

## PREFACE

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When the idea for this book first occurred to me, I thought of entitling it *The Children's Aristotle* or *Aristotle for Children*. But those titles would not have accurately conveyed the audience for whom this simple, easy-to-read exposition of Aristotle's common-sense philosophy is intended. The audience, I felt, was *everybody*—of any age, from twelve or fourteen years old upward. Hence the title chosen, and the subtitle "Difficult Thought Made Easy," together with the statement that this book is an *introduction to common sense*.

When I say "everybody," I mean everybody *except* professional philosophers; in other words, everybody of ordinary experience and intelligence unspoiled by the sophistication and specialization of academic thought. Nevertheless, I have added an Epilogue which students of philosophy who come upon this book may find useful as a guide to the reading of Aristotle's own works on the subjects covered in this book.

My two sons, Douglas and Philip (thirteen and eleven, respectively), read portions of the manuscript as it came from my typewriter last summer in Aspen. I am grateful to them for their enthusiasm and their suggestions.

I wish also to express my gratitude to Rosemary Barnes, who read and criticized the whole manuscript at that time, as well as to my colleagues at the Institute for Philosophical Research who gave me the benefit of their advice—John Van Doren, Otto Bird, and Charles Van Doren. At a later date, just before the manuscript went into type, my wife, Caroline, read the whole of it and made suggestions for its improvement, for which I am grateful.

As always, I am much in debt to my editorial secretary, Marlys Allen, for her tireless efforts at every stage in the production of this book.

*Mortimer J. Adler*

*Chicago, December 28, 1977*