

Page 3—The title page reads: IN A GERMAN PENSION BY KATHERINE MANSFIELD. There follows a design of an open book in the centre of which is a black circle containing two S's. Below is: LONDON STEPHEN SWIFT & CO. LTD., 10 John Street, Adelphi.

Pages 2 and 4 are blank. Pages 1 to 4 are not actually numbered. The first numbered page is 5 with table of contents, the back is blank and the text begins on page 7. Page 17 has the letter B to left of page number at foot of page, page 33 has the letter C, 49 has D and so on to Q on page 241. There is no reference in the Bibliography to proof copies but I suspect that what you have been offered is something of that nature. From the above information you should be able to identify it definitely as of the first printing or not, and in any case it should be worth 10/-. I shall be interested to learn how it checks up.'

To this letter I replied indicating that the size of my copy was $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $4\frac{7}{8}$ in., and that the binding was in brown with plain black lettering. The answer was as follows:

'To me it seems fairly certain that you have a library copy and possibly by writing to The Times Book Club and describing it pretty fully you might make a certainty of it. Despite Murry I do not think there were three editions. Miss Mantz mentions only one in the Bibliography for which Murry wrote a preface. In it he states that he "was deeply impressed by the evidence it showed of careful determination to unravel matters which, I fear, I myself had sometimes unwittingly helped to confuse". He says he has revised the manuscript and has furnished any information which might add to or in a few cases correct her own. Hence prima facie any reference elsewhere to three editions is a mistake of Murry's. Looking at other evidence, there is the fact that judging by the reviews I have seen the book was regarded at best as promising, and that does not argue for more than one edition. As to royalties K.M. got £15 as an advance and no more. The publishers went bung during 1912. This means that if there were three editions they have been issued in a matter of months, i.e. before the bankruptcy.

'That does not square with the mild reception the book got. Taken together the above sets out my reasons for disregarding Murry's remark about three editions. The first edition is rare