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Alice R. Brooks, Librarian

Service Bulletin

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No. 3

New Titles for Children and Young People

Adrian, Mary. Mystery nature stories; pictures by Elizabeth P. Korr. Rinehart, c1948. 94 p. \$2.00.

Highly contrived stories that attempt to satisfy a child's liking for mystery stories and at the same time give him factual material. Some of the conceptions that result are misleading. For example: in the story of the black snake the impression is given that the hummingbird sits in the tree for most of the afternoon and eats nothing during that time. The "mysteries" themselves are interesting enough that they would make good reading told in a straight forward manner.

Bennett, Richard. Mick and Mack and Mary Jane. Doubleday, c1948. 40 p. \$1.75. Gr. 2-4.

Mick was Irish and had a sweet tooth. Mack was Scotch and "sensible". Mary Jane was a mouse, and they all lived together in a little cabin, though the two loggers did not know of Mary Jane's presence till the night of the forest fire. How she saved Mick and Mack (and her babies), thereby winning a permanent home and two friends for herself, makes an exciting and amusing story. Mr. Bennett tells it well in simple text, amplified by excellent black and white drawings. Especially good is his portrayal of the reaction of the forest animals to the fire.

Bethers, Ray. Can you name them? a pictorial-informational quiz book; written and illus. by Ray Bethers. Aladdin books, c1948. 48 p. \$1.75 Gr. 5+.

The entire family can find hours of entertainment in this picture-fact book. Excellent illustrations with interesting and unusual facts about each one. A book for family use rather than library use. However, it has a place in the reference section of a large collection - and might even be used to stimulate interest.

Blanton, Catherine. Pedro's choice; illus. by Harold Price. Whittlesey house, c1948. 64 p. \$2.00. Gr. 5-7. (D89; D62; D134)

Pedro is torn between his natural talent as a painter and his preference for the more remunerative and glamorous career of bull-fighting. With the aid of an understanding village priest and his pet bull which the two of them have raised from birth, he finally decides upon the combination of farming and art in his native village. The characterization of Pedro is excellent - he is a very real little boy with whom his young readers may easily identify themselves. The background of life in a impoverished Mexican village is well suggested without obscuring the plot. There is a vivid description of a bull-fight; the style of writing is well above average; and the whole is garnished with finely detailed black and white lithographs of high quality. Good supplementary reading on modern Mexico.

Brown, Margaret Wise. Wait till the noon is full; pictures by Garth Williams, Harper, c1948. 31 p. \$1.75.

Another rhythmic story in which the author attempts to express a young child's

feeling of wonder and curiosity about the night and his longing to be out after dark. The technique of using a minimum of words, of "suggesting" rather than "expressing", and of leaving the story half-told (for all children will want to know what the raccoon did when his mother finally allowed him to roam out into the night) is an interesting one but may fail to satisfy the child. One unusual point of relationship between the text and pictures is that the text never gives any evidence of the raccoons being anything else but raccoons, whereas the pictures interpret the text in a highly personified way.

Carmer, Carl Lamson. Eagle in the wind; illus. by Elizabeth Black Carmer. Aladdin books, c1948. 52 p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5.

Slight story of a weather-vane that longed to fly - and did one day in a hurricane. Price too high for quality of binding (boards) and slight appeal of story. Not a must.

Christensen, Norman. Stubby, the little train that ran away; pictures by Dirk. Fidelity, c1948. 28 p. \$1.12.

We have had runaways of all kinds in books for children - buses, ferryboats, sardines and even children. All learn the error of their ways and vow never to roam again. This story is no different. Aside from the fact that it has a card board cover in the shape of a train, there is nothing unusual about it and need only be purchased for little boys at the train-loving stage.

Claxton, Ernest. A child's grace; photographs by Constance Bannister. New American edition. Dutton, c1948. 62 p. \$2.00. K-gr. 2.

The well-loved grace "Thank you for the world so sweet" is extended and forms the basis of a fine collection of child life photographs. The book has a reverence and beauty that will make it a real asset to church school and home libraries. The illustrations as examples of modern photography will extend its use to the adult field.

Collins, Dale. Robinson Carew - castaway; with pictures by Christine Price. Rinehart, c1949. 208 p. \$2.25. Gr. 4-6. (D102)

Most children like to build fantasies about being shipwrecked on a desert island. Robinson Carew - son of a millinaire and grandson of a multi-millionaire - was not so pampered but that he too had dreamed such dreams. Therefore, when the shipwreck occurred - and the desert island materialized he knew just what to do - and did it. The story is highly improbable - but entirely possible and most children will enjoy it. Writing has a decidedly English flavor which may annoy some readers (principally the adult ones) but should not detract too much from the story.

