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Alice R. Brooks, Librarian
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Vol. I

JUL 2 1949

No. 1

Bannon, Laura. Baby Roo Stories and pictures by Laura Bannon. Houghton Mifflin; c1947. Gr. 2-4. \$1.50

Teaching a lesson through a story is the most ancient of educational methods. But it can also present difficulties. If the lesson is too obvious, the child may reject it. If too subtle -- he may miss the point, -- or even get the wrong one. This latter might be the case in "Baby Roo", although as a story it has plenty of appeal. Here the goose and the pig accept the little kangaroo because she has a penny in her pocket. It is true that the author tells the child that this is wrong, but actions speak louder than words sometimes and the story action here may outweigh the brief refuting paragraph. We shall try this book with the kindergarten and report further. We miss the colorfulness of "Manuela's birthday" in the illustrations and some of the animals, particularly the collie, could be better, although Roo has real personality.

Barlow, Ruth C. Lisbeth Holly; illus. by Rodolphe La Rivere. Dodd, Mead, c1947. 209 p. \$2.50 Gr. 3-6.

A family story of three children playing resourcefully in the Michigan dunes. Portrays well younger sister feelings. Except for the children's concern for the mysterious Mr. Jobe, there is no plot but rather a series of pleasant summer episodes. This is quite satisfactory except that the book may be long (209 p.) for the age of reader who likes this type of story rather than one with a sustaining plot.

Caldwell, Cy. Henry Ford; illus. by Edd Ashe. Messner, c1947. 246 p. \$2.75 J. & shs.

Although this biography gets off to a slow and labored start, it gains momentum as did the automobile industry. The portrait of Ford is unbiased, non-idealistic and shows his weird ideas and unfortunate enthusiasms as well as his business acumen. There is useful material here, too, on the growth of machines vs. manpower, of mass production and the assembly line, and of the automobile industry.

Cook, Marion Belden, com. Children of the U.S.A. Silver Burdett Co. 1945-46. 3 v. illus. \$1.56 each. Gr. 4-7

v.1 -- Stories from the east and north. v.2 -- Stories from the south.
v.3 -- Stories from the west.

The editor has collected stories which tell how boys and girls live, work and play in all the states and principal territories. Authors are successful writers for children. Textbook format.

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Cross, John Keir. The other side of Green Hills; drawing by Robin Jacques. Coward-McCann; c1946. 190 p. Gr. 7- \$2.50

Five children meet at an old English country house for the Christmas holidays and strange happenings take them into the realm of the unknown. Not a book for the general reader. However, it is a book which may well catch the fancy of older girls, especially those with acute imaginations.

Fishel, Dick. Terry and Bunky play baseball; by Dick Fishel and Clair Hare; illus. by L. D. Warren. Putnam, c1947. 90 p. Gr. 3-5 \$1.50

Terry and Bunky, the same likeable youngsters who learned to play football, now turn their interest to baseball. The simple style, clear print, and interesting subject matter make a book that is especially valuable for use with slow readers. The book has been reported as useful in remedial reading as high as the seventh grade. Rules for baseball: pp. 85-90.

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Foster, Genevieve (Stump). Augustus Caesar's world; a story of ideas and events from B. C. 44 to 14 A. D.; illus. by the author. Scribner, c1947. 330 p. \$3.50 j & s h s V - World concepts; U - Latin - Study and teaching; History, Ancient.

The author has done an excellent job in recreating the world at five stages of Augustus Caesar's life in the same fashion as she has done previously for Washington and Lincoln. Although she terms this "history sliced horizontally" there is plenty of the "vertical" in it as well - both in retrospect and prospect. The second part is slower moving and more abstract so it may not absorb the young readers as much as the first part. It is hoped that it will, for here is a simple statement of comparative religion and philosophy that should be common knowledge for us all. The format should be mentioned especially -- 325 pages of well-spaced text with many fine pictures, maps, floor plans and the five panoramas of people and events that the author uses to introduce each period.

Gerber, Will. Gooseberry Jones; illus. by Dudley Morris. Putnam, c1947. \$2.00 96 p. Gr. 3-5. V- Family relations; Value building.

Recently dog stories have seemed to follow a definite pattern -- poor or middle class boy and runt dog vs. rich man with his kennels full of thoroughbreds. Of course the runt wins all the honors. It is therefore, a surprise and a relief to find a story that breaks away from that pattern and, like the runt in other stories, proves to be a winner in the field. Here the conflict is between the boy, who loves dogs, and his mother, who is afraid of them. Gooseberry is a little Negro boy who almost lets his desire for a dog overshadow his love for his parents. His mother almost lets her aversion to dogs blind her to her son's needs. In the end they work out a compromise that is wholly satisfactory. These are characters who live and who will be as familiar to the reader as his own parents, friends and teachers. At first glance the pictures may raise objections; however, they are not stereotypes but are remarkably suited to the text.

