ALTHOUGH the Existentialist movement has been officially dead for about fifteen years, its literature still has the capacity to interest students, often overwhelmed by what they believe to be the incomprehen-
sible dullness of professional, tech-
nical philosophy. Existentialism focuses on human existence in its concreteness, in its nauseating fluidity.

The philosophy of the existen-
tialists became mixed up with a
general sixties-do-your-own-thing, frenzied rejection of all stale ideas. More mellow were the olden days of Sartre’s classic Being and Nothingness, the days of the Paris cafes, the idea that God is dead, that everything is therefore possible—
and that man is a “useless passion,” served as neat explanations for phenomena other than the extent of it, and existentialism in its popular manifestation mingled with a Marxist commitment to humanity and Zen techniques for escaping the state of attachment and detachment.

But behind this nihilistic though philosophically rich philosophy stands a more sober and terrifying literature—Kierkegaard’s struggle with his unscientific spirit, Nietzsche’s attack at the destruction of all ideas, both so different and yet so close to ours.

The very inner workings of their war, the thought and feeling of their existence, are clearly laid bare in their correspondence, the letters, the interviews and books, published posthumously.

Kierkegaard’s Concluding Unscientific Postscript or Nietzsche’s letters are as relevant to metaphysics today as they were when they first appeared. Nietzsche and Kierkegaard were both eccentric figures, both with a gift for expressing their innermost feelings to the reader.

Kierkegaard was a Danish author, born in Copenhagen in 1813, and died in 1855. After a difficult childhood, he was a student at the University of Berlin, and later became a professor of literature. His major works include "Stages on Life’s Way", "Sickness unto Death", and "The Concept of the Obscure". Nietzsche was a German philosopher, born in 1844 in Naumburg, and died in 1900 in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. His major works include "The Gay Science", "Thus Spoke Zarathustra", and "Beyond Good and Evil".

Both Kierkegaard and Nietzsche were important figures in the development of existentialism, a philosophy that focuses on the individual’s experience of existence and the search for meaning in a world that seems to be devoid of purpose or meaning. existentialism, and the Existentialists

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