

FOREWORD

THE author of the following pages was killed on active service near a Bavarian village in the Danube Valley, on 29 April 1945—hardly more than a week before the bells rang for victory and peace. What was meant to be his first message to the public, opening discussions he was eagerly expecting, now comes to us from beyond the grave.

Étienne Mantoux was born in Paris on 5 February 1913, about the time when I was appointed to a professorship in the University of London. His first acquaintance with Britain was made at a very tender age, for he had crossed the Channel six times before the war broke out in 1914. One of his earliest recollections was that of anti-aircraft shells whistling over our house near Hampstead Heath. He became as familiar with English nursery rhymes as with French folk-songs. When he was taught his alphabet he did not wait for an explanation of the difference between French and English spelling, but started reading indiscriminately in either language.

His school years were spent mostly in Geneva and Paris, but he never lost touch with British friends, and there was nothing he preferred to the cordial hospitality of a British home. As a boy he was as eager to learn as to play, keen on anything worth attention or enthusiasm, and he already showed the bold independent will which could be read at once on his open, handsome countenance. After graduating in the University of Paris and the *École des Sciences Politiques* (he was then contemplating a career in the French Civil Service), as he felt attracted to economic studies he went with a research scholarship to the London School of Economics (1935-6). There he worked chiefly under Professor Robbins, following also Professor Laski's and Professor Hayek's lectures; by his promising gifts, his winning manner, and his transparent integrity of purpose he won their lasting esteem and friendship, as in Paris he had been admitted to Elie Halévy's intellectual and moral intimacy—a privilege of which very few could boast.

His first visit to America had taken place as early as 1930, when he came with me to the Institute of Politics in Williams-town. Those who watched him listening to round-table discussions, the main subject being disarmament, were surprised to