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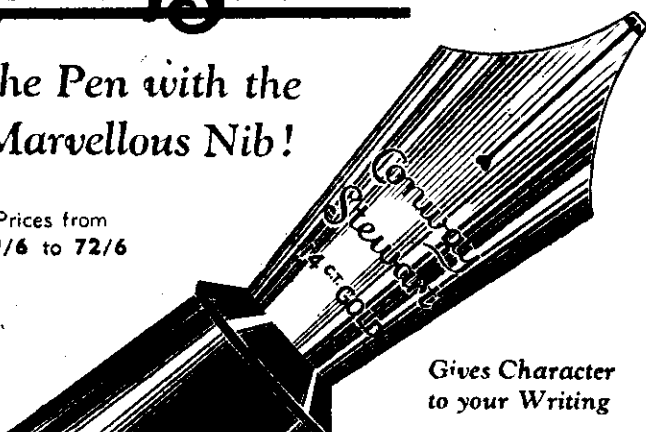
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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

who does not believe in Christ's divinity. Upon its accuracy depends his sense of moral security: for he must feel that the Man was of such a kind that He would have held the same view of life as himself and accepted his interpretation of Christian ethics.

Upton Sinclair presents us with an interesting historical Jesus—though most interesting as a guide to the personality of Upton Sinclair. His chronicle is constructed in three parts—"Youth," a simple and moving account of what may well have been the outward circumstances of Jesus's boyhood, as a member of a wandering group of carpenters; "Mission," an interpretation of the Gospel narratives; "Spirit," a somewhat harsh and controversial exposition of the growth of the Christian Church.

The second and third sections are vastly inferior in style and content to the first, for in them Upton Sinclair becomes the political pamphleteer. He sees Jesus as a politically-minded evangelist, and summarily rejects the Gospel of St. John—"If the Son knew all these things it was easy indeed for Him to die; but why should He die, since the Father had all power, and could have saved Him and all the rest of mankind without going through such an unpleasant procedure?" Why, indeed, unless love is the hardest of all things for men to grasp and understand? There is some love behind Upton Sinclair's book; but it is strained through a political sieve.

—James K. Baxter

POINTS OF VIEW

THE ROMANTIC EGOISTS, by Louis Auchincloss; Victor Gollancz. English price 10/6. *A BUNCH OF ERRORS*, by Salvador de Madariaga; Jonathan Cape. English price 11/6.

AT first sight, the eight episodes of *The Romantic Egoists* appear to have no unity other than that supplied by a common narrator. But as we move from the world of business to the worlds of politics, war and the law, a linking theme emerges—that of revolt and the assertion of individuality against American upper-class values of wealth, success and social behaviour.

Louis Auchincloss, a really brilliant writer, adds to a style that has all the professional slickness of New Yorkerese, acute powers of observation and a mature sensibility. His characters are scrupulously true to life; he is sardonic without being fashionably unmerciful; his precise analysis of self-deceptions and loyalties amongst American school-boys, expatriates, tycoons and professional men make him a worthy descendant of Henry James. This book is a striking reminder of the very original talent and entertaining good sense displayed by so many young American writers.

I was prejudiced against Salvador de Madariaga's eleven-sided view of a crime by the fact that the first account is given by a dog. Doggie psychology has never appealed to me, and Madariaga's is no more believable than the rest. A Spanish Duke, whose sensitive son is in love with his step-mother, is found carrying the slain body of the boy. What has happened? The author's eleven different points of view are intended as a study in the shading of evidence. The character-revelations are often perceptive

and ingenious, and some of the psychological twists amusing, but the whole thing is too inconclusive and calculatedly smart for my taste.

—J.C.R.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

I MARRIED A KOREAN, by Agnes Davis Kim; Victor Gollancz. English price 13/6.

AGNES DAVIS KIM left America for Korea in 1934 in order to marry a Korean student she had met six years before when they were undergraduates at the same University. She settled into a mud hut on a two-acre farm and with almost frightening efficiency started to make the best out of what at first sight would appear, to most gadget and hygiene-minded American women, as a fairly bad job, although no hint of dismay or regret ever appears in her story.

The Kims are believers in One World, they are Moral Rearmers and trained missionaries. Ironically enough, it is the very fact of their marriage that makes their services unacceptable to both American and Japanese institutions. But in time they build a house, start a clinic, a co-operative and a school.

When Mrs. Kim sticks to factual description she is at her best, but when she puts forward her views on religion and racial prejudice, admirable though her sentiments may be, there is a tendency towards the soap box, a little flavour of smugness—it could be a lack of a sense of humour—which mars the otherwise good qualities of her book.

—Isobel Andrews

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

THE following books, recommended for children by the Broadcast to Schools and Children's Programme Department of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service, are listed under their suitable age groups:—

10 TO 13

BEOWULF THE WARRIOR, by Ian Serrallier; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6.

(Dramatised in Broadcasts to Schools Literature Programme, 1955).

FRIENDS OF THE BUSHVELD, by Fay King; Jonathan Cape, English price 9/6.

THE TEMPLE TIGER and MORE MAN-EATERS OF KUMAON, by Jim Corbett; Oxford University Press, English price 12/6.

JILL ENJOYS HER RIDE, by Ruby Ferguson; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 8/6.

OWORO, by René Guillot; Oxford University Press, English price 8/6.

SPRING COMES TO NETTLE-FORD, by Malcolm Salville; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 8/6.

A FORTUNE FOR THE BRAVE, by Nan Chauncy; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6.

GYPSY IN SCARLET, by John Niven; Faber and Faber Ltd., English price 12/6.

8 TO 11

MARTIN PIPPIN IN THE DAISY FIELD, by Eleanor Farjeon; Oxford University Press, English price 12/6.

THE 397TH WHITE ELEPHANT, by René Guillot; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6.

PIPPY LONGSTOCKING, by Astrid Lindgren; Oxford University Press, English price 7/6.

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 1, 1955.