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VOL. II

No. 11

Agnew, Edith J. Sandy and Mr. Jalopy; il. by Elayne Carol. Friendship, 1949. 127p. \$1.75.

Sandy is a young boy whose parents are migrant workers following the bean crops along the east coast. The story is intended for a younger age group than that reached by Judy's Journey (Lippincott, 1947). In attempting to write for young readers, the author has simplified to the point that the picture given is not always accurate or complete. The emphasis on religion and the work of particular religious groups will probably limit the book to use by Protestants. Illustrations are too pretty to suit descriptions in text. Chiefly of value for church school collections.

Andersen, Hans Christian. The emperor's new clothes; il. by Virginia Lee Burton. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 43p. \$2.00. Gr. 4-7.

Delightful illustrations with a wealth of color and detail that children will enjoy. An ideal gift book as well as a welcome addition to a library collection.

Archibald, Joe. Touchdown glory. Westminster, 1949. 192p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D57;D113;D134)

What happens to a small college when the coach and a wealthy alumnus get "touchdown fever" to the extent of hiring professional players for the team. Ky Butler, a legitimate player, manages to bring an end to the practice and to make the rest of the team see the value of true sportsmanship. The story has some excellent points. The descriptions of games are exciting and realistic. Ky has a difficult struggle with his own conscience before he turns his back on the easy money of paid football. The characters of the coach and the wealthy alumnus are not too convincing but most of the other characters are well-drawn.

Atwater, Montgomery Meigs. Snoke patrol. Random house, 1949. 214p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D22)

Boys who enjoyed Hank Winton, Snokechaser will be pleased with this new story of Hank's experiences with a parachute fire-fighting crew. There is action and suspense along with accurate details of all that goes into the training of men for this type of work. May be used for vocational guidance although its chief appeal will be in the elements of danger and adventure.

Baker, Nina (Brown). Ten American cities, then and now; il. by Josephine Haskell. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 225p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Brief sketches about ten important American cities. Each sketch includes a dramatic episode from the history of the city and a description of the most important aspects of the city today. Each sketch follows the same pattern with the result that the book becomes monotonous when read straight through. Mediocre illustrations. Of value primarily for reference collections.

Behn, Harry. The little hill; poems and pictures by Harry Behn. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 58p. \$2.00. Gr. 1-4. (D52)

Poems about nature and childhood that children will like and adults will not mind reading over and over to them. Quaint illustrations add to the charm of the poems. Especially suitable for a child's home library.

Beim, Jerrold. The smallest boy in the class; il. by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1949. 44p. \$2.00. 4-8 yrs. (D107;D127)

As compensation for the teasing he received as the smallest boy in the class, Jim (Tiny to his classmates) became the noisiest boy in class. One day, however, Jim and his class discovered that size does not really matter - that bigness of heart is more important than inches of height. Humor in text and illustrations succeed in putting over the point of the story without undue moralizing.

Besterman, Catherine. The extraordinary education of Johnny Longfoot in his search for the magic hat; with il. by Warren Chappell. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 148p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

In this sequel to The quaint and curious quest of Johnny Longfoot, the son of the Shoe King sets out to acquire knowledge and to help the baby spider, Phoebe. The same zest and humor characterize this account of Johnny's adventures. Here is high adventure in the best folk tale vein without the tongue-in-cheek effect that mars so many of the modern fanciful tales.

Bianco, Pamela. Joy and the Christmas angel. Oxford, 1949. 40p. \$1.75. K-gr.2.

A new approach to Christmas and Christmas books. This is the story of a little girl's farewell party for the Christmas angel (the one at the top of the tree) and of the angel's gifts in return. The idea is one parents may want to use to help children when the time comes to pack away Christmas decorations. Illustrated with highly stylized drawings that are typical of Bianco's work. A suitable book for Christmas giving.

Bird, Dorothy Maywood. The black opal. Macmillan, 1949. 202p. \$2.50.

Laurel Stanwood's first year in a small college in Southern Michigan becomes quite complicated when she sets out to solve a murder mystery that began a hundred years ago. The mystery solving is too highly contrived and too dependent on coincidence to be acceptable. However, the picture of college life is rather good. Characters, especially the men, are not realistic.

Bonner, Mary Graham. The mysterious caboose; il. by Bob Meyers. Knopf, 1949. 176p. \$2.00.

A mediocre mystery involving two young boys, a trip by freight train across part of Canada, and an exceedingly clumsy restaurant robber. The action is

forced, conversations are unnatural, and characters lack reality.

Book-elf Books. Rand McNally. 25¢.

Lewis, Frank. Kerry, the fire-engine dog; by Frank Lewis and Alfred J. Corchia; il. by Dorothy Grider. 32p.

The glamor of life in a fire station plus the sure appeal of a dog story make this a book young readers will enjoy. Board bindings are too insubstantial for library use, but the book is one that can be recommended for home purchase. Colorful illustrations.

Parrish, Jean J. Forest babies; il. by Elizabeth Webbe. 32p.

Brief stories about various animal babies. An overdose of sentimentality in text and illustrations robs the book of any real value.

Weir, Ruth Cromer. The wonderful plane ride; il. by Fiore and Jackie Matri. 32p.

A pleasant little story about two children's plane trip from California to New York. Not outstanding, but it will satisfy a need for realistic stories about planes and plane rides.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. The secret valley; il. by Grace Paull. Crowell, 1949. 160p. \$2.25. Gr. 3-5. (D134)

A simply written story of a pioneer family's trek to California during the days of the gold rush. The story is told from the point of view of eight-year-old Ellen, with the result that the hardships of the trip and of life in camp are minimized and such every-day problems as whether or not to take the pet cat become important. In the end the family find all the things they wanted in the secret valley - where there is no gold except the golden California poppies. The title may be misleading for readers who expect a mystery story.

