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Service Bulletin

THE LIBRARY OF THE

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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Vol. II

No. 2

New Titles for Children and Young People

(Note: - We regret that we still have a number of good 1948 titles still to be evaluated. We expect to complete the 1948 reviews in the February issue just before the spring crop commences to appear.)

Austin, Margot. Gabriel Churchkitten and the moths; written and illus. by Margot Austin. Dutton, c1948. 36 p. \$1.25 Gr. 1-3.

Friends of Gabriel Churchkitten and Peter Churchmouse will welcome them back and heartily sympathize with Gabriel's troubles with the moths. Insubstantial format that will not hold up under library use. Story follows same pattern as earlier books and seems drawn out but the children will like it.

Bailey, Ralph E. Sea hawks of empire; eastward to the Indies for trade and treasure 1500-1700; illus. by James MacDonald. Dutton, c1948. 256 p. \$2.50 j & s h s.

A fictionalized account of the early days of England's colonial expansion, which brings the events described in Argosies of empire up to the beginning of the 19th century. The somewhat disjointed plot plus a decidedly Anglophile attitude keep the book from being wholly successful. Useful as supplementary material.

Bechdolt, John Ernest. Dulcie and the gypsies; by Jack Bechdolt and Decie Merwin. Dutton, c1948. 63 p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5

Following the pattern of the earlier Dulcie books here are four new episodes in the life of Dulcie and her friends. Writing and illustrations tend toward the precious. The changes from rhyme to prose makes reading aloud difficult. Will be enjoyed by children who liked the earlier books, but not a must for libraries.

Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Rosita; a little girl of Puerto Rico; drawings by Elayne Carol. Friendship, c1948. 60 p. 75¢ K-gr. 2.

A very simple, easy-to-read story of Christmas customs in Puerto Rico, showing how the Santa Claus symbol becomes the Three Kings on their camels and the child sets out a bit of comfort for the travelers instead of hanging up his stocking. Book is fragile in binding and, since it has only a seasonal use, public and church schools need only make note of it now to acquire for the next Christmas season.

Campbell, Agnes. Tales my father told; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Whittlesey, c1948. 144 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5.

Some of these short tales of Ireland center about a boy and girl, just subtly escaping the fey; others are retold from the Irish folk tales and legends. The tales contain no dialect (except an overdose of "my dears and my darlings") although they are told with Irish rhythm, and if they miss the bouncing vigor of a Macmanus retelling, they retain the humor, and most of them convey a well-made message of unselfishness, kindness -- and fun.

Chanler, Julie. His messengers went forth; illus. by Olin Dows. Coward-McCann, c1948. 64 p. \$1.75 Gr. 5-7

Very simple, brief accounts of the beginnings and basic principles of several religions. The material will be chiefly valuable for a church library and religious work but may occasionally fill a need in general library work.

Craik, Dinah Maria (Mulock). Little lame prince; illus. by Jon Nielsen. World, c1948. 135 p. \$1.25 Gr. 4-6

A reprint, in the Rainbow Classics Series, of the old tale, far superior in paper, binding, print and attractiveness, to the available Little Library Series edition. This reprint has vivid color-plates and black-and-white drawings lacking the sombre dignity of older illustrations, and muting the sad tones of the story, but adding a new cheerful note to attract the reader. There is the usual introduction by May Lamberton Becker telling about the author. As long as injustice and wrong exist in the world, with love and sympathy to counter them, there remains a place on the children's bookshelves for this romantic story of kings, princes and greedy uncles. We notice that Grosset has also issued this title as part of the Illustrated Junior Library but have not yet had an opportunity to compare the two editions.

Disney, Walt. Walt Disney's treasure chest; illus. by the Walt Disney studio. Simon and Schuster, c1948. 66 p. \$1.00 (A big golden book).

Disneyized versions of some of the best loved nursery tales. The originals are, in every instance, to be preferred.

Eberle, Irmengarde. The steam shovel family; illus. by Connie Moran. McKay, c1948. 187 p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-6.

