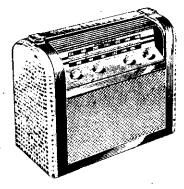


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# Book Reviews

Guareschi has that unusual quality in a satirist, an entire lack of indignation. Italy's post-war troubles may not be as bad as they seem if they can so readily be turned into knockabout comedy. And there is at least one thoroughly lighthearted Italian who can delight us as hugely as he has, apparently, delighted his fellow-countrymen — David Hall

#### THE PHILOSOPHICAL LIFE

WAY TO WISDOM, by Karl Jaspers; Victor Gollancz. English price, 10 6.

DHILOSOPHY is a difficult subject for radio treatment. Discussions of the great systems of thought tend to be condensed versions of what may be given in the lecture room; they are not easily made interesting, even for educated listeners. It is only when an original thinker speaks from his own mind that ideas suddenly become alive. An example of what can be done in this way is supplied by Karl Jaspers, an existentialist who has become a strong influence in European thought. His new book, Way to Wisdom, originated in 12 talks commissioned by the Basel radio station. It is a statement of belief, given in clear language.

For Jaspers, philosophy is a way of living: it is concerned, not with the building of systems, but with the forming of attitudes and the use of discipline for intellect and character. Although the systems are not ignored, they are kept to their true place and function. Many of the ideas may seem to be disconnected; but as the reader follows them through the chapters he becomes aware of an inner consistency which holds them together. This is indeed a guide to wisdom, written by a man who has found his way.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, by William Manson; Hodder and Stoughton; English price, 10/6. An historical and theological reconsideration, first given as the Baird Lecture for 1949.

AWN TENNIS, by J. T. Hankinson; Allen and Unwin; English price, 10/6. The exceptional value of this book is in the large number of photographs which explain almost anything that can happen on a tennis court.

RUCE ELLIOTT has opened the way for wish fulfilment in Magic as a Hobby (Faber and Faber, English price 12/6). All kinds of tricks, suitable for amateur performance, are explained and illustrated. The author is editor of a magazine for professional magicians, It may be assumed, therefore, that he has not told all.

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