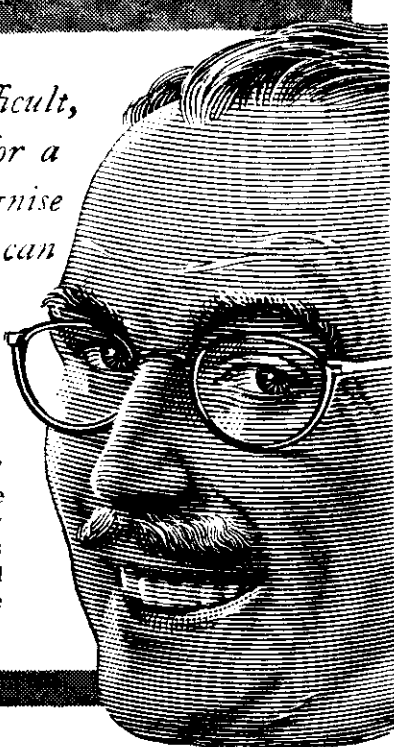




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# BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

Sender is an artist and raconteur with perfect control of his medium; and *The Affable Hangman* is a brilliant novel, rather than the usual social tract masquerading as fiction. It is perhaps strange, therefore, that it reminds one of Voltaire's *Candide*. The explanation lies in Sender's pellucid prose and lively wit, as much as in his hero's fantastic adventures.

These adventures carry him all over Spain, in search of himself and a cause to cling to. He finds, finally, what Eliot calls "a kind of reconciliation . . . with evil, which is "a necessary condition. . . ." Readers of Sartre will recognise something of his view in Sender's; but I venture to say that Sartre has not written a novel as powerful as *The Affable Hangman*.

—Anton Vogt

## LAUGHING PHILOSOPHER

*HUMAN SOCIETY IN ETHICS AND POLITICS*, by Bertrand Russell; George Allen and Unwin, English price 15/-.

IN the first part of this book Lord Russell sets forth an "undogmatic ethic"; and in the second part he applies his ethic to contemporary problems in politics. He is at some pains to refute the allegation that he overestimates the function of reason in human affairs. The causes of action, he says, are desires, emotions, passions. Reason is "only a regulator": it signifies the choice of right means to an end, but "has nothing whatever to do with the choice of ends." The lay thinker, unversed in philosophical distinctions, may find it hard to believe that judgments of value can be so firmly separated from experience. Is not the choice of ends a rational process in so far as it is influenced by what has been learnt in trying to resolve conflicts between competing desires?

There is, however, no difficulty in seeing what Russell himself believes to be bad. He hates cruelty, intolerance, and the authoritarian temper; and he looks searchingly at some popular notions of sin. "Most stern moralists," he says, "are in the habit of thinking of pleasure as only of the senses, and, when they eschew the pleasures of sense, they do not notice that the pleasures of power, which to men of their temperament are far more attractive, have not been brought within the ban of their ascetic self-denial."

The book suffers a little from the way in which it was written—part of it in 1945-6, and the rest after a lapse of seven years. Yet it contains much wisdom and a wit that is quite irrepressible. Russell is a philosopher who likes to laugh, sometimes a little wryly, at the human situation; and in his breadth of interest and humanity he stands alone among contemporary thinkers. The inclusion of one chapter, "Politically Important Ideas," is perhaps a little arbitrary; but this was the text of his Stockholm lecture, given when he received the Nobel Prize for Literature, and few readers would want to miss a sparkling performance—though some may have heard it when the lecture was broadcast recently from ZB stations.

—H.

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

THE following books for children, selected during the past year, are recommended to parents by the Broadcasts to Schools Staff of the NZBS: 10-13 and Up

*Sarna and Sirga*, both by René Guillot; Oxford University Press, English price 8/6 each.



RAMON J. SENDER  
"His strictures are universal"

*The King's Corsair*, by René Guillot; English price 9/6.

*The Capture of the Golden Stallion*, by Rutherford G. Montgomery; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 8/6.

*Man Eaters of Kumaon* and *The Man-eating Leopard of Rudraprayag*, both by Jim Corbett; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6 each.

*Knight Crusader*, by Ronald Welch; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

*Mimfi Takes Over* (from *Mimfi* series), by H. J. Kaeser; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

*The Armourer's House*, *Brother Dusty Feet*, and *The Eagle of the Ninth*, all by Rosemary Sutcliffe; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6 each.

8-11

*Polly and Oliver*, by David Scott Daniel; Jonathan Cape, English price 9/6.

*Susan and Bill Books*, by Malcolm Saville; Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., English price 3/6 each.

"Nettlefold" Series, by Malcolm Saville; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 8/6 each.

5-7

*Tim and Charlotte* and *Tim in Danger*, both by Edward Ardizzone; Oxford University Press, English price 8/6.

*Toast and His Friends*, by Pauline Knights; Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd., New Zealand price 5/-.

*Orlando the Marmalade Cat* Series, by Kathleen Hale; Country Life, English price 8/6 and 10/6.

Under 5

*Ditties for the Nursery*, edited by Iona Opie; Oxford University Press, English price 5/-.

*Lavender's Blue*, compiled by Kathleen Lines; Oxford University Press, English price 15/-.

The following books have been dramatised in Broadcasts to Schools' Literature programme: *Companions of Fortune*, by René Guillot; Oxford University Press, English price 8/6. *Mister Jim*, by Rutherford G. Montgomery; Faber and Faber, English price 8/6. *The Gauntlet*, by Ronald Welch; Oxford University Press, English price 8/6. *Simon*, by Rosemary Sutcliffe; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

Featured in Children's Sessions: *Mission for Oliver*, by David Scott Daniel; Jonathan Cape, English price 9/6.

Featured in *Kindergarten of the Air* and *Kindergarten Song and Story*: *Five More Listen with Mother Tales*, edited by Jean Sutcliffe; Adprint. *Ruffy Tuffy the Golliwog*, by Ruth Ainsworth; William Heinemann Ltd. English price 7/6.