar institutions in Germany), she was obliged to leave the country since the Austrians were becoming a little leary of harboring refugees from Nazism. At that time, fortunately, the Russians were anxious to import all the foreign specialists they could, so - Miss Schlesinger went to Russia. Her three years there she describes as one of the most thrilling things she has experienced. She arrived there in 1935 armed with a Russian vocabulary of one word-the Russian for "nothing"- in that language, fortunately, a very versatile expression. Most of her stay was spent teaching at the state conservatory at Kiev where, she says, she gave "musical injections" to the community. Though the students with whom she worked were a hand-picked group, they had been selected because of their talent rather than their background and she found herself working with more people of peasant and working class stock than are commonly found in such institutions elsewhere. Although some of her students were barely literate and many completely lacking in any musical discipline, they displayed without exception an enormous enthusiasm and vitality and were in general much more gifted than groups with whom she had worked before. Besides teaching in the conservatory proper, she was associated with the State Opera and a new school for talented children which prepared them for the conservatory. Miss Schlesinger remained in Russia until 1939 when, under pressure of what she called "pre-war psychosis", nearly all foreigners were obliged to leave the country. She went then to Prague where "a series of miracles" and a benign Czech government made it possible for her to fly to England and subsequently to the United States. Commenting on certain types of "progressive" education, Miss Schlesinger criticized tendencies (not unknown at B.C.) to undisciplined freedom and democracy for democracy's sake and quoted a story she first heard at the Montesorri School in Vienna. It concerns a young pupil there who, on arriving at school one morning, asked his teacher, "Do we have again to do all day long what we want to do?" Direction and authority, she felt, became objectionable only when they ceased to be self-imposed, and freedom useless when they were lacking.



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Classless Group Meetings, Con't.

week's work in their Economic History class. This group is concerned with clearing up the hazy spots in the work that has been covered. Participating in this are Sally Maurice, Ed Adany, Charlie Boyce, Manvel Schauffler and Dave Resnik.

The World Today

Although this is a class group, the discussion on national and world events is open to all people who are interested. Dr. Miller conducts the discussion and presents the news of the world. Three students participate in the class by analysing present day topics assigned to them by Dr. Miller. They in turn present their point of view to those gathered to listen to the news and leave it open for discussion. Sometimes they are asked to give a slant other than their own so that it may be presented objectively. The three students participating in this are Charles Dreyfus, Henry Adams, and Al Brody. Some of the subjects covered so far include the Nürnberg Trials; the conflict between labor and management; the trend of U.S. labor since the end of the war; domestic policy; the Wallace, Byrnes, Truman disagreement; and the French constitution. This group meets Tuesday evenings in the lobby of south lodge.

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