Tressy likes to have her family called the steam shovel family because it makes them sound different and adventuresome. They really live up to that description when they set out from New York City to California in an old car. Their story of their trip is well-told with some good lessons in geography painlessly mixed in. A pleasantly written story with some amusing episodes. Nice illustrations.

Ewing, Juliana Horatia (Gatty). Jackanapes; pictures by Tasha Tudor. Oxford, c1948. 61 p. \$2.00.

There was a certain nostalgic pleasure in reading this tale of the last century but I was surprised to see how "adult" it really was and I commenced to recall some of the parts that had puzzled me as a child. For books of this type someone has to decide whether or not to reprint. Our feeling about "Jackanape" is that it is part of the history of children's literature and is sufficiently Mid-Victorian in style and theme so that the modern child will prefer more modern books. This is a charming little edition that library schools and teachers colleges who stress the historical approach to children's literature may wish to purchase.

Frankl, Liselotte. Peter and his new brother; illus. in color photography; with an introduction by Josette Frank. Chanticleer, c1948. 19 p. 50¢ Pre-school (A Chanticleer junior book)

A read-aloud book for pre-school children designed to help them adjust to a new baby. The text is not as good as Shane's The new baby (Simon and Schuster), but the illustrations are much better. Not for library purchase unless as example of such material to show parents. Can be recommended for home use.

Frost, Frances. Sleigh bells for Windy Foot; illus. by Lee Townsend. Whittlesey, c1948. 184 p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-6

The hustle-and-bustle of Christmas preparation is the theme for this picture of happy rural family life. (Our apologies for allowing it to miss the November Bulletin). Here is a story brimming with the spirit of good will and joyous Christmas, portraying the best in human values and relations. Pony, dog and cat characters, real and likeable boys and girls, and plenty of outdoor fun, add to reader's appeal. These are the same characters who appeared in Windy Foot at the County Fair. This new book shows less marked plot development, but retains the same wholesome, fun-filled atmosphere. It will be good reading as a sequel all through the year but make a note to feature it next Christmas. The fourteenth chapter will make good reading aloud in the restless three weeks before the Christmas holidays.

Godden, Rumer. The doll's house; with pictures by Dana Saintsbury. Viking, c1947. 125 p. \$2.50 Gr. 3-5.

It will be interesting to compare Rumer Godden's first book for children, which is about a doll family, with E. O. Jones' Big Susan (Macmillan, 1947). This family, the Plantaganets, is very English and falls heir to an old Victorian doll house where it has its joys and troubles in association with two sisters and some other dolls. The book is interesting, -- even exciting at times -- and should appeal to girls at the doll age, -- although the rather adult point of view and the author's tendency to digress and philosophize in good English (and almost Victorian) tradition may bother a young American reader. Differing characters of two sisters well drawn. (First published in England).

Goetz, Delia. Other young Americans; Latin America's young people; illus. with photographs. Morrow, c1948. 255 p. \$3.50 Gr. 5-9.

Better understanding of Latin American countries through knowledge of their young people at work and play, their home life, social customs, etc. is the author's purpose in this book. Combines a readable style with excellent illustrations to make a useful book for supplementary reading. Contains glossary and index.

Hader, Berta (Hoerner). The big snow; by Berta and Elmer Hader. Macmillan, c1948. 46 p. \$2.50 K-gr. 2.

A book of winter time and of how the woodland folk prepare for and survive the snow and icy blasts. The story is told in terms of one segment of woods and what one family can do to help tide the birds and animals over until spring comes. Adult readers cannot help but compare "Big snow" with Tresselt and Duvoison's "White snow, bright snow" (Lothrop, 1947) and with Lawson's "Rabbit Hill" (Viking, 1944) but this book stands up well in its simple and kindly story and in its beautiful but rather static pictures.

Hall-Quest, Olga (Wilbourne). Shrine of liberty: the Alamo; illus. by Kurt Werth. Dutton, c1948. 120 p. \$2.25.

