

HITLER AND NIETZSCHE

SIR.—Correspondents from different parts of the world have sent me papers, which report of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Forster-Nietzsche and describe her funeral, which was honoured by the presence of Adolf Hitler and other distinguished guests.

Some non-German readers, as I gather from letters, are astonished at Hitler's presence on this occasion, for they are aware that Nietzsche condemned all the values upon which present-day Germany claims to be founded—to wit, its Nationalism, its socialism, its antisemitism. These students of Nietzsche should, however, remember that the tribute of the "Führer" was paid not to Nietzsche himself, but to Nietzsche's sister. And rightly so, for this sister did a great deal for Nazi Germany; she modified or, better, falsified Nietzsche's message, which was meant for an elite in all nations, into a sort of mythical manifesto that was addressed only to the chosen German people.

Nietzsche himself, who during his life severely distrusted his sister, and who even reproached her with endangering his life on several occasions, would have been less delighted about the work of the late Nazi Egeria than are the leaders of the Third Realm, who rightly honour a message of national bigotry, such as the Weimar pseudo-Nietzschean clique has spread over the Fatherland in the name of the great philosopher.

The "New York Times" (February 2) produces the above news about the Hitler-Nietzsche funeral under the following headline: "The Nietzsche cult is marching on." This is so, but, as regards Nazi Germany, in the wrong direction. If this direction has lead or will further lead into disaster, I beg to warn Australian readers not to hold Nietzsche's creed responsible, but its present-day self-styled ministers.—I am, sir, &c.,

OSCAR LEVY,

Editor of the authorised English translation of Nietzsche's works.
London, March 8.

(Other letters page 23.)