



I L L I N O I S

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

Acta Sch

028.05

CH

cyz

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
Alice R. Brooks, Librarian
Service Bulletin

July, 1949

Published on the 15th of each month with the exception of August
Annual subscription \$1.00
(Make checks payable to the University of Chicago)

VOL. II

No. 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

Becker, Charlotte. Dickie Boy and the three little Steps.
Scribner, 1949. 30p. \$1

A simple repetitive story of three small children and their pet canary. Text and illustrations are pleasant but not outstanding. Board binding. Not for general purchase.

Brown, Margaret Wise. The important book; pictures by Leonard Weisgaard. Harper, 1949. 20p. \$1.50

An attempt to take some of the familiar objects in a child's life and show the most important characteristic of each object. The ideas presented are sometimes confusing - especially when two entirely different objects have identical "important things." Arrangement of text on the page is poor for the beginning reader.

Buffler, Esther. Rodrigo and Rosalita; illus. by Elizabeth Rice. Steck, 1949. 64p. \$2 Gr.3-5 (D61;7b)

A Mexican family which has moved to the States has the well-known pattern of father, mother, two children, and a story-telling grandmother. The artistically gifted father has been ill, and the children long to see him painting and happy again. Each one finds a way to earn money to supply the needed art materials. What happens afterwards brings happiness to the whole family. The simple little plot provides real suspense but rings true. The illustrations are charming and colorful and, although not really Mexican, they do give a feeling of some of the Mexican crafts.

Coblentz, Catherine (Cate). The blue cat of Castle Town; illus. by Janice Holland. Longmans, Green, 1949. 123p. \$2.75 Gr.5-7 (D7b;95;135)

Evil days have fallen on Castle Town, for it is in the clutches of the greedy, grasping Arunah Hydes, who sees only in terms of speed, power, and hard glittering gold. A little cat, because he is blue, is able to learn the song of a socially conscious river and teach the song to humans. The refrain of the song urges "beauty, peace, content" and the importance of doing a job well. Equipped with this message the blue cat undertakes to rescue Castle Town.

The author has used authentic material and the names of actual people to tell an appealing legend about an existing Vermont town. The tale is told from the cat's point of view, but the characters and problems are adult and universal. Attractive format.

Davis, Kenneth S. General Eisenhower, soldier of democracy; from boyhood to supreme commander. Doubleday, 1949. 217p. \$1 j&shs

An abridged version of the author's Soldier of democracy. On the whole a very readable biography of Eisenhower. The author quite frankly slants his writing in favor of the General, with the result that you sometimes have the feeling that "Ike" was a paragon of all

virtues. A lavish use of quotation marks is irritating and lessens the effectiveness of the writing. An unusually low price, plus a substantial format.

Davis, Lavinia (Riker). The wild birthday cake; pictures by Hildegard Woodward. Doubleday, 1949. 50p. \$2.50 Gr.2-4 (D88)

Johnny was very happy when he started out that summer morning with the new knapsack he had bought with his own money. He lost his pleasure in the day however when he remembered that it was the Professor's birthday and there was no money left to buy the Professor a present. How Johnny solves his problem makes a delightful story with just the right amount of suspense to hold the interest of the beginning reader. Beautiful illus.

Dent, Edward Joseph. Handel. A. A. Wyn, 1948? 140p. \$1.50 (Great musicians) shs

Gives the events of Handel's life; does not tell much about his foibles or even his basic characteristics. Largely an account of the important events in opera in which Handel participated. No difficult words, but volume is colorless both in appearance and style. Author shows himself interested in authenticating sources of information about Handel rather than in making Handel live for the reader. No other biography of Handel listed in the Standard Catalog for high school libraries.

Eberle, Irmengarde. The story of cloth; spin, weave and wear; by Phyllis Ann Carter (pseud.); illus. by Kathleen Voute. McBride, 1948. 159p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7

New edition of a book first published in 1941. Somewhat superficial in treatment. Lacks index.