The story of the Alamo has been written many times -- some accounts are in the form of exciting fiction, some are straightforward factual presentations. This account is the latter type. It has little to offer; the writing is just one degree removed from the typical textbook style. The book will have value where supplementary material is needed, but otherwise is not recommended for library purchase.

Harper, Wilhelmina, comp. Down in Dixie: stories from the South Central states; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Dutton, c1948. 245 p. \$2.75 (Our states in story)

As a whole the selection is not outstanding. In the case of Alabama - the inclusion of "Christmas Gif" is particularly unfortunate because of its stereotypes and use of dialect. The adaptations lack the flavor of the originals. Selections do not always give either a complete or a true picture of the states.

Hogan, Inez. Giraffe twins. Dutton, 1948. 45 p. \$1.25.

A pattern story - The giraffes are the tallest animals in the jungle. They in turn, meet each of the other animals who prove themselves to have superlative qualities. Actions of animals are not true to reality. Repetition monotonous without achieving the swing which delights young children. Type which simulates manuscript printing, is too difficult for the beginning reader and annoying for adults.

Lane, Carl D. River dragon; drawings by Charles Banks Wilson. Little, Brown, 1948. 105 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7. Value - Progress, Acceptance of and adjustment to.

Exciting adventurous tale of two brave young Indian boys in 1819 who help to "save" their tribe from the River Dragon (a steamboat) and an attacking tribe of Indians. Author seems to have a good background of American Indian history and shows interesting picture of reactions to new inventions and to progress. Story is well told and characters really live except for Eagle Feather's sister.

Lawson, Robert. Mr. Twigg's mistake. Little, Brown, 1947. 141 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7. Robbut; a tale of tails. Viking, 1948. 94 p. \$2.50 Gr. 3-5.

Mr. Lawson's last two books are quite in contrast to each other although both have the small creatures of the field as the central figures. "Mr. Twigg's mistake" is a satire on modern radio advertising and will appeal definitely to adults, although the enthusiasm that grownups once engendered in their young over "Ferdinand" can very well have a parallel here. There is much riotous fun in the career of DeGaulle, the fabulous mole, who waxes mameuth on "Bities," the breakfast food with the over-dose of vitamins. It is the sort of humor that can best be shared by the read-aloud method. Whether such tongue-in-cheek fun can contribute to better taste in radio-listening is doubtful.

"Robbut" is an allegory on contentment, in which a rabbit, belittling the tail that nature has attached to him, is permitted to experiment with the tails of a cat, a snake and a fox. As happens in all allegories on this theme, the results are disastrous and his own tail seems just right for rabbit life after that. The story is overly long and difficult for the simple theme. Also the misery of poor Robbut seems a little too realistic and drawn out for the very young. Even the pictures, beautiful though they are, contribute too much to the unhappy feelings of this "tale of tails," which, it seems to me, could have been done with a lighter touch.

Lewiton, Mina. A cup of courage. McKay, 1948. 244 p. \$2.50 s h s.

This is strictly a "problem" novel - the problem being acute alcoholism. The narrative moves slowly, the characters seem to lack reality and the sudden decision of the father to stop drinking is not convincing. It is an interesting experiment as a problem novel for young people but actually has little to offer for the understanding of the problem of alcoholism or for its cure. As a novel for pleasure reading it offers even less. The number of "junior novels" dealing with problems of early adulthood is growing. It is not an easy area in which to write and the authors who are attempting to present young adult problems realistically and fairly are to be commended. In a later issue of the Bulletin we should like to discuss this type of book more fully, pointing out where it is succeeding and where failing.

Lorenzini, Carlo. Pinocchio; the tale of a puppet; by Carlo Collodi =pseud=; introduction by Angelo Patri; illus. by Anne Heyneman. Lippincott, 1948. 230 p. \$2.50 Gr. 4-6.

A Lippincott Classic. Like the other titles in the series, this book combines appropriate illustrations, good print, sturdy and attractive format to make an edition that is excellent for library use - or for home purchase.

Lowe, Florence. Somebody else's shoes; pictures by Dorothy Bayley. Rinehart, c1948. \$2.25 Gr. 3-5 153 p. Values - Interpersonal understanding; Older-younger generations.