Falghiesh, Alice. The Davenports are at dinner; illus. by Flavia Gag. Scribner, c1948. 182 p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D123; D4; D37)

The Davenports are an unusual family who do unusual things such as giving radio broadcasts (unrehearsed but completely successful) and living in a remodeled barn. Many people will object - and rightly - to the ease with which Kathy persuades the owner of the local radio station to accept her idea for a program, the way the program goes off without a hitch, and its immediate popularity. There is however, good material in the relations between the step-mother, Emily, and the children - and especially between the Davenport children and Lynette. Not a book to be recommended for general purchase, but one that will have value for classes studying family relations, or for use with individual problems in this area.

Denison, Carol. What ever young rabbit should know; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, Mead, c1948. K-gr. 2.

Another story of small creatures of the fields and woods. It tells the child of the dangers little animals must avoid and how to identify animals by the tracks they make in the snow. The narrative is slow in the beginning but the climax is "breathless". Wiese's pictures are excellent and if one has any reason to doubt his versatility, compare them with the pictures "Fish in the air" (Viking, c1948).

Doane, Pelagie, comp. A small child's book of verse; compiled and illus. by Pelagie Doane. Oxford, c1948. 142 p. \$3.00 K-gr. 2. (D3)

A nicely illustrated collection of verse for younger children. Most of the poems are modern, though there are some old favorites. Extremely crowded pages are unsatisfactory - especially where poems have been cut in order to get more on a page. Should be examined carefully before adding to library collection.

Dolbier, Maurice. The magic bus; illus. by Tibor Gergely. Wonder books, c1948. 43 p. 59¢

Once again this author allows his fertile imagination to "take off" on a real adventure, - this time in a bus of the magic carpet variety. "The magic bus" might be termed a fairytale for moderns for the atmosphere is completely 1948 despite the magic button in the little outmoded bus. Those who want a substitute for comics may find that the text and pictures here will fill the bill. Stitching is weak

Downey, Fairfax Davis. The Seventh's staghound; illus. by Paul Brown. Dodd, Mead, c1948. 230 p. \$2.50 s h s.

A stirring account of life in an army outpost in the late 1800's. The story enters around Trumpeter Peter Shannon's love for Sally Ann, the Army "brat" of Cavalry Mount. Contains a good characterization of General Custer and a vivid description of his "last stand" in the famous Battle of Little Big Horn. Readers of Downey's other books will recognize characters from Calvary Mount and Army Mule. Some objections may be raised to Eliza's dialect and to the use of the term "square heads" to describe Germans.

Ehrlich, Bettina. Cocolo; by Bettina pseud., Harper, c1945. 32 p. \$2.50 14" by 9 1/2". Gr. 2-5 (and for reading aloud to younger children)

Told chiefly in lively water-color and some black-and-white pictures which capture the beauty of the southern coast of Italy, this is a charming variation on an old theme. Cocolo, the donkey belonging to a poor fisherman's son, rises from rags to riches by saving Mr. Fatimus Greedy and his daughter Fussy from drowning. Naturally, Fussy wants Cocolo as a pet, and naturally her indulgent parent buys him. But Cocolo, in the lap of luxury, misses his old master just as much as Lucio misses him, and so one evening he leaves for home. After many adventures he finally arrives there. Fussy realizes that Cocolo knows best and compromises on a weekly visit to her friend. Harper has done an excellent job in reproducing the full-color drawings. We have only one slight quarrel with this book - Why did Bettina choose to name the delightful family "Greedy?" They do nothing to live up to such a horrid name! Book is of very large picture book format (14" by 9 1/2")

Farnam, Helen. Let's make a puppet! by Helen Farnam & Blanche Wheeler. Webb, c1947. 31 p. \$1.00 Gr. 4-7.

Extremely simple, clear directions for making a clown puppet. Basic principles of manipulation and some ideas for making other characters included. Useful for art classes and clubs. Somewhat insubstantial binding. Clear diagrams.

Farwell, Martha. The good-luck bell; illus. by Clara Lawton Smith. Rinehart, c1949. 209 p. \$2.25 Gr. 3-5 (D57; D114; D42; D59)

Rosita and Miguel are two Mexican-American children whose father has left home to try to find suitable work (either acting or painting). The story centers around the efforts of the two children to earn enough money to buy their mother a sweater for Christmas. Although there is nothing particularly new about the plot or the way it is handled, this is a pleasant story and could have some value for work in inter-cultural relations. An annoying aspect of the book - and one that is much too prevalent in modern books - is the unnecessary use of poor grammar. Slang and mistakes in grammar are perfectly justifiable when they add to the characterization and are consistent with the character being described. In this case, the visiting nurse uses expressions such as "Let's you and I go..." and "...whom, it belongs to." The incorrect usage in the first sentence and the awkwardness of the second indicate a person who is not too well educated but who is quite self-conscious about her grammar. Colloquialisms are permissible but should be used consistently or not at all to avoid confusing the reader.