Gable, Luther S. H. The miracle of television. Wilcox & Follett, 1949. 143p. \$2.50 j&shs

A popular presentation of television by an instructor in television. There are no glaring technical errors, but book lacks organization and is not always clear and concise. In fact, it sometimes becomes a bit involved as in the discussion of frequencies and wave lengths. On the other hand much of the material is presented in an informal conversational and even jerky style. Raymond Yates (New television, Didier, 1948) seems to cover more material and to tell his story more easily and clearly. However, the lack of an index in Yates' book limits quick reference, whereas, the Gable material is indexed. Libraries may need both books if the demand for material is great.

Gall, Alice (Crew) and Crew, Fleming. Winter flight; pictures by Nils Hogner. Oxford, 1949.

108p. \$2.50 Gr.3-5

Glossy Wings is a young crow. This book tells the story of the first year of his life. We meet his friends and foes, learn the habits of the various birds and of the migration of some to the south lands.

Told in story form with birds conversing with each other, but the information is authentic and the style interesting. Good pictures.

Hazeltine, Alice Isabel, comp. Children's stories to read or tell for pleasure and understanding. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 224p. \$2.50

A collection of 37 stories (many of them excerpts from full-length books) designed to help the child "learn to think for himself." Although the preface declares that the primary purpose of the book is to give pleasure, the selections are made with so obvious a regard to their "moral" values, that the total impression of the book is similar to that gained from 19th Century Sunday School literature. The editor states that the works of Andersen "should be told in the author's own words" - meaning of course a good translation retaining the true Andersen flavor. We agree, - and so it is difficult to understand when the editor then takes the liberty of using adaptations and re-tellings of stories that were originally written in English. As in most cases of adaptations - the stories have gained nothing and lost much of their original flavor. All of the selections are available either in other collections or in the originals.

Hogue, Dock. Bob Clifton, elephant hunter; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Holt, 1949. 151p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9

Bob Clifton, a young American boy, sets out to save his family's coffee plantation from the marauding elephants in the nearby brush. The characters are not completely convincing, and the conversation is stilted. However, there is enough suspense and excitement in the accounts of the safaris to hold the reader's interest.

Howard, Elizabeth. North winds blow free. Morrow, 1949. 192p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9

A slight love story told against the background of the Underground Railroad and pre-Civil War days. The heroine goes with her father and brothers to help establish a colony in Canada for escaped slaves. There is little depth either of character or situation to the story. The reader has the feeling that the story would have been the same no matter what the setting. Not an outstanding story, it will be enjoyed primarily for the love element.

Jackson, Kathryn and Byron. Mouse's house; pictures by Richard Scarry. Simon & Schuster, 1949. 26p. \$1
Another tactile book. The use of the same material for all animals - whether they have fur or feathers - is misleading for the child. Slight story. Poor illus.

Kane, Henry Bugbee. Wild world tales; the tale of the mouse, the moth and the crow. Knopf, 1949. 135p. \$2.75 Gr.5-6

Three stories originally published as separates. Somewhat smaller than originals, but otherwise format is the same.

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Kalak of the ice; illus. by Bob Kuhn. Holiday house, 1949. 201p. \$2.50

A very vivid picture of the Far North, its inhabitants (both human and animal) and their struggle for survival, told from the point of view of a great polar bear. Although it may seem a very primitive level of

life, there is much nobility and courage displayed. Kjelgaard interprets wild life well, and his many readers will thrill to the drama of this book.

Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Davy of the Everglades. Morrow, 1949. 127p. \$2 Gr.2-4

A simply written story of a little boy who lived on the edge of the Everglades. Beginning readers can handle the text with little difficulty. The account of Davy's unusual pets and the excitement of the flood flood will appeal to most readers.

Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Deborah's white winter. Morrow, 1949. 124p. \$2 Gr.2-4

Simple, episodic account of the activities of a five-year-old girl during one winter. She learns to ski, takes part in a snow carnival, builds a snow family and has all the other pleasures that come with living in a small town in the north. An easy book for beginning readers.

McKeown, Martha Ferguson. The trail led North; Mont Hawthorne's story. Macmillan, 1948. 222p. \$3.50 shs

An exciting, true story of the adventures of Mont Hawthorne, a pioneer of the Northwest, just as he told it to his niece. It gives a very good picture of life during that period and in addition, many facts hard to find about salmon fisheries and the gold field. Some incidents and anecdotes typical of frontier life limit it, perhaps, to senior high school and the young adult. The use of the vernacular language lends realism but may bother some, although the interesting content may offset this.

Medary, Marjorie. Prairie printer; decorations by Manning deV. Lee. Longmans, Green, 1949. 288p. \$2.75 Gr.8-10

A sequel to Buckeye Boy in which Tom Kenyon finally acquires both Molly and his own printing establishment. The story is laid in Iowa in 1856 and the politics of the time form a background for Tom's activities on various newspapers in the state. In addition to giving a vivid picture of the Iowa frontier - growing press in the Midwest, the Fremont-Buchanan campaign - Marjorie Medary has written a truly absorbing story. The characters are real and are not stamped black or white by their political affiliations in those harrowing years leading up to the Civil War. Much of the plot and many of the characters are true. It will be enjoyed by both boys and girls for the story maintains a good balance between the masculine and feminine that makes for a real life situation. The evidence of research in the accompanying bibliography is impressive.

Norman, Charles. The playmaker of Avon. McKay, 1949 155p. \$3

Here is a biography of Shakespeare that should play an important role in enriching the study of the immortal bard by high school students. Shakespeare himself still remains slightly shadowy as a person - but his contemporaries and times, the history of England and the intrinsic beauty of his dramatic writings are greatly enhanced. The major emphasis of the biography is on Shakespeare's historical dramas, although his comedies, tragedies and sonnets are also fitted into the pattern of his life. One particularly admirable feature of the book is the skillful weaving of many quotations from Shakespeare's writings into the narrative.

The author teaches a course in Shakespeare at

New York University.

Another book that should be considered with this one is C. Walter Hodges Shakespeare and the players. (Coward-McCann, 1949. \$2.50). This is a story of the theater and players during this period, - particularly the old Globe Theater and its actors. We have not received a review copy of this book and so have only examined it briefly but reports are that these two books complement each other well.

O'Rourke, Frank. Flashing spikes. Barnes, 1948. 245p. \$2.50 (A Barnes sport novel) shs (D136;104;140)

Bill Riley, shortstop, makes the big leagues the hard way. Struggling to win a position on the Red Wings team, Riley learns that baseball is not all glamour nor easy. His encounters with the press box men, the recognition of the talents of other outstanding rookies, the suspenseful Spring training period, and the behind-the-scenes activities of the players all contribute to making his task challenging. How he succeeds in his efforts to become a good baseball player is developed in this interesting, absorbing story.

Sometimes a writer is able to catch the real spirit of a sport's story. He sees more than the daily round of baseball diamonds, the thrilling pitchers' duel or the brilliant fielding of the players. He concerns himself with the player both as a member of the team and as a family man with responsibilities peculiar to the "bread-winner" of the household. Frank O'Rourke is such a writer, for in this introspective, fictionalized biography of a baseball player, the hero emerges as an individual concerned equally with the problems of his team and his own personal life. Because of the reflective style of writing, the story may be limited in its appeal. It's seeming slowness is counterbalanced by a well presented picture of the development of Bill Riley as a baseball player and as a young adult.