Christensen, Haaken. Little Bruin; story and pictures by Haaken Christensen; trans. from the Norwegian by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 20p. \$1.00.

Story of a family of bears who start the winter's hibernation in their den, wake up too soon, and then move into a hunter's cabin. The change from natural bears to personified ones is confusing for the young child. The story is completely lacking in the elements of suspense and humor that appeal to young readers. Illustrations add nothing to text.

Clark, Electa. The Pennywinks; il. by Albert Orbaan. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 180p. \$2.00.

Katie Kelly, an orphan, is taken in by the Pennywinks (Mother, Father and ten boys) by mistake. At first she is overwhelmed by the confusion of life in such a large household, but she soon makes a place for herself. The author had a good idea, but it unfortunately does not succeed. The story is too episodic - it moves forward with a motion similar to that of a Model-T - and leaves the reader just about as shaken. The members of the family are caricatures rather than real people.

Clymer, Eleanor Lowenton. The latch key club; il. by Corinne Dillon. McKay, 1949. 282p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D4;D32;45;61)

One of the most serious problems of modern city life is that of "latch key" children - the theme of of this book. The author has managed to present the problem and one neighborhood's solution in a story that is fun to read and should be popular with intermediates for the story appeal alone. A useful book for classes working on intergroup relations - combining as it does, good writing and good ideas.

Credle, Ellis. The adventures of Tittleton. Oxford, 1949. 79p. \$1.75.

Tittleton is a five-year-old living in the South many years ago. His adventures are pretty much those of any normal five-year-old. These are, however, stories that are more likely to be enjoyed by parents or by adults who look nostalgically to their own youth than by modern children. They are written on a level for 3rd or 4th graders, but youngsters this age will not read them because the main character is too young.

Dalglish, Alice. The Davenports and Cherry Pie; il. by Flavia Gág. Scribner's, 1949. 196p. \$2.50. Gr. 4-6. (D37)

Sequel to The Davenports are at dinner. The trials of the Davenports, who are still living in a barn, are intensified when they acquire a French poodle. The same criticisms that have been made of the first book apply to this one - it is thinly plotted, the characters are not consistently realistic, and many of the situations are wholly improbable. There is value in the character development of Lyn and in the whole problem of a large family trying to live in a small space.

De Angeli, Marguerite (Loffts). The door in the wall. Doubleday, 1949. 111p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D48c)

A story of Robin, crippled son of a lord of 13th century England. Robin's problems may seem very real to modern children who have either suffered from polio or whose friends have been affected, and his solution is one that is always true. Mrs. De Angeli's excellent illustrations add to the interest of the story.

De Leeuw, Adele Louise. Curtain call. Macmillan, 1949. 213p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D37;D86)

The summer after Vicky Thomas graduated from high school she began making the rounds of theatrical agencies trying to get a role. Her hopes are completely crushed when she is repeatedly turned down because of her small size and lack of experience. Then when she does get a chance to join a summer theater group her mother is called out of town by illness in her family and Vicky is left to keep house for her father and young brother. A chance to direct a church group opens the possibilities of directing instead of acting and by the end of the summer Vicky is well on her way to being the director of a little theater group in her home town. This is not as well written as some of De Leeuw's earlier books. The writing is uneven, some of the characters (Aline Lovett, for example) seem overdrawn, and the almost phenomenal success of the group (only one failure and the rest huge successes) is unreal. The chief values of the book lie in Vicky's adjustment to the hardships of her size and in the picture of family relations.

Dietz, Lew. Jeff White: young woodsman; line drawings by Bruce Adams. Little, Brown, 1949. 214p. \$2.50.

Jeff White has grown up in New York City, but when he returns to the Maine woods where his father was a game warden, he takes to the new life as if he had lived there always. The story of Jeff's part in

bringing to justice the man who killed his father is exciting, but the author spoils the effectiveness by breaking in with a moralizing digression just when the action gets in full swing. The characters are not consistent and the action not too plausible.

Disney, Walt. Bambi; based on the original story by Felix Salten. Simon and Schuster, 1949. 26p. \$1.00. (Fuzzy golden book)

The Disney version of Bambi with the tactile "fur" that is supposed to appeal to the child's sense of touch and add to his store of experiences. Since the "fur" on all the animals in this series is just alike and none of it feels like real fur it is doubtful if the book actually contributes anything worthwhile. The story is a watered-down, babyish version of the original that resembles Salten's book in name only. Not recommended for library or home use.

DuJardin, Rosamond. Practically seventeen. Lippincott, 1949. 213p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-12. (D37;D47;D23)

A light novel, told in the heroine's own words, of the growing-up processes of a young girl who is "practically seventeen." The style is similar to that of the Lorimers, light and humorous, with no problems more serious than clothes and dates. Girls with older and younger sisters will appreciate Tobey's problems and sympathize with her growing pains.

Elam, Elizabeth. Chuffer; pictures by Don Langford. Winston, 1949. 45p. \$1.25.

Chuffer is a little train who runs around with both his eyes closed until he has a head-on collision with a big engine. Poorly written story that tries to teach a lesson. Stories of personified machines are seldom successful and this one is no exception. Boards.

Eyre, Katherine Wigmore. Another spring; the story of Lady Jane Grey; pictures by Stephani and Edward Godwin. Oxford, 1949. 207p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Here are two love stories woven into one - the tragic story of Lady Jane Grey and Guilford and the happy story of Meg and Taffy, two servants in Lady Jane's household. The author has managed to give a very realistic picture of Tudor England and of Lady Jane Grey without overdrawing either the cruelty of the period or the tragedy of Lady Jane's death. Although primarily a love story, the background is so authentic that it may be used for supplementary reading in history classes.