Fenner, Phyllis Reid. With might and main; stories of skill and wit; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Knopf, c1948. 190 p. \$2.50.

17 stories from older and modern sources that emphasize the theme of a lesser hero defeating powerful opponents, surmounting the insurmountable, and meeting daring challenges, - and mostly through wits rather than by physical strength. Children love this theme and the collection is a welcome addition to Miss Fenner's growing shelf of anthologies.

Foster, Elizabeth. The house at Noddy Cove; illus. by Phyllis Cote. Houghton Mifflin, c1949. 167 p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-6. (B4)

When Cordalia is ten years old her parents decide she is old enough to spend the summer with her grandparents at Noddy Cove, Maine. The summer turns out to be an exciting one - with a picnic on an island, a corn feast, and a search for a missing deed to add spice to the adventure of being away from home. The writing is not outstanding. The character of Gladys seems over drawn and not really necessary. However there is a real flavor of life in a small Maine village in the late 19th century.

Garrett, Helen. Mr. Flip Flop; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Viking, c1948. 41 p. \$2.00 Gr. 2-4.

Mr. Flip Flop is a retired circus clown who loves children and fears bears and tax collectors. Then one day he gets caught between the bears and the tax collector, mixes them in with the children who play in his red barn gymnasium - and everyone is happy. An absurd story written in a plausible style that children will enjoy. Humorous illustrations.

Gruenberg, Sidonie Matsner, comp. More favorite stories old and new; illus. by Richard Floethe. Doubleday, c1948. 399 p. \$3.75 Gr. 3-7.

The first book in this series, "Favorite stories old and new", was a collection for younger children. This new collection for the next reading level combines the best of traditional literature and older writers with the work of many fine new authors. 70 stories are included and grouped under the following headings: Boys here and there; courage and adventure; folk tales (animals around the world); when America was younger; enchantment and wonder; humor and tall tales; horses and dogs; from myths and fables to legend and history. A wonderful collection for story hours and for those children who love to dart here and there in their reading by means of an anthology.

Henderson, Le Grand. Augustus and the desert; illus. by the author. Bobbs-Merrill, c1948. 158 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5.

The 12th Augustus book in which Pop, Ma and the whole family head for the desert in their car. With true sight-seer's curiosity they miss nothing of interest despite Ma's forebodings. The ensuing difficulty or excitement is always handled in masterly fashion by Augustus. Lots of fun here that Augustus fans will welcome, plus good family relations, although the querulous, doubtful Ma, the constant bickering of the children, and the slangy, ungrammatical conversations of the whole family obtrude sometimes, even though they are probably very true to life. Purchase if there are lots of Augustus devotees and you want to keep the series complete. Actually there is a lot about Arizona here in a "tourist's eye view" way.

Herzberg, Max J., comp. A treasure chest of sea stories. Messner, c1948. 349 p. \$3.00 j & s h s.

Short stories with a sea theme which give real scope for colorful descriptions and unique characterization. The editor has collected 20 stories, truly salty in flavor (and frequently of brimstone vocabulary) which would provide an interesting approach to the study of the short story and guarantee the attention of even the non-reader. Some of the tales are from older, well-known authors (London, Hugo, etc.) while others have been published as recently as 1946. Material is grouped as follows: Ocean chances, ships and sailors of old, danger and rescue, humors of sailors.

Hogeboom, Amy. Horses and how to draw them. Vanguard, c1948. 39 p. \$1.50 Gr. 5+ (D74).

In order to competently evaluate a title in the Hogeboom series, it is always necessary to take a 'p' slip and follow directions. I can only say that it always seems to work! The book has value not only for art but in identifying different breeds of horses for it covers 9 types. This is the fifth book in her series.

Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Barnyard family: pictures by Nils Hogner. Oxford, c1948. 70 p. \$2.75 Gr. 5-9.

In simple text and fine realistic pictures the Hogners have described the first months of each of the farm animals. Not so much a free reading book as an informational handbook, valuable in reference and the curriculum, although both city and rural children will enjoy browsing through it. Covers colts, calves, lambs, kids, pigs, puppies, kittens, and rabbits and is a companion volume to "Farm animals" (1945).

Hollos, Clara. The story of your bread; pictures by Laszlo Roth. International, c1948. 44 p. \$1.50 (A young world book) Gr. 3-5.