Goodrum, John. Now you see it ... magic with a new twist; written and illus. by John Goodrum. Didier, c1946. 149 p. \$2.50. All ages.

A new book on magic is always welcome to any library collection. This one has a readable text and clear simple illustrations.

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Gronowicz, Antoni. Gallant general Tadeusz Kosciuszko; jacket and title page by Allen Pope. Scribner, c1947. 136 p. \$2.50 j & s h s
V - Democratic understanding. S - Military engineering.

There is real drama in the life of this Polish military figure who divided his talents and devotions between the American colonists and his own long-suffering country. His engineering work in the Revolution, especially in laying out the fortifications at West Point is not widely known and so this book will be quite informing. Unfortunately, for some reason hard to define, the narrative here seems to lack the vividness that such a life as Kosciuszko's merits. It is sincere and well-documented but at times seems labored. Yet because of its fresh material it will be a good buy.

Harkins, Philip. Touchdown Twins. Morrow, c1947. 224 p. \$2.50 j & s h s

Two subsidized college football stars turn to pro-football and learn that they are no longer heroes but part of a well-organized business concern to which they must give their efforts. The book emphasizes that one's vocation and one's private life cannot be separated. It teaches the importance of developing wise self-direction in combination with good team work. This book was read and evaluated by a former university football captain who found the football picture authentic and the ideas sound. The characters of the college coach and the editor of the college paper are possibly too black and white, however, they are subordinate to the character-development of the two players which is the main theme of the book.

Holdings, Elizabeth Sanxay. Miss Kelly. Morrow, c1947. \$2.00 Gr. 3-6

Some fifth grade children found this a "good story". The book was listed last month and we promised to report.

Hurd, Edith Thacher. Benny the bulldozer; illus. by Clement Hurd.

Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, c1947. 32 p. \$1.25 K-Gr. 3

A machine-age story for younger children, but it seems to lack the rhythm and charm of "Mike Mulligan." Certainly honest effort should be rewarded, but the idea of "getting mad" and having to be coaxed with promises every step of the way in doing ones legitimate work seems to be too highly emphasized in this book. Also a little too characteristic of its reader at that age.

Jones, Elizabeth Orton. Big Susan. Macmillan, c1947. 82 p. illus. \$2.00
Gr. 2-5

This is the best doll story since "Hitty" chronicled her eventful 100 years. The story is told entirely from the point of view of the Doll family which never steps out of character except for Christmas eve when all come alive. How they use those precious exciting hours and what happens Christmas morning make a charming story that adults, too, will find absorbing. The illustrations, also in doll perspective, are among Miss Jones' best.

Kennell, Ruth Epperson. Adventure in Russia; the ghost of Kirghizia; illus. by John C. Wonsetler. Messner, c1947. 196 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-8

Children will probably enjoy this more as a horse story than as a picture of modern Russia. However, it does give a good, though not detailed, view of life in present-day Russia and an idea of the many different types of people and ways of life that make up that country. Third title in the "Adventure" series. The other two are Adventure in Palestine and Adventure in Tunisia.

SWANK June 15, 1950

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L857 Long, Eula. Faraway holiday; illus. by the author. Morrow, c1947. 63 p. \$2.00
V - Older - younger child relations.

Although Lupe is a little Mexican girl, her impulses and desires to "help", to "participate" in the older girls' activities are common to any child of her age anywhere. Her learning by bitter experience is also frequently shared. Only the activities and background are different and can be understood by the beginning reader. 24 point type.

S
L866h Longstreth, Thomas Morris. Hide-out. Macmillan, c1947. 233 p. \$2.50 Gr. 7-9

The struggle between the stage-coach and the railroad is vividly portrayed in the effect it has on the life of Reuben Downs, a young boy of Concord. The story depends too much on coincidence in getting Reuben into and out of trouble. It is, however, a good picture of Concord at a crucial point in its existence, and of such people as Thoreau and Emerson. Should be of value as supplementary reading for social studies classes to show the need for accepting and adjusting to progress.

Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., Publishers. The Lothrop baby books. 75 ¢ each

Washable plastic books recommended for "babies" 6 months to 3 years. A remarkable experiment in hygenic books but there are certain drawbacks -- the odor is rather overpowering, the colors a little bilious and the pictures not always clear. The "toy" virtues seem to outweigh the "book" virtues. By the time the child reaches a suitable age for some of the contents he should have progressed beyond the book-chewing stage.