Falcon books. World. 50¢.

Lyttleton, Kay. Jean Craig, nurse. 216p.

The fourth story in the Jean Craig series. Although these are typically series books they do have some values not usually found in such series. The quality of writing is about average. Characters are rather well drawn and most of the situations are realistic. Format makes these unsuitable for library use but they are not too objectionable for home purchase.

Tunis, John Roberts. Champion's choice. 215p

Réprint of one of Tunis' less successful titles.

Wyckoff, Capwell. The Mercer boys with the Coast Guard. 215p.

Another adventure of the Mercer boys in which they help out at a Coast Guard station and help solve a mystery. These are poorly written, series type stories that have no value for libraries of any kind.

Yarnell, Duane. Through forest and stream; adventure in the mountains. World, 1949. 215p.

The scene is laid in a boys' camp in the Rocky Mountains. The purpose of the camp is to develop real American boys. This is done through a series of competitions that end with the awarding of a gold star to the winning boy and a large check to his school. The boy who wins does so by breaking all the rules that the losers carefully followed. Poorly written and with questionable values and ethics.

Floherly, John Joseph. Shooting the news; careers of the camera men. Lippincott, 1949. 150p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D86)

The author has covered all phases of work done by news cameramen, with many details about the hazards of such work, the training and ability needed to do the work successfully, and some case histories of outstanding examples of news photography. The writing is very uneven and there is much needless repetition of unimportant facts and advice. For a book on news photography the illustrations seem ill chosen, poorly placed, and not too well reproduced. The book has some value for guidance work, but little for general library use.

Foster, Genevieve (Stump). George Washington; an initial biography. Scribner's, 1949. 93p. \$2.00. Gr. 4-6.

The same high quality of writing and accuracy of detail that characterized George Washington's world have gone into this more simplified biography of Washington. There is great need for more biographies of this kind - mature in treatment, interestingly written, and yet easy enough for fourth or fifth grade readers. The illustrations add a nice touch of humor.

Friendlich, Dick. Pivot man. Westminster, 1949. 192p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Vard Ransom started his career at Castlemont College with a chip on his shoulder and a disinclination to do much about adjusting to the new school. A feud with the star player of the basketball team did not improve matters. This story of college basketball has all the traditional elements - the hero, who is new to the school and has to win a place for himself; the "villian" who wants to be the center of attention and resents the ability of the new player; martyrdom for the hero when he is falsely accused of breaking campus rules; and, finally, the pretty girl who helps solve the whole problem. These are trite characterizations and situations, however, the author has managed to handle them in a manner that makes for good reading. Particularly realistic are the problems Vard has in adjusting to the new school situation and making new friends.

Frost, Frances Mary. The little whistler; il. by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey, 1949. 48p. Gr. 1-5. \$2.00.

Each of the four seasons is represented by poems that have a great deal of charm and a real child-like quality. Excellent illustrations. This will make a welcome addition to any library's poetry collection and is also an attractive gift book.

Gleit, Maria (pseud.). Paul Tiber, forester; il. by Ralph Ray. Scribner's, 1949. 209p. \$2.50. (D21;D92)

Paul Tiber is in real life Stanley Mesavage, a member of the U. S. Forest Service who actually did reclaim a small coal mining town. The story of his struggle to interest the company and the community in reclaiming cutover forest land and beautifying the town has value vocationally and for conservation units. Unfortunately the story moves slowly and is over-burdened with sentimentality. Not a book that will be widely read, but it does have value for classroom use.

Grahame, Kenneth. Bertie's escapade; il. by Ernest H. Shepard. Lippincott, 1949. 41p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-5.

Originally appearing in First whispers of wind in the willows, this is the first time this story has appeared as a separate. The humor of Bertie's Christmas caroling episode makes a nice contrast to the beauty and depth of feeling of "Dulce Domum." Delightful illustrations by Shepard.

Greenberg, Evelyn Levow. The little tractor who traveled to Israel; pictures by Israel Levy. Behrman house, 1949. 36p. \$1.00.

This is a story with a Purpose - the introduction of young children to modern Israel. The personification of the tractor weakens the story and obscures the purpose, with the result that it is neither very good fantasy nor very accurate fact. Straight forward factual presentation would be more useful and more interesting reading.

Harris, Isobel. Little Boy Brown; il. by André Francois. Lippincott, 1949. 44p. \$1.75. K-gr.2

Little Boy Brown lives in a large apartment hotel in a large city. He enjoys riding up and down in the elevator and going to the park, but the nicest day in his life is the day the maid, Hilda, takes him to visit her folks in the country. There he has the fun of exploring a real house, of going up and down stairs, and of enjoying a large family group. The author has managed to express in the story just how a city child would react to a new experience of this kind and to put it in terms that will be understood and enjoyed by young children. In using the book with children it has been observed that they tend to react favorably to the story and ignore the illustrations. These are an adult's interpretation of children's art and are not child-like, being much too detailed and sophisticated for a child to have drawn. Adults will be the most appreciative audience for the illustrations, and may, by their favorable reactions, be able to further the child's enjoyment of the book.

Havighurst, Walter. Song of the pines; a story of Norwegian lumbering in Wisconsin; il. by Richard Floethe; by Walter and Marion Havighurst. Winston, 1949. 216p. \$2.50. (Land of the free series). (D61) Gr. 5-8.

Like the other titles in this series, this one shows the results of detailed and careful research. It suffers, however, from a thin plot, poor characterizations, and a sense of having been written to order. May have some value for classes studying contributions of various national groups, but will have little appeal for pleasure reading.