A good historical survey of the development of bread-making by the author of "The story of your coat" (International, 1946) Begins in the stone-age and comes up-to-date. Tells of how people discovered the grains, grasses and how they learned to use them, how they developed the tools to make their bread better. This seems to be an accurate and authentic informational book. The illustrations add much to the book.

Ivarson, Signe, illus. The everyday story book; a group of present-day stories. Rand McNally, c1948. 71 p. \$2.00 Pre-school.

This collection is of large picture book format, containing 7 stories about pre-school children and their experiences, - largely with their pets. The stories, which are of the read-aloud type, are pleasant but rather sweet (and certainly not unusual). The pictures are gay and colorful. The book has only home value with possibly some use in a nursery school. Bound in plastocene with singer sewing and very stiff, heavy paper. The Child Study Association's "Read-to-me story book" (Crowell, 1947) has a wider range of material and seems a better buy at the same price.

Jackson, Kathryn. Big farmer Big and little farmer Little; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; pictures by Feodor Rojankovsky. Simon and Schuster, c1948. 29 p., 57 p. \$1.00. K-gr. 2.

Another of this publisher's "flights into fancy" formats. This time there is a tall book (like the Tall Mother Goose) to tell about "Big farmer Big" and a little book in a pocket on the side that contains "Little farmer Little's story". Pretty much of a novelty that has little place in a library, although Farmer Big's adventures have real tall tale qualities guaranteed to tickle the funny bone of many children.

Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. New England bean-pot; American folk stories to read and to tell; illus. by Donald McKay; introduction by B. A. Botkin. Vanguard, c1948. 272 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-8.

The first volume in a series of regional folk tales for children. There is humor and a great vitality in these retellings of favorite legends from New England. An excellent collection for story-tellers and a good book for family reading-aloud.

Kiser, Martha Gwinn. Gay Melody; decorations by Jane Castle. Longmans, Green, c1949. 214 p. \$2.50 s h s.

Melody Merritt decided to teach school at a time when such behavior was decidedly not the thing for a young girl. Her struggles with the school board and the uncertainty of her tenure become minor problems when set against her love for teaching. Woven into the story are the customs and manners of life in Concord during the 1840's. The Alcotts, especially Louise May, and Henry Thoreau are very much a part of Melody's life. Girls will find much humor in the contrast between the etiquet of this period and modern times, and will enjoy the love affair between Melody and Phillip Walton.

Leaf, Munro. Boo, who used to be scared of the dark; illus. by Frances Tipton Hunter. Random house, c1948. 38 p. \$1.50.

Designed to instill a healthy and sensible attitude about the dark (and some other things) in the young child. The story of how Boo, with the aid of Alexander, his cat, conquered his fears has enough plot to hold the interest of a young child and perhaps the "security" theme will be absorbed with the fun of the story. The pictures are worthy of note. Their attention to detail, facial expressions and subtle humor will be remarkable even to adults. Some of them almost look like colored photography.

Lee, Tina. How to make dolls and doll houses; pictures by Manning Lee. Doubleday, c1948. 64 p. \$2.25 Gr. 5-7.

While the boys are making toys from Maginley's book, (see below), the girls will be making and dressing dolls from this book. Directions for a doll house and furnishings in "Toymaker's books" can be varied and supplemented by the unusual material included here. The things are easy to make and directions are simple and clear.

Leeming, Joseph. It's easy to make music; how to play all the popular instruments; by Joseph Leeming assisted by Avery Leeming; illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, c1948. 204 p. \$3.00 j & s h s.

This book tells how to learn to play, on one's own, a wide variety of muscial instruments. It gives a stimulating first chapter on how easy it is if you're interested; a chapter on music fundamentals; and finally a series of chapters, - each one supplying through a simple exposition, illustrations and musical samples, the rudiments of playing no less than 25 musical instruments (string, wind, percussien). The last section "This may not be music - but it's fun" tells of a variety of home made instrucments that would create a mild riot at a party. Book useful for pursuing hobbies and developing home ochestras. The list of titles that Joseph Leeming has produced in the "make and do" area at the front of this book is truly impressive!

Leeming, Joseph. Jobs that take you places. McKay, c1948. 240 p. \$3.00.

An interesting new group of vocations, - those that cater to a world outlook, an interest in other countries, travel and meeting new people and situations, - in short the "overseas job". Over 100 jobs (see p. 19-27) are described under such categories as selling abroad, jobs for girls, engineers, oil companies, tropics, educational and welfare work, scientists, health work, government jobs, aviation, merchant marine. The presentation is well garnished with actual examples of specific jobs and experiences, quotations from some authorities and suggested further readings. Good reading but also has reference value in this area.