Titles: "Baby's animal book", "Baby's own book of familiar objects", "Baby's nursery rhymes".

MacBean, Dilla W., comp. Picture-book dictionary. Children's press, c1946.

16 p. 10 ¢ K-gr. 2

The most elementary of the picture dictionaries. It serves in the reading readiness program and to give the child early experience with the orderly arrangement of "reference" material. A second dictionary will be published in the spring as part of the "Star-Bright" series. Incidentally a large number of copies are being sent to Japan to be used by Elizabeth Gray Vining in her teaching program. Paper bound, so for individual use rather than library use.

McFarlane, John W. It's easy to fix your bike. Wilcox & Follett, c1947.

32 p. Gr. 7 - \$1.00

Not a book for the general collection - binding too flimsy, subject too limited. Will be useful for manual training classes, Scout groups and bike clubs.

McKean, Elise. Up hill; with illus. by the author; introduction by Anne Coolidge

Moore and Edward W. Moore. Shady Hill Press, c1947. 63 p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-9

A companion volume to "Our Negro brother", which presented the negro in American history. This book contains biographies of 6 Negroes who are doing important work in the world today. The biographies are very brief and the style simple although not childish. Could be used with adult who is a poor reader.

Malcolmson, Anne (Burnett) ed. Song of Robin Hood; music arranged by Grace Castagnetta; designed and illus. by Virginia Lee Burton. Houghton Mifflin, c1947. 123 p. \$5.00 j & s h s. 5784
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Eighteen Robin Hood adventures in ballad form with somewhat modernized language and spelling. This is a beautifully designed and edited book with illustrations that impress at first by the amount of work they represent and then later by their matchless interpretation of each stanza of the ballads. They are almost like a film strip down the side of each page. The print is very small. We believe (and with evidence) that this book is more effective when a child or group of children is personally introduced to it or as one 5th grade boy said, "when the story is read first and then the ballad." It is a book to be cherished because of its fine craftsmanship or to be shared. It will appeal more strongly at first to the adolescent or adult and can be used effectively in the study of the ballad. Fourteen of the ballads have musical accompaniments that integrate music and literature nicely.

Metcalf, June M. Aluminum from mine to sky. Whittlesey house, 1947. 128 p. illus. \$2.50 j & s h s

"An informal biography of the metal that nature forgot to finish." The author tells interestingly of the years of experimenting, the personalities involved, and gives a complete description of mining of bauxite, the making of aluminum and the many uses to which it has been put. Book should be useful both as class material and free reading.

Pistorius, Anna. What animal is it? Wilcox & Follett, c1947. 24 p. 6-10 yrs. illus. \$1.00

A companion volume to What bird is it? Twenty-six animals pictured with brief text describing habitat and some outstanding feature. May be used as a game book for nature study classes.

Potter, Miriam (Clark) Hello, Mrs. Goose! Lippincott, c1947. 150 p. \$2.00 Gr. 2-4

Further ridiculous adventures of this highly personified and traditionally foolish goose in which she becomes as hopelessly involved as the famous Peterkins. Each chapter is a separate episode that will be fun to read aloud. "A quiet Halloween" and "Don't open till Christmas" will be acceptable at the appropriate seasons. Previous books are "Mrs. Goose and the three ducks," and "Mrs. Goose of Animal-town." Decision to buy can be based on popularity and usefulness of previous titles.

Price, Olive M. Miracle by the sea; illus. by Addison Burbank. Whittlesey, c1947. 136 p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-7

The closing year of Christ's life is presented through the story of a 12-year-old boy of Capernum. Jesus only actually appears once in the story, -- when He takes Jeremy's loaves and fishes to feed the multitude, but His effect is seen everywhere and His deeds and words are the main topics of conversation. The book has an exciting plot and two special merits -- its picture of Palestine in 30 A. D. and the way it weaves the impressive Bible story into the life of the people.

Quiz Kids. The Quiz Kids' book; stories and poems chosen by the Quiz Kids; illus. by Richard Dawson. Viking, c1947. 372 p. \$2.50 gr. 3-9
U - Reading aloud; Discussion; Reading guidance.