Henry, Ralph, ed. My American heritage; collected by Ralph Henry and Lucile Pannell; with an introd. by Marguerite Henry; il. by John Dukes McKee. Rand McNally, 1949. 318p. \$3.00. Gr. 3 up.

Anyone who is looking for a family gift for Christmas will do well to consider this. It is a collection that will be enjoyed by children and adults alike - each one picking out his own favorites. The illustrations by McKee are almost as much fun as the selections themselves. An excellent index makes the book useful for reference use. Since many of the selections are well known but difficult to find it is a book that should have a place in every library collection.

Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Vic, a dog of the prairies. Morrow, 1949. 192p. \$2.00.

A typical dog story - half-wild dog finally trained by boy after being captured several times by unscrupulous or misguided persons and wrongly accused of various crimes. The writing is mediocre; characters lack reality. The author ends the story on a note that will probably bring down the wrath of all horse fans on his head. The men come in from a hard night's riding, turn their horses into the barn, and leave them there all night - still saddled and without being fed or watered. This is an evidence of careless writing that is inexcusable in an author who specializes in animal stories.

Hogner, Dorothy Childs. Daisy; a farm fable; pictures by Nils Hogner. Oxford, 1949. 46p. \$1.50. K-gr. 2. (D107)

Daisy had great difficulty accepting the fact that she was not the light and airy pony she imagined herself to be, until one day she won the blue ribbon for pulling the heaviest load at the county fair. A nonsense story that young children will enjoy.

Holt, Stephen. The phantom roan; il. by Pers Crowell. Longmans, Green, 1949. 244p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D57)

Glenn Barnes found himself in a strange and uncomfortable position when his desire to become a veterinarian conflicted with his desire to tame and cure a badly injured outlaw horse. Both problems are resolved satisfactorily with enough suspense to meet the demands of most readers. Not an outstanding story but acceptable to fill the requests for more horse stories.

Jarratt, Elizabeth A. Smart Mr. Tim. pictures by Nell Stolp Smock. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 24p. K-gr. 2. \$1.00.

Mr. Tim is a cocker spaniel who is afraid of nothing - except baths. Humorous illustrations add spice to the simple little story that will have appeal for most young readers. Not an outstanding picture book, however, and one that should be purchased sparingly, for its appeal will be shortlived. Boards.

Knight, Clayton. Skyroad to mystery; written and il. by Clayton Knight. Knopf, 1949. 243p. \$2.50.

Another story of the globe-trotting Gregory family. The style is more melodramatic than the previous books, and the author has brought in everything from forced landings in Alaska to F.B.I. and spy ring troubles. It all ends in South America with a blaze of gun fire that would rival some of Hollywood's best efforts. The use of Communists as the antagonists and the attitude that war with Russia is inevitable are negative approaches that make the book harmful in addition to being just average in quality of writing.

Larom, Henry V. Mountain pony and the rodeo mystery; il. by Ross Santee. Whittlesey, 1949. 228p. \$2.50

Readers who have followed the adventures of Andy Marvin on his Uncle's ranch will enjoy this new story. It is, however, much more poorly written than the first two. The plot is melodramatic and the characters - even Andy and Sally - lack reality. There are other, much better, ranch stories this fall and this one should not be added to a collection simply on the basis of the popularity of the two previous books.

Lawrence, Isabelle. Two for the show; a story of Shakespeare's England. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 288p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9.

Thirteen-year-old Nat Horne was much more intent on becoming an actor than following the usual ambition of Plymouth boys - to sail with Drake or Raleigh. It was Raleigh, however, who was responsible for the final fulfillment of Nat's dream. This is a fast-paced story of Elizabethan England. It manages to give a picture of life from the court to the slums and at the same time be filled with action and suspense. Readers with a taste for historical fiction will find it a wholly satisfying book.

Lawrence, Mildred. Sand in her shoes; il. by Madye Lee Chastain. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 211p. \$2.25. Gr. 4-6.

Eleven-year-old Dorrit Brooks was sure she would never like Florida as well as she had the north. It took a mystery and a hurricane to change her mind - but in the end she definitely had "sand in her shoes." Good pictures of newspaper publishing in a small Florida town to add interest to the story.

Lawson, Robert. The fabulous flight; il. by the author. Little, Brown, 1949. 152p. \$2.50.

As an adult satire on national customs and international intrigue, this is an amusingly entertaining book. As a children's book, it is without merit. The satire is too subtle for young readers and the humor that is not satire is little more than slap-stick. What the children will get - and enjoy - is a story that is no better than the comic books they are reading so avidly; but this one will have the approval of most adults. It is unfortunate that Mr. Lawson, who is so able an illustrator, has turned his attention to writing of this type, and still more unfortunate that adults have accepted it for children.

Litten, Frederic Nelson. Treasure bayou. Westminster, 1949. 224p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-10. (D134;D57)

Cris Lane wants to get away from the Louisiana marsh and see something of life as it is lived on the Outside. His chance comes when oil is discovered in the Bayou - but then he sees also the troubles that sudden wealth can bring. The story is well told, but this is a book that should be used with care. There is the conflict between the Capitalist and the cooperative - with all the good men on the side of the Co-op and all the bad on the side of the Capitalist. There is also the mother's insistence that the ignorance and superstition of the Bayou life are better than anything the Outside has to offer. Her withdrawal into the simplicity of Bayou life and refusal to

herself face or let her son face the problems of a more complex life are not healthy attitudes. This is not a book to be recommended for general purpose, though it does have value for social studies and intergroup classes.

Little Golden Books. Simon and Schuster, 1949. 25¢.  
Eng, Rita. When you were a baby; pictures by Corinne Malvern. 40p.

