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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

elected as Assembly Woman. Pious references to the importance of UN include: "After the visit to the Venezuelan delegate we're going to a meeting of the Human Rights Committee. You know, rights of humans... We may even catch a glimpse of Mr. Lie." All this embedded in soda-fountain sentimentality, nothing but froth and synthetic vanilla.

Finally, a real book and real writing. *A Stranger Came to the Farm*, by Mika Waltari, is honest, simple, and probably true to the bleak peasant life of Finland. It has story, it has characters who belong to that story; though the plot is somewhat hackneyed, and the prose (being translated) somewhat flat, the book remains well worth reading for its lyrical descriptions of the inexorable seasons as they march over the land, for its sincerity, above all for its importance when contrasted with the celluloid agonies of the idle rich as depicted in the other three. —Sarah Campion

SHEEP AND FAITH

BREAKFAST AT SIX, by Mary Scott: Hurst and Blackett, English price 9/6. *WIND MAY BLOW*, by Jean O. Hill: New Plymouth, 12/6.

THE familiar level of farcical comedy provides Mary Scott with uneasy ground for this somewhat coltish novel about country life in New Zealand. The story is told by Susan Russell, the bride of a sheepfarmer on a Government Rehabilitation block in the King Country. Susan is a town girl from a fashionable suburb, but she isn't surprised to find that her husband's old homestead has an outdoor pñvy and no electricity. In near by houses are his war-time friends Sam and Tiny; Sam's wife Larry becomes Susan's companion in a number of escapades; and Tiny, unmarried when the story opens, is eventually matched with Anne Gerard, the daughter of the local squatter, Colonel "Cholly" Gerard. But having paired off Anne and Tiny half-way through the book the author has to resort to a whole series of amusing calamities to keep them apart until the last chapter. Susan and her friends also put on a one-act play to raise funds for the Red Cross, and towards the end Susan writes a few articles for the local newspaper and gets invited to do a series of radio talks on back-blocks life. The novel provides a shallow but transparently honest picture of country life as seen from the distaff side, and it is worth reading despite the forced gaiety of some of the humorous passages.

Sarah Fortifer, the heroine of *Wind May Blow*, is the heiress of an estate near London who must lose her inherit-

ance if she marries. By the end of the story she has given it up and come to New Zealand as the wife of a sheep-farmer whom she met during the war while he was serving with the R.A.F. Mrs. Hill is well skilled in the craft of fiction, and her story involves Sarah's two sisters, Edwina and the pianist Antonia, and a talkative set of tennis-playing, party-going people. But the book's main theme is one of Faith. Sarah has the gift of healing, having been vouchsafed, when suffering from scarlet fever as a child, a momentary view of heaven: "That's the real world, not this world at all. Here, in this life, we're only standing in a dark lobby waiting for the world of release." —P.J.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

JOURNEY INTO WONDER, by N. J. Berrill: Victor Gollancz; English price, 13/6. A popular history of the voyages which opened up the world, with special emphasis on the growth of natural sciences. Four pages and some incidental references are given to New Zealand.

THE WYNNE DIARIES, 1789-1820, passages selected and edited by Anne Fremantle; Oxford University Press (the World's Classics); English price, 7/6. Impressions of life in the Napoleonic era, taken from the diaries of the Wynne sisters.

UBER ALLES, by George Mikes; Allan Wingate; English price, 8/6. A light-hearted exploration of Germany by a professional humorist.

COUNTRY WINES, by Mary Aylett; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; 10/6. A guide to the rural art of wine-making, which covers a field wide enough to include the grape, various other fruits, some vegetables, flowers and malted grain.

TO DEFINE TRUE MADNESS, by Henry Yellowlees; Sidgwick and Jackson; English price, 12/6. Not just another book on psychiatry, but an able and lucid exposition of the subject for readers without medical knowledge. An especially interesting chapter, "Guilty but Insane," looks searchingly at legal procedure in borderline cases.

TWO books on the Royal Family, fully and admirably illustrated, have come from Odhams Press through Whitcombe and Tombs, both at 15/9 (N.Z. price). *Queen Mary and The Duke of Edinburgh* are photographic biographies. A third book in the same series *Royal Homes* (also 15/9) shows in pictures the Queen's palaces and country homes.

WINDSOR CHAIRS, by F. Gordon Roe; Phoenix House, through A. H. and A. W. Reed; N.Z. price, 22/6. Old and new material together in an authoritative study with 61 illustrations.

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WHEN the house-lights have dimmed,
Supreme Prospero pauses
For obedience; then charms his island
Into sound. Sensitive fibre trembles
To the dim shores
Of the auditorium, riding out over
The undertone, returning surfed with the flute's silver.

While at the keyboard, in tee
Of two masters, the capricious
Limbs of Ariel suddenly
Scatter their myriad phosphorous
Twinkling across
Enchanted water. From white keys,
Accomplished hands—rumour of troubled seas.

—Colin Newbury