An anthology of excerpts from new stories, old stories and a wide range of poems selected as favorites by the Quiz Kids. Scattered through are some of their comments on their choices. It is a good anthology, if quite miscellaneous and of wide age range. It is, however, no substitute for the original books but rather a good introduction to them after the magical name "Quiz Kids" has "sold" this book to a group. It caught a fifth grader's eye out of all the books in the Center and she carried it off to share with her grade. That is an effective way it can be used, with the teacher or librarian guiding the groups to the various books after some "read-aloud" and discussion activities.

Reine, Alice. Eagle of Guatemala, Justo Rufino Barrios. Harcourt, Brace, c1947. 227 p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8

A very readable biography of Justo Rufino Barrios, soldier and statesman, who freed his country from dictatorship and laid the foundation for the enlightened progressive country she is today. The character of Barrios is somewhat glorified and his mistakes are glossed over. However, the book has value in showing the growth of an ideal within a man and how he works to achieve it.

Riedman, Sarah R. How man discovered his body; illus. by Frances Wells.

International publishers, c1947. 128 p. \$2.25 (A young world book) j & shs

The complete story of physiology and the growth of all knowledge about our bodies is well presented by a professor of Physiology at Brooklyn College. It is not a long book and the chapters seem brief, yet each one is full of unusual information told in a way that will be clear and interesting to young people. It will also increase respect for the scientific method. Cartoon-like pictures and diagrams enhance the text.

Rigby, Douglas. Mustachio; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Harper, c1947. 29 p. \$1.50 Gr. 1-4.

How Monsieur Jambon and his little dog, Mustachio, distinguish themselves on a wild boar hunt. It is a story cut on the folk pattern of "weak ones prevailing" that children never fail to respond to. They will like Duvoisin's humorous pictures, too, especially the ones with all the dogs.

Rowlands, John J. Cache Lake Country; life in the North Woods; illus. by Henry B. Kane. W. W. Norton. 272 p. \$3.50 s h s

Not exactly a book for children but for all lovers of nature -- particularly nature in the deep woods far from civilization. The author has described his life and the life of all living things for a year spent on a beautiful lake in the North Woods. It is a rambling, conversational style that skips here and there just as a true woodsman's eyes would dart about. The noted naturalist-artist, Henry B. Kane, has collaborated with hundreds of little marginal sketches, full page pictures and diagrams of a woodsman's equipment. The pictures are an education in themselves. A good gift for an out-of-doors person.

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Scott, Judith Unger. Lessons in loveliness. illus. by Chas. Boland.
McCrae-Smith, c1947. 208 p. \$2.50 j & s h s

After cutting through an effusive style with an overdose of "you", of glamorized terms and forced similes, this book gets down to sound advice on health, beauty routines, makeup, hair-dos, clothes and poise. The directions are especially good because they are not too time-consuming in this busy life! Poor proof-reading in one of two spots; e.g. bottom of p. 108.

Skaar, Grace. All about dogs, dogs, dogs, Scott, c1947. 17 p. \$1.00.
Nothing but cats, cats, cats. Scott, c1947. 19 p. \$1.00.

Preschool.

Unsubstantial bindings will keep these from being as useful to library collections as they should be. The subjects will appeal to children. Large letters, simple words, and repetition will be useful for the beginning reader.

Schneider, Herman. Now try this; by Herman and Nina Schneider; pictures by Bill Ballantine. Scott, c1947. 40 p. \$1.50 Gr. 2-4

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A second "Let's find out" picture-science book. Simple explanations of how things are moved. Experiments need materials found around any home. Clear, easy to read type. Amusing illustrations.

Tresselt, Alvin. White snow, bright snow; illus. by Roger Duvoisin.
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, c1947. 32 p. 4-8 yr. \$2.00

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The varying effects of the first snowfall on everyone and everything are vividly described in rhythmic text and unusually fine pictures. Even though the text and pictures occasionally become intermingled and snow flakes may impede the progress of the beginning reader in few cases, we are still enthusiastic.

Trevor, Elleston. Deep wood; illus. by Stephen Voorhies. Longmans, Green, c1947. 282 p. Gr. 5-7. \$2.50

The animal characters here dress, talk and act like friendly people in a small community somewhat in the style of Grahame's immortal classic. It is possible that Trevor's picturesque but rather rambling style will not have sufficient action for most young readers. Perhaps this is a minor point but it is puzzling to find occasional remarks like these "the fresh new wood had lain seasoning for many days..." (p. 9) and "the gusts became more frequent and the quieter periods between were longer..." (p. 59).

Urmston, Mary. Betsy and the proud house; illus. by Grace Paul. Doubleday, 179 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5 V- Family relations; group participation.