Little Golden books; prepared under the supervision of Mary Reed. Simon and Schuster, c1948. 25¢ each:

Bannerman, Helen. Little Black Sambo. K-gr. 2

While we still consider the original edition with Bannerman illustrations preferable, this new edition, with complete text and amusing illustrations that make Little Sambo's Indian origin clear, is acceptable.

Brown, Margaret Wise. Five little firemen.

Somehow the author and illustrator have imued this tory of a really mansize fire with a light-heartedness that seems very incongrous. After the family is routed from the burning home, they are left to shiver on the lawn in their night clothes while the firemen go merrily on their way to celebrate. Beim's country fireman (Morrow, 1948) is preferable.

Chambers, Selma Sola. Word book.

See review in January 1949

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Disney, Walt. Bongo.

This enters children's literature via the movies and interest in it will wane when the movie is forgotten.

Disney, Walt. Snow White and the seven dwarfs.

This is definitely Walt Disney's movie and any similarity to Grimm is slight. We still prefer Grimm for reading and storytelling fare.

McGinley, Phyllis Louise. A name for kitty.

The plot of seeking help or advice from a succession of people is an old, old one but the author and illustrator have given it a delightfully humorous twist in this story.

Mother Goose. Pat-a-cake; a baby's Mother Goose 1-3 years. (Aurelius Battaglia, il.)

13 of the most common nursery rhymes are gaily illustrated in this inexpensive little book. Sturdy enough for handling by a "first reader", when more expensive editions must be shared with grown ups.

Palmer, Helen Marion. Tommy's wonderful rides.

Tommy volunteers to deliver a wire to the mayor and the ensuing, mad transfer from one conveyance to another has the mixed characteristics of "Around the world in 80 days" and a Marx Brother comedy. The humorous action seems too slap-stick and nonsensical.

Lowe, Edith. Where things come from; an explanation book; color photography by Zoltan Wegner and C. W. Newberry. Chanticleer, c1948. 29 p. \$1.00 (A Chanticleer junior book) Gr. 3-5.

This and the McClintoch book below are part of a new series of titles for younger children, featuring colored photography. They range from the factual (of which this is an example) to retellings of certain well-known children's classics. The text here is a brief and simple description of where the everyday things of life

come from (e.g., bread, milk, pie, butterflies, dishes, etc.). About 12 very miscellaneous items are included. Each one is accompanied by a large photograph depicting the origin and a smaller one showing the final product. The large pictures are fairly good but the smaller ones are often vague and almost unrecognizable. It is more a book to pore over than to use as reference.

Lowndes, Marion Smith. A manual for baby sitters. Little Brown, c1949. \$2.00.

Describes techniques of feeding and care, foreseeing emergencies; and encouraging the sitter's enjoyment of her work.

Maginley, C. J. Toymaker's book; diagrams by Elisabeth D. McKee. Harcourt, Brace, c1948. 152 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-9.

A second book by the author of "Historic models of early America" (Harcourt, 1947). Here is simple carpentry work, outlined in clear step-by-step fashion, that leads to trains, trucks, circus gadgets, mechanical toys, games and finally a doll's house with furniture. These are substantial toys and I should say that their construction needs adult guidance either of a father or shop teacher, - at least at first. Fathers will probably be eager to contribute such guidance.

McClintock, Marshall. Let's learn the flowers. Chanticleer, c1948. 28 p. \$1.00 (A Chanticleer junior book) Gr. 3-5.

Large picture book format (13" by 9"), 21 fine photographs showing the best known flowers (wild and cultivated) in realistic coloring and size, and a brief, simple descriptive text. Information sometimes includes the origin of the flower's common name and historical facts about cultivation. Center stitching of book seems weak and may need reinforcing.

McFarland, Wilma, ed. The Child Life book of adventure; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Nelson, c1948. 160 p.

15 stories selected from Child Life, 1936-1946. Practically all are by known children's authors with acceptable books to their credit. The term "Adventure" is broadly defined which gives real variety to the story themes. One use of such a collection is for reading aloud with the opportunity of stimulating the listener to pursue the author's work further in the library. A date can be made now for "Archie and the April fools" for April 1st reading. Brief biographical sketches of the authors are included in the back.

Mitchell, Lucy (Sprague). Here and now story book; two-through-seven-year-olds; illus. by Hendrick Willem Van Loon and Christine Price. New edition rev. and enlarged. Dutton, c1948. 256 p. \$2.50 (D34)

Few people will need an introduction to the "Here and now story book". This new edition follows the pattern of the 1921 one but there are 27 new stories for the various grade levels. The rest are the old favorites. An attempt has been made to include material for the 4, 5, 6, and 7 year olds that will give them real social awareness. The fine 72 page introduction is retained under the title "What language means to children."