Pre-school children like stories about themselves when they were still babies and this book might help some parents who are not adept at telling such stories. The too sweet tone will be annoying to most adults, particularly if they have to read it aloud many times. The book might be used in the home to help a very young child adjust to a new baby.

Malvern, Corinne. How big? story and pictures by Corinne Malvern. 26p.

An attempt to give children an awareness of relative differences in size by showing some things that are much smaller than the child and some that are much larger. The last line "You'll be bigger tomorrow than you are today" may cause parents some trouble when they have to explain to the child how very slight that difference is. A better book than Schneider's How big is big (Scott, 1941) for the very young child as it uses familiar items that are well within the experience range of the child.

Palmer, Helen Marion. Bobby and his airplanes; pictures by Tibor Gergely. 41p.

An attempt to show various kinds of airplanes through the adventures of a small boy and his grandfather. The situations are so fantastic that the book loses any value it might have as factual materials. The writing is of the comic book quality.

Long, Laura. Oliver Hazard Perry, boy of the sea; il. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 192p. \$1.75. Gr. 4-6. (Childhood of famous Americans series)

Following the usual pattern for this series the story deals primarily with the childhood of Perry and somewhat sketchily with his war experiences and later life. The writing is mediocre and the book has little value beyond the fact that it is the only available biography of Perry for this age level.

Lowndes, Marion. A manual for baby sitters; with a foreword by Gladys Romanoff. Little, Brown, 1949. 168p. \$2.00. j&shs.

Parents and baby sitters will find much useful information in this manual. It covers the problems that may arise with children of all ages and suggests means of entertaining those beyond the crawling stage. It is a book that should be part of the equipment of every baby sitter.

Lundy, Jo Evalin. Tidewater valley; a story of the Swiss in Oregon; il. by Margaret Ayer. Winston, 1949. 246p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D59;D1;D21)

This is partly a story of the struggle of Swiss settlers to make a living in Oregon - and partly the story of Lisi's struggle to get her crippled brother, Cris, accepted by her uncle. The story moves slowly with not enough action or suspense to hold the reader's interest. The character development is good and there is real value in the study of relationships between the Swiss and the Americans.

McClung, Robert M. Sphinx; the story of a caterpillar; written and illus. by Robert M. McClung. Morrow, 1949. 48p. \$2.00. Gr. 2-4.

Nature study for the very young presented in simple easy language and clear illustrations. The straightforward method of presentation is a welcome change from the personification that is so often used in books for this age group. Science teachers - and gardeners - may object that there is not enough emphasis placed on the destruction of crops caused by these caterpillars.

McKean, Else. David's bad day; story and photographs by Else McKean; with a foreword by Lawrence K. Frank; and an introd. by Mary Fisher Langmuir. Shady Hill, 1949. 44p. \$2.00.

This is more a book for parents than for children. It is an excellent presentation of the jealousies that may arise when a young child is learning to adjust to a new baby and the "badness" that may result from a child's inability to express himself. Recommended for home purchase or for parents' rooms rather than for general collections.

Macleod, Mary. The book of King Arthur and his noble knights; stories from Sir Thomas Malory's Morte D'Arthur; introd. by Angelo Patri; il. by Henry C. Pitz. Lippincott, 1949. 324p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-9. (A Lippincott classic)

A new edition of an old favorite - with improved format and illustrations.

McSpadden, Joseph Walker. Stories from Dickens; introd. by Veronica Hutchinson; il. by Virginia Griley. Crowell, 1949. 382p.

Some of the better known child characters from Dickens' novels presented in re-written, watered-down versions, that have little to offer as original stories and are completely lacking in the charm and flavor of the originals. It is unfair to both Dickens and the child to attribute these stories in any way to Dickens. Far better to let the child wait until he is able to handle the originals than to give him these versions and let him grow up thinking he knows something about Dickens' work.

Manso, Leo. Fire house. World, 1949. 12p. \$1.

A toy book with no value for a library collection. Use of such books in the home is questionable for it teaches children to destroy books rather than to care for them.

Marohn, Nancy. Tuttle; pictures by Harper Landell. Winston, 1949. 44p. \$1.25.

Tuttle is a little truck who grows up to be a park truck. Another example of personification of machines and houses that does not quite fit the requirements for good fantasy.

Masters, Robert V. Child's garden of flowers. Child's garden of vegetables. Greenberg, 1949. 32p. \$1.00.

Directions for planting and caring for gardens with variations to be considered for different climates. Each book contains packages of seed, directions for planting, and a suggested lay-out for each garden. For home use only.

Meador, Stephen Warren. Cedar's Boy; il. by Lee Townsend. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 234p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

Harness racing at a New Hampshire County Fair

forms the background for this story of Cedar's Boy, whose ancestor gave Red Horse Hill its name, and of sixteen-year-old Shad Davis, whose one great ambition was to become a driver. Although not a sequel to Red Horse Hill in the usual sense, the author has used the same locale and some of the same characters from the earlier book. Boys who enjoyed the adventures of Bud and Cedar, will find in this story the same high quality of writing.

Meek, Sterner St. Paul. Ranger, a dog of the Forest Service. Knopf, 1949. 232p. \$2.50.

A run-of-the-mill dog story with little to recommend it other than the fact that it is a dog story. Loosely constructed plot, unreal characters, and forced humor. Details of the Forest Service work are not sufficiently interesting to offset the poor writing.

Meyers, Barlow. Last of the wild stallions.

Westminster, 1949. 176p. \$2.50. (D42)

Follows a typical pattern for horse stories - man captures horse; horse is stolen; man regains horse. The writing is more mature than most such stories. The relationship between Jim Bunting and his partner, Bill Million, is particularly well handled. A satisfactory addition for the horse story fans.