Evalina tests her grandmother's theory of putting on someone else's shoes and becoming that person. She finds that she not only solves a slight mystery but also has a better understanding of her associates, - grandma herself, the teacher, and Manuela, a little Portuguese girl. Time element is a little confusing but the literal interpretation of this figure of speech in human understanding will be appealing to most children. Setting is a New England coast town at the turn of the century.

Leaf, Munro. Sam and the Superdroop; story and pictures by Munro Leaf. Viking, c1948. 122 p. \$1.50 Gr. 5-7.

A series of adventures that Sam, an avid reader of comic books, has with a jet-propelled dragon. The adventures cover the "actual locales" of the different types of comics and the book is supposed to show the reader how silly the comics really are. It is also designed to influence parents to take a closer interest in their children's reading activities; - if not to buy books, at least to have a library card and guide their children in choosing books. The book seems very made-to-order but this type of broad humor may appeal to the age for which it is written, - especially the comics addict. Whether he "will ever after apply a wholesome skepticism to any view of Comic Book Land" is open to experiment. (Note reference to crusade against comics below.)

Mowery, William Byron. The long arm of the mounted; illus. by Stephen J. Voorhies. Whittlesey house, c1948. 146 p. \$2.00 j & s h s.

Four stories of varying length and phase but all dealing with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The longest one is on the familiar theme of the criminal-hunt to clear an innocent name but the others are a little more unique and one deals with Eskimo lore. The book - much better than its slightly "lurid" title and book jacket would indicate, will be good bait for the high school boy who is not much of a reader.

Newell, Averil. The fly-by-nights; illus. by Kathleen Hilken. London, Adam & Charles Black, 1947. 46 p. Gr. 3-5.

A family of mice leave their country home to live in London. They get established in a lovely home between a bakery and a toy shop and life is wonderful until they find their house is to be demolished. Leaving the city in a toy touring car they finally arrive at their country home weary with travel and crises. The appeal of highly personified animals, the country-city mouse theme and some humor are present but story is very similar to many others and our children may be bothered by the English conversational digressions that appear in the story. Binding is very flimsy.

Renick, Marion (Lewis). A touchdown for Doc; illus. by Dwight Logan. Scribner, c1948. 170 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5. Values - Middle childhood - Healthy living; Sportsmanship; Teamwork.

Marion Renick continues her sports stories for the younger reader and this one - an introduction to six-man football, - is lively, fast moving and humorous. The book teaches sportsmanship and fair play, how to care for ones health in the interests of becoming an athlete. Rules for six-man football included at the end. The book can be used for older boys who are slow readers.

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Rogers, Stanley. It took courage; tales of adventurous discovery; charts by Raffaello Busoni. Holiday house, c1948. 268 p. \$3.00 j & s h s.

Thirteen tales of true, adventurous discovery. These one-time front-page stories tell of men lost in the Arctic, in the "dark continent," and in the vast Pacific and clear up the mystery surrounding their disappearance. Through heroic exploits and freaks of chance, men of science, stamina and imagination solved the secrets of the Blue Grotto, buried Viking ships, dinosaur nests, and microwaves of radar. Young readers will develop a respect for wholesome courage displayed by the "heroes" of this book. The style is awkward and "choppy" in spots but the sheer adventure and suspense of the subject matter will sustain interest throughout.

Snow, Dorothea J. Eli Whitney, boy mechanic; illus. by Charles V. John. Bobbs-Merrill, c1948. 187 p. \$1.75 Gr. 4-6.

The early days of Whitney's boyhood are treated in great detail. The later years when he did the work that was to make him famous are passed over very sketchily. The writing is just average. The sum total seems to be a not too good story of a boy and a decidedly inferior biography. Reports from children indicate that they prefer biographies which present a well-rounded character - with emphasis on adulthood and the work accomplished then. The style is simple enough that the book may have some value in remedial reading.

Steiner, Charlotte. The little train that saved the day. Grosset & Dunlap, c1947. 23 p. 50¢ Pre-school.

