

BOOK REVIEWS

ORDEAL BY SLANDER; by Dr. Owen Lattimore

Bantham Books, New York, 1950. PP. 198. 25c plus tax

This book tells the thrilling story of Dr. Lattimore's defence against the slanderous charges made against him by that most irresponsible U. S. Senator, Joseph McCarthy.

It is a tale of frustration and a story of the immense physical and organizational effort necessary to defend oneself against such a sensational charge and one which is harder to combat for its having been made in the safety and immunity of the Senate Chamber.

I kept wondering, as I read Dr. Lattimore's book, just how he could ever gather together the resources necessary for his defence. The battle raged in the seemingly limitless "confines" of the newspaper "arena" and in order to save himself Dr. Lattimore must battle his accuser in the same arena—he must hold press-conferences, hire staffs of research workers and lawyers—he must leave his home in Maryland and move to Washington to be closer to the fight—in short he and his wife must dedicate themselves completely for a period of six weeks to answering the groundless charges of a neo-fascist Senator from Wisconsin.

Dr. Lattimore "pulls no punches" and this book is written with vigor to say the least. As Mrs. Lattimore says they were "operating in a situation characterized by insanity."

Dr. Lattimore makes several worthwhile observations about the methods and operation of the Senate sub committee. For my part I felt he was much too lenient in his criticism of the procedure of the Senate Committee—its methods brought to mind the inquisition and the Star Chamber. I submit that far from being a necessary part of the "checks and balances" of the Constitution and Government of which Americans are so proud—such a committee and its rules are quite definitely "balanced" against the citizen appearing before it. As I read the account of the Committees hearings I wished that the entire affair could be subjected to that forum where liberty means more than "checks and balance," namely, a court of law.

by GORDON FAIRWEATHER,
Saint John, N. B.

FAMOUS TRIALS NO. III; By James H. Hodge

Penguin Books Ltd., 1950. PP. 236. Is. 6d.

As a continuation of the FAMOUS TRIALS series, this book follows in the tradition of the NOTABLE BRITISH TRIALS with the added quality of readability for both the layman and the lawyer. The five trials here portrayed are of interest to the layman not only because of the prominence of the cases but also because of the insight into the methods of the police and criminal courts in seeing that "by whom man's blood is shed, by man shall his blood be shed."

For the lawyer there are special attractions. Each case differs greatly from the others and each has played an important part in the history of the law. The