Betsy starts the summer feeling that she cannot live through it without her best friend. She soon discovers, however, that there is great fun in belonging to a gang -- especially when it is a gang liberally sprinkled with dogs. This is an excellent book to help a child broaden his interests in people. Being a dog story it will be read with little or no persuasion.

Webb, Marian A. Games for younger children. Morrow, c1947. 124 p. \$2.00
K - Gr. 2

A collection of simple games for younger children. In addition to the games there are suggestions for holiday and birthday parties. Bibliography of songs, stories and poems at end.

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Zim, Herbert Spencer. Goldfish; pictures by Joy Buba. Morrow, c1947. 60 p.
\$2.00 Gr. 2-5

Like the other Zim books this is excellent material for schools and personal collections. Large type, easy sentences, clear illustrations make a book even the beginning reader can use.

SOURCES AND AIDS FOR ADULTS:

Arbuthnot, May Hill. Children and books. Scott, Foresman, c1947. 626 p. \$3.60

A new text book for children's literature classes. Deals with the history of children's literature, all types of books for children, and suggestions for the use of these different types in classroom and library. A disproportionately large amount of space is given to poetry and choral work. This is admittedly an important field, but should not be stressed to the detriment of other types of literature. The comments on individual titles are critical and evaluative rather than summaries of the stories and will, therefore, be quite helpful to teachers and librarians. The suggestions as to methods of presenting ballads and folk lore are especially good.

The broken-column arrangement is poor and the reproduction of illustrations from children's books are mediocre. The text, however, is sufficiently well done that it can be recommended not only for children's literature classes but for all persons working with children and books.

California Library Association. Section for work with boys and girls. Christmas life savers. 1946.

An excellent listing of chapters with Christmas atmosphere. Books are usually found in libraries.

Curtis, Agnes. Special day plays. Anderson Indiana, Warner press, 1947. 50¢

Contents: Plays for New Years, Easter, Children's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Meet the sciences; a booklist for the general reader. Prepared by the Science committee of New Jersey Library Association. 1947. 6 p. s h s

Individual copies 10¢, less for quantities. Order from: Marian C. Manley, Distribution Chairman. The New Jersey Library Association. 34 Commerce St. Newark 2, N. J.

Millen, Nina. Children and their pets around the world. (Paintings and stories pertaining to them for children 4-6 yrs.) Friendship press, 156 5th Ave., New York City 10. \$1.00

Practical Home economics. Section 2: Combined coupon book and listing service. 30 p. 468 4th Ave., New York City.

Here is the way to develop your home economics collection, especially in the matter of free and inexpensive materials.

"See & Hear", September, 1947. Annual fall inventory of New Audio-Visual materials. 812 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10.

(New films, film strips, radio and recording guide, maps)

CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Alden, Raymond Macdonald. Once there was a king; a tournament of stories.
Bobbs-Merrill, 1946. \$2.00 pp. 13-36.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth. Up hill and down; illus. by James H. Davis. Knopf, *Se 6327*
c1947. \$2.50 pp. 91-113.

Crespi, Pachita. Gift of the earth. Scribner, 1946. \$1.25.

Crampton, Gertrude, comp. The golden Christmas book; illus. by Corinne Malvern; stories, songs, poems, riddles, and things to do for Christmas. *5808.8*
Simon & Schuster, 1947. \$1.50. *1348 2.6*

Hoffmann, Eleanor. The four friends; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Macmillan, 1946.
\$2.00.

Jones, Elizabeth Orton. Big Susan. Macmillan, 1947. \$2.00.

Jones, Jessie Orton, ed. A little child; the Christmas miracle told in Bible verses; illus. by Elizabeth Orton Jones. Viking, 1946. \$2.00. *5232 97182*
In pageant form for church or school groups.

Lathrop, Dorothy P. An angel in the woods. Macmillan, 1947. \$2.00.

Politi, Leo. Pedro, the angel of Olvera Street. Scribner, 1946. \$1.75

Provines, Mary Virginia. Liz'beth Ann's goat; illus. by Grace Pauli.
Viking, 1947. \$2.00.

Self, Margaret Cabell. "The thirteen little Santa Clauses" in Chitter chat stories; illus. by Virginia Grilley. Dutton, 1946. pp. 63-72. \$1.75.

Seymour, Alta Halverson. A grandma for Christmas. Westminster press, 1946.
\$1.00.

Vance, Marguerite. While shepherds watched; illus. by Nedda Walker. *5232 227-15*
Dutton, 1946. \$1.00.

Yates, Elizabeth. Once in the year; illus. by Nora S. Unwin; Coward-McCann,
1947. \$2.00.

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