Montgomery, Rutherford George. Kildee house; il. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1949. 209p. \$2.50. (Junior books)

Jerome Kildee built his house on Windy Point at the foot of a giant redwood tree. He thought he would live alone here, but a real housing problem developed when Old Grouch, the raccoon, not only refused to leave the house but brought a bride, and a family of spotted skunks set up housekeeping under the floor. Jerome had more guests when the feud between two children, Emmy Lou Epp and Donald Roger Cabot, began to flourish over his hill. Delightfully amusing style and good characterization. Animal personalities are excellently developed with considerable respect for their individuality, with some of the same spirit as Rabbit Hill, but less broadly amusing and equally less saccharine. Woodcuts by Barbara Cooney have humor and detail.

Mother Goose. Walt Disney's Mother Goose; il. by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Al Dempster. Simon and Schuster, 1949. 70p. \$1 (Big golden book)

Traditional Mother Goose rhymes illustrated with typical Disney characters. It is unfortunate that Mr. Disney has this compulsion to interpret the whole of children's literature in terms of Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse. Not recommended.

Mother Goose; drawings by Garry McKenzie. Crowell, 1949. 177p. \$2.50. Gr. 1-3.

There is a great deal of humor in the illustrations for this Mother Goose book. These are not the kind of illustrations that will appeal to every child but the child with a sense of humor will thoroughly enjoy them. Adults will probably be the most appreciative audience.

Neurath, Marie. I'll show you how it happens. Chanticleer, 1949. 32p. \$1.50.

A miscellany of information about the how and why of various everyday happenings. There is no unity to the volume. The explanations are not always clear, and the illustrations are more often confusing than helpful. Stitching is weak. It would be im-

possible to rebind the book without losing parts of the text.

Nevin, Evelyn C. Underground escape. Westminster, 1949. 192p. \$2.50.

A new approach to the Civil War by showing one family's experiences in the North (Boston), West (Kansas), and South (Savannah) just before and during the War. The idea is a good one, but the book has two serious weaknesses - the use of dialect for all of the Negro characters and the author's habit of referring to Negroes as "darkies." It is unfortunate that the author has spoiled an otherwise good book by perpetuating such stereotypes.

Nolan, Jeanette (Covert). Andrew Jackson; il. by Leej Ames. Messner, 1949. 178p. \$2.75. Gr. 7-9. (D28;D72)

In this biography the author is obviously trying to disprove the myth that Jackson was an uncouth, poorly educated backwoodsman. The result is a well-rounded picture of the man but an occasional slighting of the times in which he lived and a rather superficial handling of some of his activities. The style is that of fictionalized biography and is exceedingly readable. A bibliography of sources will help readers who want to go on to a more serious treatment of either the times or the man.

Norton, Alice May. Sword in the sheath; by Andre Norton (pseud.); il. by Lorence Bjorklund. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 246p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Follows, though not a sequel to, The sword is drawn. The scene is in the East Indies in the years immediately following the end of World War II. Lawrence Kane, who is a minor character of the earlier book, is the main character of this one. Lorens Van Norreys appears also; this time as a representative of his family's jewelry firm. The story is packed with action, danger, and suspense. It satisfies all the requirements for a tale of high adventure - and is good writing, too.

Pauli, Hertha Ernestine. The golden door; a story of Liberty's children; pictures by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1949. 155p. \$2.50. Gr. 4-6. (D28)

This is the story of the part a group of New York children played in bringing to the attention of the public the installation of the Statue of Liberty - and even in helping to pay for that installation. Somewhat sentimental in treatment, but it does have value in showing the part children can play in forwarding a good cause.

Petry, Ann. The drugstore cat; il. by Susanne Suba. Crowell, 1949. 87p. \$2.00. Gr. 3-5. (D110)

When Buzzy went to live in the drugstore his mother told him he must make good for she had never yet had a kitten sent back home. Buzzy had a temper as short as his tail, and he found it difficult to live up to his mother's expectations. How he learned to lengthen his temper and won his place in the drugstore makes a story children will enjoy hearing over and over.

Phelps, Margaret. Toby on the sheep drive; with il. by Evelyn Copelman. Macrae Smith, 1949. 197p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

Toby was the first boy ever to make the entire Heber Sheep Drive. At times it was only the thought of how much his mother needed the money and the comfort of his harmonica that kept him going. The slow pace of the story may discourage some readers, although there are elements of danger and suspense to help it along.

Piper, Ruth. Sudy and Prill; il. by Brinton Turkle. Doubleday, 1949. 210p. \$2.50. Gr. 4-7. (D37;D107;D109)

Sudy is an only child who suffers from a lack of self-confidence; Prill is the only non-musical member of a very large and very talented family. Through their friendship each helps the other to overcome her problems. The intensity of emotions throughout the story is a bit disturbing at times. Prill is almost morbid in her unhappiness over her lack of musical ability - and there is no evidence of any understanding on the part of her family. Sudy's proof of her bravery comes at a time when she is under emotional strain and is not the result of clear, rational thinking. These are not weaknesses that will affect the average reader's appreciation of the fun of the story, but they do make the book one that should be used with care where there are children who are under similar emotional strains.

Regli, Adolph. Fiddling cowboy; il. by Nat Edson. McKay, 1949. 230p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Ross Gordon came from Illinois - and that fact in the eyes of the Texans, meant he was of no possible use around the ranch - except to furnish music. In spite of the opposition and suspicion he faced on all sides, Ross made a place for himself and became recognized as a real cowboy. The book has all the elements that make a good cowboy story and is well written. The fact that Ross succeeds in everything he attempts may meet with disapproval from adults but will probably not worry the younger readers.

Robertson, Keith. Ticktock and Jim, deputy sheriffs; il. by Everett Stahl. Winston, 1949. 215p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-9.