All small children love stories of trains that, in a slightly personified way, represent the cardinal virtues of perseverance, cooperation, helping others, etc. - especially if there are plenty of pictures. This book fits the prescription very well. A little freight train goes about on its friendly, cooperative way and is glad at the end of a busy day to be able to carry home a throng of picnicking children when their excursion train breaks down. With its brief text, and many clear, childlike illustrations to study it will be popular with children, if more train stories are needed.

Watson, Virginia Crise. The trail of courage; a story of New Amsterdam; illus. by Marcia Brown. Coward-McCann, c1948. 181 p. \$2.50.

Every mishap and adventure that could possibly happen to a young girl in the early Dutch colony of New Amsterdam happens to Ulrica Van Horn - and she comes through them all triumphant. The callous indifference of the townspeople, the fortunate coincidence of her meeting with friendly Indians when she runs away and the final hint of romance are far-fetched. The descriptions of the town are good, but the inhabitants are not shown as particularly pleasant people.

Zim, Herbert Spencer. Codes and secret writing. Morrow, c1948. 154 p. \$2.00 j & s h s.

Young folks who have a hankering for secret messages and mysterious writing will have ample opportunity to develop competence in this fascinating hobby with the information provided by Dr. Zim. Code wheels, secret writing, and invisible inks are only a few examples of the subjects explained. This book was written to have fun with, rather than to be used as a reference for experts.

#### Supplementary Materials and Background Reading

Clark, Margaret M. "Films of interest to children." (A bibliography) American Library Association Bulletin. 42:614-15 December 1948.

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Exton, Elaine. "Countering crime-laden comics." American School Board Journal v. 117 47-48, 50 December 1948.

A survey of some of the studies and current activities to control comic book reading about which librarians and teachers should be informed.

Frank, Josette. "Books and children's emotions" Child study v. 26:5-5, 24-26 (Winter, 1948-49)

Berninghausen, David K. "On keeping our reading free" Educational Leadership, November, 1948 p. 104.

Embrie, Edwin R. Peoples of the earth; illus. by Mary Giles. Hinds, Hayden and Eldridge, 1948. 75¢

"Told in letter form to a nephew and niece. How men, starting as one family, slowly wandered to all parts of the earth and lived as separate tribes and races for thousands of years, building many civilizations. How all men are now pressed back together again in one closely dependent family in one closely connected world."

Fenwick, Sara Innis. "Evaluating mystery stories for children" Elementary English December 1948 p. 521-4.

Martin, Laura K. "What are we afraid of?" Some notes on censorship. American Library Association Bulletin 42:599-600. December 1949.

Smith, Nila Banton. "The personal and social values of reading." Elementary English December 1948. p. 490-500.

University of Wisconsin Library School. Subject index to children's magazines. Apply for price. Madison, Wisconsin.

The students in Children's Literature at The University of Wisconsin are issuing a bi-monthly mimeographed subject index to 21 children's magazines. Local teachers and librarians had formed such an index, where timely; a very rich key to instructional materials as well as a great boon in extending the usefulness of current children's magazines. Therefore, it was decided that the Index should be made more widely accessible by enlisting the cooperation of the University of Wisconsin Library School. This is the result and it looks to be very helpful.

Young people's books and reading; a workshop for school and public libraries, New York (State) College for Teachers, July 19-30, 1948; sponsored by the School Library Supervisors of New York (State), Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the Department of Librarianship, State College for Teachers, Albany, New York; directed by Margaret C. Scoggins. Albany 3 (New York) New York State Teachers College, Department of Librarianship, 1948 79 p. (Mimeographed)

There is much practical aid on young people's reading materials and needs in this digest of the activities of a two-weeks workshop. Mr. Burgess, the Director of the library school at Albany, reports that there are a number of copies available that will be distributed free of charge to those who can really make good use of them.

