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MR. I

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

of essays on various aspects of music; Part 2, *The Story of Music*, is more on the practical side. It has ten lessons in *précis* form, each with a suggested programme of illustrations for the teacher, or leader, to demonstrate to the class or group. This section would be a most stimulating guide for a school music class, or adult listening group.

Practical Harmony, by Stewart Macpherson, is a new edition of this textbook which most musicians were "brought up on." The subject matter and musical examples have been considerably augmented.

—Bessie Pollard

AN ADVENTURE

ONCE UPON A TIME, by Vaughan Wilkins; Jonathan Cape, London.

VAUGHAN WILKINS makes use of some old ingredients to produce a mixture which, if not entirely new, has a romantic quality which at times gives it the illusion of newness. A young man who loses his memory after a parachute descent finds himself travelling with a strange and warlike Irishman and two beautiful girls in the oddest caravan ever used by a black marketeer. That, of course, is only the beginning of an adventure which moves at a spanking pace from one battle to another. Mr. Wilkins writes with so much gusto that romance becomes reality for readers who can enjoy a tale in the picaresque manner.

—H.

SOUTHERN HORSES

HISTORICAL RACING RECORDS, compiled by W. A. Saunders, printed by The Evening Star Company, Dunedin, 12/6.

AFTER considerable research, Mr. Saunders has produced an interesting and readable book dealing with the history of racing and trotting in Otago and Southland. The lighter side of racing is not forgotten among the historical fact. For example: "A well-known owner-trainer who had a good thing in his stable for a race at Wingatui many years ago sought to improve his dividend by putting up a stable lad, who was somewhat hard of hearing. He backed this good thing to the tune of £200, and was astounded at the bad race he ran. An explanation came when the lad was unsaddling his mount and whispered, 'My word, sir, he's a good 'un. I'd like to be on him when he's a goer.'"

—W.M.

THE "ORPHANAGE" DISCUSSION

ORPHANAGES WITHOUT ORPHANS, by Doris Meares Mirams, 25 Beverley Hill, Timaru.

ON August 20, 1948, *The Listener* published an article, "Orphanages Without Orphans," by "D.M.M." This was followed by a lengthy correspondence. Mrs. Mirams, who, in the meantime had asked for her identity to be revealed, later supplied a second article, and closed the subject with a letter. Articles, letters and editorial from *The Listener* and the text of a broadcast by Mr. H. C. Mathew, have now been brought together, with a foreword by Professor H. E. Field. Many readers who followed a useful and stimulating discussion may be glad to have it in the pages of a booklet. The cover has an illustration by Russell Clark, also from *The Listener*.

N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 17, 1950.