

DISPLACED DOCTOR. By Richard Berczeller. Odyssey Press. \$5.

These snapshots from the album of a Viennese refugee doctor are full of charm. Richard Berczeller is a born raconteur like many middle Europeans, and his taste is excellent. He does not belabor his anecdotes, nor does he lament his lot. This story of vicissitude and change is free of self-pity and bitterness.

With the coming of Hitler, he fled Austria. In Paris he and his wife and son almost starved. He was not permitted to work without a permit. First he turned down a job as assistant to an abortionist, later became the house physician to a Madame. Through a kind colonial official he received a commission as a doctor in French West Africa, but tuberculosis drove him back to France, to be interned, in 1939, in a concentration camp where only pate de foie gras was served.

Made It to U. S.

Finally he and his family made it to America. Dr. Berczeller's description of a night-school English class with some of the most eminent specialists in Vienna struggling with the 7th sound is one of the most delightful passages in the book. When their little English teacher says she doesn't feel well, the medical eminence swarms forward to help and diagnose her, headily and, for a minute, doctors again.

The Berczellers moved into the Gas House District of Manhattan, he finally opened up shop and was adopted by his neighbors and friends. The good doctor's account, which is not a daily record but vignettes from each period, is a beguiling record.

BERCZELLER, Richard 1902-

PERSONAL: Born February 4, 1902, in Sopron, Hungary; son of Adolf and Sidonie (Kohn) Berczeller. Married Maria Frances Unger, March 27, 1941; children: Peter Hanns. Education: University of Vienna, M.D., 1926. Home and office: 242 East 9th St., New York 3, N.Y. Agent: Russell & Volkening, Inc., 551 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N.Y.

Physician in Austria 1926-38, in France 1938-41, New York 1941- Member of

attending staff, Beth Israel Hospital, New York, N.Y. Member: American Medical Association, New York County Medical Society, Medical Society of the State of New York, Alumni Association of Beth Israel Hospital.

WRITINGS: *Displaced Doctor*, Odyssey, 1964. Contributor of stories to *New Yorker*.

WORK IN PROGRESS: Memoirs from 1926-38; magazine stories.

SIDELIGHTS: Competent in French, German, and Hungarian.

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