

ASIDE LINES

DISAGREEMENTS behind the scenes have meant the short list for our most valuable fiction prize, the £5,000 Booker Award, is announced a week late. First Malcolm Muggeridge resigned as a selector because too many of the 42 entries were pornographic. He has been replaced by critic Philip Toynbee. The others are Saul Bellow, John Fowles, Lady Antonia Fraser, daughter of anti-pornographer Lord Longford, and chairman John Gross. Then at one point it appeared the five judges would be irrevocably split. Now they have agreed to choose between books by old hands Doris Lessing, Mordecai Richler, V. S. Naipaul, Elizabeth Taylor, and two first novelists Derek Robinson and Thomas Kilroy.