A rather disappointing sequel to Ticktock and Jim. The story is over-long and leans too heavily on melodramatic situations. The sections describing Ticktock's winter in the Ozark Mountains could have been reduced to a paragraph with no loss to the story. Jim and his little sister, Jane, are well-drawn, but the other characters lack reality.

Robinson, Gertrude. The Sign of the Golden Fish; a story of the Cornish fisherman in Maine. Winston, 1949. 216p. \$2.50.

Careful research and accuracy of detail give this story of the Cornish fisherman in Maine some value as supplementary reading for classroom use. It is not, however, a book that will be read with any degree of pleasure. The plot is thin, the story moves slowly, and, in the opening chapters, the author assumes a background of knowledge that many readers would not have.

Rosenblum, Marcus. The story of Franklin D. Roosevelt; il. with photographs and with original drawings by Frances M. Ball. Simon and Schuster, 1949. 51p. \$1.50. Gr. 5-7.

In fairly simple language and a straightforward style, the author gives a picture of Roosevelt from his childhood to his death. Like the Foster biography of George Washington (see above) this is a sympathetic, but never sentimental, approach that is a refreshing note in biography for younger children.

Rush, William Marshall. Red Fox of the Kinapoo; a tale of the Nez Percé Indians; il. by Charles

Banks Wilson. Longmans, Green, 1949. 279p.  
\$2.75. j&shs. (D28;D72)

The Nez Percé Indians were one of the most peaceful of all Indian tribes. They were beginning to settle on reservations and send their children to government schools when the white man's greed for land and gold forced them to fight for their rights. Red Fox was one of the Indians who attended the government school until he had made the mistake of winning a race with a white boy and so faced the anger of most of the soldiers at the nearby fort. The story of his escape to his own people, his reversion to life as a blanket Indian, and his part in the final tragic attempt of his tribe to hold their land is a story of one of the most disgraceful episodes in the white man's dealings with Indians. Although not of the same quality of writing as Coblenz's Sequoia (Longmans; Green, 1946) the book has much the same values in showing an all-too-often forgotten side to the Indian wars.

Rushmore, Helen. The lost treasure box; il. by Louis Glanzman. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 184p.  
\$2.00. Gr. 4-6. (D37)

This will be a boon to all librarians who are trying to wean a reader away from a too heavy diet of mystery stories. There is a mystery here - complete with diary and secret drawer. More important however, is the adjustment of three orphan children to a new family pattern. There is warmth and understanding on the part of the aunt and uncle who adopt the three children. There is real character growth in Don's control of his jealousy. The result is an excellent family story with a mystery thrown in for good measure.

Saffron, Robert. By-line for Josie; frontispiece by Robert Hallock. Viking, 1949. 182p. \$2.00

Josie's father owns a newspaper and Josie's greatest ambition is to become one of his star reporters. Most of her efforts, however, end disastrously. There is little or no plot - just a series of episodes as Josie dashes from one story to another. There is humor in some of the situations and Josie does a fair amount of growing up, but on the whole the story seems forced and without much appeal.

Scott, Sally. Judy's baby; il. by Jane Toan. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 45p. \$1.75. Gr. 1-3. (D8)

Life seemed pretty hard to Judy after the new baby came. She was no longer the center of her parents' attention and her play time was curtailed when she had to care for the baby while her mother went shopping. Adjustment comes through watching the obvious enjoyment of another child in a similar situation and through the help and understanding of her parents. Children will enjoy the story whether they have the problem of a new baby or not. Parents should find it helpful in knowing how to help their own children.

Selsam, Millicent E. Play with plants; pictures by James Macdonald. Morrow, 1949. 62p. \$2.00. Gr. 3-7

Nature study classes will find this a helpful addition to their library. Parents can use it to provide entertainment on a rainy day or to keep a convalescent occupied. In clear, simple text and illustrations the reader is shown how to do experiments with plants of all kinds. The materials are easily available in the home or school. An excellent book for arousing the child's interest in the

world around him.

Sowers, Phyllis Ayer. Elephant boy of the teak forest. Messner, 1949. 169p. \$2.50.  
Gr. 5-7. (D59)

Prad, a small boy living in a river village in Siam, had no ambitions or plans for the future until the doctor moved into the big house across the river. Then it seemed that the most wonderful life in the world would be to become a doctor - not of people, but of animals. The amount of education required almost destroyed his ambition - but he finally decided it was worth the effort. Good contrast between the primitive life of the village and the modern ways of well-educated Siamese

Stucki, Marie. Uncle Sam's child; drawings by John Morgan. Exposition press, 1949. 32p. \$1.50.

Reminiscent of the style of the old Carpenter readers the author writes as if she were conducting a tour of the Philippines. The tone is condescending, and the author intrudes herself and her opinions in a way that is thoroughly irritating. Any value the book might have as factual information is lost in the poor style of writing.

Tensen, Ruth M. Come to the farm. Reilly & Lee, 1949. 35p. \$2.00. K-gr. 2.

A companion volume to Come to the zoo. There is no story but pre-school children will have fun learning to identify the animals and beginning readers can get practice with familiar words. Excellent photographs.

Torrey, Marjorie (pseud.). The Merriweathers. Viking, 1949. 254p. \$2.50.

The Merriweathers moved to the country from New York City and, in spite of the fact that none of them knew anything about rural life, made a success of the venture during their first year. The story is told in the first person by one of the five children, all of whom are precocious and this one more than the others. There are warm family relations and a good feeling of sharing when all the family pitch in to help out during a crisis. However, the smug assumption that their way of life is so superior to that of their neighbor and their attempt to make over their neighbor's family are questionable.

Warren, William Stephen. Tony Gay on the Longhorn Trail; il. by the author. McKay, 1949. 205 p. \$2.50.

