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EUROPE.

GERMANY.

A Hitler Decree, a speech by Himmler and an interview with Schepmann are the main sources of information about the new People's Levy (*Volkssturm*) or "popular resurgence" as the Germans prefer to regard it, whose formation was briefly mentioned in last week's *Summary*. Enrolment is compulsory for all men from 16 to 60 who are not in the Armed Forces and volunteers will be admitted outside these age limits. There is no medical examination (unless it is asked for or is obviously desirable) and there are no reserved occupations, but the demands of the most essential kinds of war work will be taken into account in allotting duties. Units are to be raised and led by the Gauleiters and Kreisleiters in their districts and are based on the Party regional divisions down to the lowest level. Training is to be in spare time, mainly on Sundays, and is directed by Schepmann and Kraus (Leader of the N.S.K.K.). Himmler, as Commander of the Training Army, is responsible for raising and equipping the levies, while Bormann issues instructions on political matters and organisation. The Party, therefore, is in complete control, and this was affirmed in the ninth and last point of Hitler's Decree. But the members count as "soldiers" in the meaning of the National Defence Act (1935), that is to say, as members of the Wehrmacht on active service. Although general enrolment was to begin on the 22nd, it is clear that the East Prussian and Silesian contingents were already in being.

Military training by the S.A. for men below and above the age service in the Wehrmacht has been in progress since January 1939, and, though nominally it was not compulsory, it must have covered a very large proportion of those now enrolled in the *Volkssturm*. But the function of the S.A. hitherto has been primarily to prepare men for the Wehrmacht or to assign them to the various civil defence and police services; the trainees were not enrolled in combatant units of their own which were ready to go into action. That is what they will now become, and they will go into action under their own officers as an auxiliary force attached to the regular army, wearing arm-bands until they can be provided with uniforms. They will, it has been said, man the rear defences, deal with enemy forces which break through or land from the air, operate on lines of

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