### Picture Dictionaries (an appraisal)

During the last year and a half about seven picture dictionaries of varying type and difficulty have been put on the market. We are listing them here in approximate order of difficulty with brief descriptive and evaluative notes. From conversation with some reading authorities, reports from teachers who have watched children using these books, and from a perusal of the claims of the authors themselves, there seem to be three major values for children in the picture dictionary:

1. They arouse and stimulate a child's interest in words as symbols of objects about him, in building a vocabulary, and in creating an awareness of word forms.
2. They are a means of arousing interest in reading and promoting reading readiness.
3. They are an aid in promoting dictionary readiness and an awareness of the orderly arrangement of material.

The use of these dictionaries is discussed at greater length in the "Editorial News and Comments" of the January 1949 Elementary School Review. Among the following titles are two published prior to 1947:

Grider, Dorothy. My first picture dictionary. Wilcox and Follett, 1948  
60¢ pre-school.

120 nouns widely used in pre-primers, primers and first readers. Each word, alphabetically arranged is printed in manuscript type and accompanied by a clear illustration, - some are colored. These pictures serve as the definition. One teacher felt that the mixture of different sounds for the same initial letter (e.g. cat, cent) might confuse. Another reading specialist did not agree as the book belongs to the pre-reading stage. (See review in the June, 1948 Service Bulletin) Stitching weak. Bright red paper-covered boards.

Oftedahl, Laura and Jacobs, Nina. My first dictionary; the beginner's picture word book; illus. by Pelagie Doane. Grosset and Dunlap, 1948. 140 p. \$1.00  
Nursery school Gr. 1.

600+ words, principally nouns, selected from the author's long experience in child education and checked with standard vocabulary lists. In addition to an attractive colored picture for each word, there is a sentence tying the word in with the child's experience or world in which he usually is the "doer" of any action involved. The page is set up in five frames, each containing word, picture and sentence, surrounded by colored margins, which add to the general attractiveness of the book. Another "interest" feature is the inclusion of about ten pages of classified pictures (e.g., animals, family, house, etc.) which serve to bring objects together within one appropriate framework. This book is reported useful with children as young as two years, stimulating them to match the spoken word with its picture. It is most useful at three to six. Cover is plasticene but stitching could be stronger.

MacBean, Dilla. Picture-book dictionary. Children's press, 1946 20¢ K-gr. 2.

Large paper bound book designed to be purchased in quantity or for home use. 166 words, chiefly nouns but with a few verbs and adjectives, arranged in a double column. Each word has a small colored picture and a sentence that identifies word by use. The mode of use, however, does not always clarify the meaning and better sentences could be devised. The basis of selection of vocabulary is not given but the words are probably chosen from experience with the beginning child reader. This book has weaknesses but it was a pioneer and is very good within its limits of format, price, etc. Mrs. MacBean is working on a revision.

Moore, Lillian. A child's first picture dictionary; illus. by Nettie Weber and Charles Clement. Wonder books, 1948. 59¢ K-gr. 2.

The 380 key words are selected on the basis of frequency in first and second grade readers. Although carrying fewer words than the Oftedahl and Jacobs title, the level of difficulty is higher for there is a sampling from practically every part of speech. On the double columned page the pictures seem small but they are full of child activity. Not all are colored. The "definitions" use the word in a sentence and then further explain by a second sentence that extends the story or action; e.g. "Pat's dog waits outside the store. Steve is inside buying some candy."

Walpole, Ellen Wales. The golden dictionary; illus. by Gertrude Elliott; Simon and Schuster, 1944. 94 p. \$1.50 K-gr. 3.

An old favorite. 1030 words chosen from a survey of children's vocabularies and six word lists. Besides the identifying pictures, explanatory sentences use the word and then frequently repeat the sentence using a simple phrase as the equivalent. Sometimes more than one meaning is given and at the end are simple variations on the same word. (e.g. teach: Mother teaches Mary Ann to cook. She tells her how to cook. Our teacher teaches us our lessons. teaches, taught, teaching)

Watters, Garnette and Curtis, S.A. The picture dictionary for children; completely revised and with new pictures. Grosset and Dunlap, 1948 Gr. 1-3 383 p. \$1.25.