Pedestrian writing and a trite plot make this just another cowboy story. It has the usual quota of stampedes, trouble with other cattlemen, riding of wild horses, etc., but nothing to give it preference over other cowboy books published this fall.

Watkins-Pitchford, Denys. The little grey men; il. by the author. Scribner's, 1949. 249p. \$2.50.  
Gr. 5-7. (D52)

Here is fantasy in the best tradition. There is humor, sadness, bravery, adventure - all handled with a light touch - and all in proportion to the size and abilities of the little grey men (three gnomes living in an English wood). The writing is not of Wind in the willows caliber, but it is so far superior to most of what passes today as fantasy that it should not be rejected just because it did not quite reach perfection.

Welch, Earl. Cradle of our nation: Philadelphia;  
with il. by Mary Sturmer Jones. Holt, 1949.  
201p. \$2.50.

All of the facts about the planning and development of Philadelphia are here, presented in stolid, unimaginative prose that robs the city of any vestige of charm and personality. The book may have some value for Philadelphia schools. It will not be read for pleasure and its reference value is lessened by lack of an index.

White, Robb. Candy; il. by Gertrude Howe.  
Doubleday, 1949. 246p. \$2.50.

Like the other books by Robb White, this one has excellent descriptions of boats and sailing and moments of high adventure. It is completely improbable, both in characters and situations and the negative values far outweigh the positive ones. The attitude that institutions for the blind are places where no attempt is ever made to cure blindness is particularly bad - as is the constant struggle between the children and the adults, with all the author's sympathy on the part of the children. The ending is too pat to provide any constructive solution to the conflicts.

Williams, Jay. The magic gate; pictures by John Brimer. Oxford Univ. press, 1949. 193p. \$2.50.

Stephen Maynard is an only son of extremely wealthy parents. One day he meets a gang of boys from the nearby town and decides he wants to join them. The boys resent his presence until he learns to be appreciative of what it means to be a member of a group and shows that he is capable of working with his hands. This is not a book that will be widely read - it will have the most appeal for boys who are still enjoying Robin Hood and King Arthur and who will appreciate the make-believe of the gang. There are some questionable parts - particularly the gang's war against the old woman, whom they consider to be a witch. That she turned out to be a rather unpleasant character does not excuse their attempts to steal her wood or their general heckling of her. The poor handling of this conflict and the narrow appeal of the story limit its usefulness for general library collections.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading,  
and Sources of Material

Correction:

The note in the October Service Bulletin concerning the Book Week material should have read "Those receiving the Children's Book Council Calendar regularly will automatically receive a Manual." (Not a poster. Posters are 30¢ each with reductions on quantities.) The Manual lists details on posters and all other publicity materials obtainable from the Children's Book Council.

About books and libraries; a manual for rural school teachers. State of Minnesota, Dept. of Education, Library Division. 1949.

Adventures for all; a booklist for rural schools. State of Minnesota, Dept. of Education, Library Division. 1949-50.  
Annotated list.

Baer and others. How do the comics affect your child. (Reviewing Stand, v.13, no. 6) North-

western University, Radio Dept., Evanston, Ill. 11p. 1949. 10¢.

Text of radio discussion.

Beuschlein, Muriel and Sanders, James M. "Free and inexpensive teaching aids for the science teacher." Chicago Schools Journal Supplement, v. 31, no. 2 (October, 1949).

The Bookmark, vol. 9, no. 1 (October, 1949). New York State Library, Albany 1, New York.

Contains a list of free and inexpensive materials about the comics.

Burton, Dwight L. "There's always a book for you." English Journal, 38:371-75 (September, 1949).

An approach to books as real and vital parts of the student's experience.

Coan, O. W. and Lillard, R. G. America in fiction. 3rd ed. Stanford, Calif., Stanford Univ. Press, 1949. 202p. \$2.25.

A list of historical novels.

Elementary English. "Fall children's books." (October, 1949)

This entire issue of the magazine is devoted to articles on children's books and reading.

Horkheimer, Mary Foley and Diffor, John W., eds. Educators guide to free films; 9th ed., 1949. 362p. Randolph, Wis., Educators Progress Service. paper, \$5.00.

Jewish Book Month, November 11-December 11. For list of materials and other information write Jewish Book Council of America, 145 East 32nd Street, New York 16.

Jones, Amy, il. The booklover's map of the United States. il. (col.) New York, R. R. Bowker Co., paper, \$1.50.

Library books helpful in planning units of work in the elementary and junior high schools. Rev. ed. Board of Education, Brooklyn 2, New York.

Each bibliography covers a wide range of reading ability with inclusive grade levels given for each book.

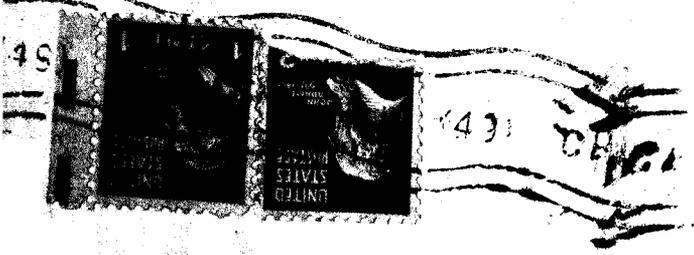
N. E. A. The public and the elementary school. 28th yearbook. The National Elementary Principal. Bulletin of the Dept. of Elementary School Principals, v. 29: no. 1 (September, 1949) \$3.00.

Junior Reviewers catalog of the best books for children. Prices: 50¢ single copy; 25¢ each on orders for 20 or more; 20¢ each on orders of 500 or more. Houghton Mifflin, 2 Park Street, Boston 7, Massachusetts.

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