Newcomb, Ellsworth. Window on the sea. Dutton, c1948. 192 p. \$2.50.

Sequel to Anchor for her heart. Joan goes with her father to San Diego where he is stationed at the Navy base. Joan's relations with the other young people are good, especially her relations with Bill Ambler and Dan Whitney. The conflict between Joan and 12 year old Judy is poorly handled since all the adjustment has to be made by Judy and there is very little understanding on the part of the adults. Writing is not outstanding and the book has little to recommend it for most collections.

Paullin, Ellen. No more tonsils! photographs by Roger Russell. Island Press, c1947. 36 p. \$1.50 Pre-school. (D40b)

The "biography" of a tonsillectomy written for the purpose of preparing the young child for a hospital experience. Useful in a child clinic, doctor's or parent's collection. Excellent photography.

Phelps, Margaret. Regular cowboy; with illus. by Evelyn Copelman. Macraw Smith, c1948. 224 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7. (D1)

This is a pleasant little tale of a newly-orphaned city boy's adjustment to life on a cattle ranch, and his final adoption by the owner of it. The characterization here seems better than in Once a cowboy and Mark wins his place by his own merit. Excitement is provided by a round-up and the capture of two rustlers, in which Mark plays a part perfectly possible for a bright lad of twelve. An honest presentation of cattle-raising is built into the background of the story. Cowboy terms are so used that they define themselves, thereby avoiding the dictionary effect. The boy who wants to be a cowboy (and what boy doesn't) will enjoy this tale.

Retan, Walter. Wanted: two bikes; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin books, c1948. 174 p. \$2.50 Gr. 4-6 (D92; D80)

Bill and Paul were two ten-year-olds whose one ambition was to own bicycles. Their father both decreed that the boys must save the money and buy their own machines. This is the story of their summer's activities - full of fun and excitement - but always centered around the attempts to earn money. Unfortunately the writing is very uneven - the conversations, especially, are often stilted, and the author intrudes too much into the story with side remarks about the characters and bits of unnecessary explanation.

Rose, Ada Campbell, ed. Jack and Jill story book; stories and other features from Jack and Jill. Winston, c1948. 310 p. \$2.50.

A miscellany chosen from the first ten years of the children's magazine. (It is interesting to compare the current anthologies from St. Nicholas, Child Life and this one.) There are stories, poems, games, puzzles and things to do, grouped under: fairies, animals, folklore, boys and girls, famous people, other lands, long ago, just for fun and make believe. As is to be expected, the material varies in effectiveness. The potential uses of such anthologies needs consideration. Certain children seem to enjoy a miscellany for reading fare; the stories can be used for short read-aloud periods; as has been indicated above, they may serve to lead children to books by the same author (some of the names do represent books); a few of the stories will fit certain occasions or can be used with a unit; and then there are always the devotees of the magazine who enjoy the reexploration. Examine the book and if it fits any of these needs for you, it will be worth buying.

Rayan, Elizabeth. Higgledy-piggledy room; pictures by Kurt Werth. Shady Hill, c1948. 24 p. \$1.25 (D139)

Two children who are told to pick up their toys perform this unpleasant task by making a series of games of it. A satisfactory story that can be suggestive of good behavior for children in all respects except in Nicky's and Katie's response to their mother when she asks them to please tidy their room. Nice pictures.

Scott, Sally. Sue Ann's busy day; illus. by Madye Lee Chastain. Harcourt, Brace, c1948. 51 p. \$1.75 Gr. 2-4 (D20; D49; D135)

Obviously written down to child level, this book is printed in large clear type - illustrated by many black and white drawings. The situations in the story seem contrived to point up the virtues of good honest toil for overcoming discontentment. Sue Ann faces a bleak summer without her best friend and learns in the course

of one day how much fun work can be. It sometimes seems that the discontent prevailing and the rather fault-finding adults tend to get in the way of the story. Not an essential purchase and yet we do need more material that the beginner can read for himself.

Seeger, Elizabeth. The five brothers; the story of the Mahabharata; adapted from the English translation of Kisari Mohan Ganguli by Elizabeth Seeger; illus. by Cyrus LeRoy Baldrige. Day, c1948. 300 p. \$3.75 (An Asia book)

This new version of the great Indian epic was evaluated by a student from India. She recommends the book for both adults and children for she feels that the author has beautifully retained the spirit of the original epic. These are stories that the child in India first hears orally and then turns to eagerly when he has mastered reading. A reading of the book will contribute little understanding of modern India but will share with the American child some of the traditional hero lore and fantasy that are a part of the Indian child's heritage.