5079 words, 1442 black outline pictures. Described as a first guide to the meanings, spellings, and use of words. The jacket refers to the "lavish use of color." Both this statement and the statement concerning the extensive revision are disappointing. The lavish color consists of putting a colored box around the key word and its synonym or explanatory phrase, whereas the earlier edition merely outlined them in black. There is also a colored band down the side of the page on which are the letters of the alphabet. Directions are given for using this in the nature of a thumb guide to locate a letter but the actual process described seems awkward for small hands. The paper is poor in texture and color. The vocabulary (written as well as printed) is composed of all parts of speech chosen from an analysis of 46 readers plus a checking of certain word lists. The information given is similar to what is included in the Golden Dictionary or the Rainbow Dictionary and is satisfactory on the whole. However, its "younger brother" by Oftedahl and Jacobs, seems more attractive and among the maturer picture dictionaries, the Rainbow seems preferable. The additions and changes in definitions and pictures from the 1939 edition do not seem extensive and important enough to replace the old edition.

Wright, Wendell W. The Rainbow dictionary; assisted by Helene Laird; illus. by Joseph Low. The World Publishing Co., 1947. 433 p. \$3.00 Gr. 1-3.

Reviewed in the October 1947 Service Bulletin from which we quote: Vocabulary built on an exhaustive survey of word lists... Definitions are a series of sentences using word in a context understandable to the child. Each sentence is accompanied by another using a clear synonymous word or phrase... Sometimes also a quotation from children's literature (sources omitted). 1100 four-color pictures. In this and Watters, not all words are illustrated pictorially. Well-bound and heavy but reports are that children like it very much. It ranks just below the elementary dictionary in maturity and complexity and will have more "dictionary" than "reading readiness" function. Some colloquial usage in definitions has been criticised.

These two are variations:

Gatchel, Dorothy and Madden, Margaret. Picture dictionary to read and color; illus. by Marjorie Hartwell. Platt and Monk, 1948. 50¢.

This is not a reference book but a work (or play) book. It contains 186 nouns encountered most often in pre-primers, primer and first readers. Words are in print, manuscript, and in a sentence similar to those in Oftedahl. A fairly large outline picture accompanies each word and is to be colored. It isn't so stated but the book may be based on the theory that applying color to a picture in association with the word symbol may also act as a defining process for the child. Would the realism with which he colors be a gauge to his comprehension? He may have some difficulty with the color. Tone of a cake of ice or a bottle of milk.

Chambers, Selma Lola. The little golden book of words; illus. by Gertrude Elliott. Simon and Schuster, 1948. 25¢.

Intended for children just learning to read, this newest book departs from the alphabetical and uses a classified arrangement. First there is a series of small pictures each labelled and forming part of a larger category (e.g., family is a series of people in the family constellation). Following each page of pictures is a full-page picture relating the objects in the small pictures to each other and to the whole. They also extend the child's ideas about each category (e.g., the full-page picture shows a family at dinner). The book can be quite stimulating and entertaining and should lead the child to verbalize. Being inexpensive it can be purchased in quantity for classroom use. A few of the categories are difficult or might have been designated more clearly; e.g., "wordhelpers"; "things that go"; which might have been "things we ride on" or "things that take us places."

Background and authority of authors (when stated):

Grider, Dorothy - no designation except as illustrator.

MacBean, Dilla, Director of School Libraries, Chicago, Illinois.

Walpole, Ellen Wales, Teacher of children and author in the area of reading and word study in England, Canada, and the U.S.

Moore, Lilian, Reading specialist, New York City, Board of Education

Watters, Garnette, Formerly director of language department, Hamtramck (Michigan) public schools.

Courtis, Stuart, Professor of education (emeritus) University of Michigan.

Chambers, Selma Lola - not designated. The "Little golden book of words" prepared under the supervision of Mary Reed, Ph.D., formerly of Teachers College, Columbia.

Wright, Wendell W., Dean of School of Education, Indiana University.

Laird, Helene, Author of a children's book

Gatchel, Dorothy }  
Madden, Margaret } Not identified