

O. Wilde

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OSCAR WILDE, by Andre Gide.
Published by Philosophical Li-
brary, 15 East 40th Street, New
York 16, N. Y. Price \$2.75.

This latest book on Oscar Wilde,
the famed poet, is the first author-
ized American translation of Gide's
personal memories concerning the
much maligned Wilde. Together
with a few other men of letters and
artists of his time, Gide rallied to
the defense of the Irish poet.

The the scandalous trial which so
excited English opinion threatened
to wreck Wilde's life, some tried to
defend him through his works.
Gide, on the other hand, instead of
trying to hide Wilde behind his
work, attempted to show that the
man was admirable.

Gide's personal sketches, written
at the turn of the century, are pre-
sented in their original form. They
are a fascinating document of Os-
car Wilde at the prime of his life,
before prison and public condemna-
tion had made him a weakened and
broken creature. Bernard Frecht-
man's translation from the French
is well done.—L. G. B.

New Haven Journal-Courier - April 26
1949