There is, however, the question of whether the strange symbolism of these tales and the foreign culture pattern that they reflect may not deter the American child from reading the book. This is a hurdle that did not confront our student reviewer. Our feeling is that here is a valuable and beautiful book, - but principally for students in Children's literature and for the story-teller. However, this should not prevent us from making it available to those children who can penetrate its strangeness to discover the beauty and romance of the stories.

Sen, Gertrude Emerson. The pageant of India's history; illus. by Edith Emerson. Longmans, Green, c1948. 431 p. \$4.50. j & s h s

Since this is volume one of a two-volume history, it will be necessary to wait for the second volume before making a complete evaluation. This book was read by a University of Chicago student from India who has majored in Indian history. She rated it high in accuracy and readability but stressed the fact that it is an ancient history of India and must be fitted together with the subsequent panorama that includes the great Mughal period (ten century A.D. to 1707) and India today. Otherwise the young reader's concept of India will not be a true and complete one.

Shapiro, Irwin. Joe Magarac and his U.S.A. citizen papers; pictures by James Daugherty. Messner, c1948. 64 p. \$2.00 (Gr. 5-7. (D28)

Last year's winner of the Julia Ellsworth Ford award. It is told in a gusty, colloquial style that is supposed to typify the Slovak-American steel worker spinning a yarn. Daugherty's art is, as usual, well suited to this type of literature. Another tall tale to add to our growing collection of American folk-lore.

Singmaster, Elsie. I heard of a river; the story of the Germans in Pennsylvania; illus. by Henry C. Fitz; edited by Erick Berry. Winston, c1948. 209 p. \$2.50 s h s (Land of the free series) (D25)

This second book in the "Land of the free" series tells of the settling of what is now Lancaster County Penn. by the German-Swiss Mennonites. The story moves easily and, although the individual characters lack depth, the nature of these people who pioneered in Penn. is well drawn. The attempt to give uniformity to the series has resulted in a binding that unfortunately looks very "textbookish".

Smither, Ethel L. Our church for the worship of God; pictures by Kay Draper. Abingdon-Cokesbury, c1948. 23 p. K-gr. 2.

One of three books on this list that attempt to bring church and religion very close to child life. It is moderately successful for the simple little pictures tell their story well. The verse, which has a "house that Jack built" lilt to it, seems forced. For use in Church nursery classes.

Tatham, Campbell. The first book of trains; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, c1948. 40 p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5.

While there is much good information in this book, it seems too crowded with detail, technical terms and difficult words, and covers too much territory for the age to which it is addressed (jacket says "up to 8 years"). Many types of trains and operational phases are described as well as the duties of 22 people. At the same time its conversational style and awkward presentation of material is childish and will prevent its use by a maturer person with reading difficulty. It is thoroughly modern in content but Elting's Trains at work (Garden City, 1947 Gr. 3-5) seems preferable because there the material is presented in brief chapters, which helps to clarify the information and simplify the reading.

Trent, Robbie. To church we go; illus. by Joan Walsh Anglud. Wilcox & Follett, c1948. 24 p. \$1.25 K-gr. 2.

The idea behind this picture book of integrating religion and the church with child life is good. The page of churches at the beginning helps because it exemplifies the architecture typical of various religious groups. However, there are some weaknesses in the text and pictures. The "story" lacks continuity and tends to associate rather insignificant things with religious concepts (e.g., putting on clean clothes on Sunday). It also seems to make Sunday and religion too special and separate from our everyday life. The pictures also lack continuity for they hop back and forth in a strange way. After all the family started to church on the first page and returns on the last, so that what happens in between is puzzling!

Tresselt, Alvin. Johnny Maple-Leaf; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, c1948. 28 p. \$2.00. K-gr. 2.

A very slightly story interpreting the seasons by means of the life cycle of a maple leaf. Similar in theme and purpose to Tresselt's other books. Duvoisin's pictures are lovely but not up to "White snow..." Not a must purchase at the price.

True, Louise. Number men; pictures by Lillian Ownes. Childrens, c1948. 24 p. \$1.00.

An arithmetic specialist comments as follows: An attractive book, based on a clever idea. Interesting to average children of about 7 years of age to look at and to hear read by adults. Vocabulary and type of verse make for difficult independent reading. The groupings for the numbers are good and conform to those usually taught. The use of the figure six on the first text page, however, is not good and could have been avoided. The artist should have used a less exact, more crayon-like, and more easily copied style of figures. The child will get a distorted visual idea of some of the figures because of the brown rules above and below them. (Note especially the figure 1) These lines should have been much fainter or omitted. In spite of the above criticisms, the book has real merit for 7-year-olds and can do no harm to them educationally.

