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O. Wilde

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**Books in Brief**

~~**THE ROME-BERLIN AXIS.** By Elizabeth Wiskemann. Oxford. \$5. A detailed history of the uneasy partnership between Mussolini and Hitler. The material—much of it quoted from letters, diaries, and documents, and some of it hitherto unpublished—is voluminous and fascinating; its presentation is lucid and scholarly.~~

**OSCAR WILDE.** By André Gide. Philosophical Library. \$2.75. An English translation of André Gide's touching memoir of five meetings with Oscar Wilde, the first in 1891, the last in

1898. With admirable austerity Gide contrasts the attractive airs and easy fables of Wilde's early manner with the excruciating humility of the man that returned from Reading Gaol. Wilde, Gide writes, "talked and lived his wisdom, imprudently intrusting it to the fluid memory of men, as if inscribing it on water." Gide here justifies the trust: the fluid inscription becomes lapidary.