Withers, Carl, comp. A rocket in my pocket; the rhymes and chants of young Americans; illus. by Susanne Suba. Holt, c1948. 214 p. \$3.50 All ages.

Over 400 jingles, chants, tall tales, riddles, tongue twisters, banter and other verbal nonsense. These shymes and chants of young Americans are real Americans folk lore. Young people will enjoy examining and reciting the rhymes, laughing at the nonsense and checking their own background in this field. However, the book has real value too for the scholar - the folk lorist, psychologist, sociologist and educator. The place of these rhymes in American culture patterns is interestingly discussed in a brief chapter at the end. Although much material of this type contains expressions and statements offensive to certain groups, this collection is singularly free from any such allusions.

Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials

American Jewish Committee. Division of Youth Services. About 100 books.... a bibliography to promote human understanding among young readers. Author, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York 16. Free.

From 5-8; 9-11; 12-15; 16-18 years. Art work by 6-year-old child. A good list but some fine new titles are missing.

A.L.A. Committee on Post-War planning and Young People's Reading Round Table. The public library plans for the teen-age. A.L.A., 1948. \$1.75.
New standards for youth libraries.

Beust, Nora E. Books to help build international understanding; tentative list selected for children and young people with special reference to the United Nation. Washington, Office of Education. October, 1948.

Illinois State Library. Springfield, Ill. Books for retarded readers, 1948 supplement. (Reprinted from Illinois Libraries June, 1948)
Gives reading difficulty and interest level.

Clearing house for Research in Child Life. Children's Bureau, Federal Security Agency. Washington 25, D.C. Clara E. Councill, director.
Now being formed to collect from and distribute to research workers information about on-going investigations that directly affect children and mothers. See The Child, October, 1948. p. 61-2.

Connecticut State Department of Education. Bureau of Libraries. School libraries; criteria for service, personnel, rooms, budget and book selection, by Rheta A. Clark, school library adviser. Hartford, Author. June, 1948.

Future Homemakers of America. For baby sitters and their employers; prepared by Kensington High School chapter of the Future Homemakers of America and Division of Home Economics. School District of Philadelphia. June, 1948. 4 p. (mimeographed)

Havighurst, Robert J. Developmental tasks and education. University of Chicago press, 1948. 86 p. \$1.00.

Gives the history of the concept of developmental books and their relation to life and learning. tasks for each age level are discussed, giving where necessary the biological, psychological and cultural bases and the educational implications.

Henne, Frances; Brooks, Alice, and Ersted, Ruth, eds. Youth, communication and libraries; papers presented before the Library Institute at the University of Chicago, August 11-16, 1947. Chicago A.L.A., 1949. 233 p. \$3.75.

Illinois State Library. Recordings for children, January 15, 1947 - May 1, 1948. Springfield, Author. 1948. 7 p. (mimeographed)

Jennings, Helen Hall. Sociometry in group relations; a work guide for teachers. Washington; American Council on Education, 1948. (Intergroup education in cooperating schools, work in progress series) \$1.25.

Johnson, B. Lamar and Lindstrom, Eloise, ed. The librarian and the teacher in general education. A report of library-instructional activities at Stephens College. Chicago A.L.A., 1948. 69 p.

Joint Committee of the NEA & ALA. Children's books, selected for the committee by the staff of the Children's Department of the Indianapolis Public Library. 1948.

Attractive list. Single copies available from ALA or NEA. Quantity purchase from Sturgis Printing Company, Sturgis, Michigan. 500 for \$12; 1,000 for \$20; 2,000 for \$37.50; 3,000 for \$54; 5,000 for \$90, including library imprint.

Jones, Alma I. and Coleman, Margaret B. The parallels; an annotated reading list. Patchogue, New York. The authors, 1948.

A reading list selected on the basis of literary worth and social significance and designed to be used both for English and the social studies.

National Association of State Directors of Elementary Education. Planning for America's children. Committee 6: desirable school housing, equipment and instructional supplies, 1948. Prepared in cooperation with the Office of Education. Elementary division.

Summary of data collected from questionnaire concerning indications of needs in school plants and supplies from representative groups working with and planning school facilities.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Committee of first and second grade librarians. Readable books for first and second grades; rev. Author. April, 1948. 7 p.

Pays particular attention to books beginning readers can read for themselves. Printed by the Library Division, Sturgis Printing Company, Sturgis, Michigan - price the same as for the Joint Committee's list above.

From time to time we have included in the bibliographic citation the developmental values that seem appropriate for a book. Beginning with the February issue we shall include values regularly, using a code number for each. A complete list of developmental values with their code numbers will accompany the March issue. Keep this list and refer to it each month as you peruse the Bulletin. Extra copies of the code will be available at 10 cents each.

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