Parish, Helen Rand. At the palace gates; illus. by Leo Politi. Viking, 1949. 64p. \$2 Gr.5-7 (D90;95)

There is little similarity between Paco "at the palace gates" and the heroic boy who saved Holland by putting his hand in the hole in the dike, - except that each found a way to save his country. Paco was a boy from the hill country who kept himself from the "public welfare" by losing himself in the city life of Lima, - particularly at the palace gates where he can feed his beloved animals. Here he learns something of his country's history and comes to love his heritage. When he discovers a plot to assassinate the president of Peru he loses no time in marshalling his friends to help thwart such villainy. An exciting story that will capture the attention of both boys and girls. Much as I like Leo Politi's work, his pictures here didn't seem to fit, and the vapid smiles were too frequent and overdone.

Parks, Aileen Wells. Davy Crockett, young rifleman; illus. by Charles V. John. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 194p. \$1.75 (The childhood of famous Americans series).

Recounts some of the legends and tall tales from the boyhood of Davy Crockett. Does not replace Shapiro's Yankee thunder or Rourke's Davy Crockett for complete accounts of his life and exploits. Pri-

mary usefulness will be as remedial reading material for upper grade students with a 3-4 grade reading ability or to stimulate later interest in biography.

Patterson, Emma L. Midnight patriot; decorations by Millard McGee. Longmans, Green, 1949. 304p. \$2.75 Gr.7-9

A spy story of the Revolutionary War - similar in plot and setting to The rebel and the turncoat. The plot moves fast with plenty of action and suspense. The characters are not very convincing - Van Dorn's difficulty in deciding which side to favor lacks real depth of feeling. The martyrdom that Van Dorn suffers as a misunderstood patriot will appeal to adolescent readers. Not an outstanding book, but one that will probably have a temporary popularity.

Pauli, Hertha Ernestine. The most beautiful house in the world and other stories; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1949. 114p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7 (D102;114;134)

Five stories from all over the world about things that were worth much more - or less - than they seemed at first: a starved cow, an alley cat, a run down house, a bagful of nothing, a camel. Although the stories are introduced in a context of a father telling them to a slightly defiant little girl, there is no connection among the tales except the prevailing theme of the worth of little things. The characters and incidents are largely adult, but each tale creates a certain amount of suspense and ends with a surprise. The major value of the collection lies in reading the stories aloud to a group and in the ensuing discussions.

Retan, Walter. Mystery of the haunted cliff; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin books, 1949. 131p. \$2 Gr.5-7

Another of the prevalent mystery books for younger boys. Paul and Bill witness a robbery and become involved in the search for the thieves. Their camping trip is disrupted by the discovery of the thieves' hideout and the exciting adventures that follow. This book does not err as some in this field. It is fairly plausible in plot, the heroes are not junior editions of superman and the treatment of adults will satisfy us. The "stupid" village constable is given a chance to redeem himself.

Rojankovsky, Feodor, illus. Favorite fairy tales. Simon & Schuster, 1949. 24p. \$1 (A big golden book)

Each story in this collection has been abridged to make it a half page. The result is a bare skeleton of story with none of the fun and flavor of the traditional fairy tale. The illustrations are colorful but do not compensate for the poor text. Size (8x13in.) is an awkward size for shelving.

Rounds, Glen. Ol' Paul the mighty logger; Holiday house, 1949. 173p. \$2.50

New edition. Two stories have been added: "The baby rainstorm" and "The giant bullsnake." The white paper of the new edition is less pleasing than the cream color of the earlier edition. Same illus.

Shippen, Katherine Binney. The bright design; illus. by Charles Michael Daugherty. Viking, 1949. 207p. \$3.50 jhs -

Here is another distinguished book to take its place with the author's Great heritage. It is the history of electrical energy from the 12th century to our most current atomic discoveries, told principally

in terms of the contributions of great scientists. This book has been developed from a series of scientific lectures for children by an author who has rare ability in presenting rhythmically and vividly man's conquest of each scientific frontier. The accuracy of the material has been doubly checked.

Smith, "Red", ed. The Saturday Evening Post Sports Stories. Barnes, 1949. 307p. \$2.50 shs

This collection of sports stories is characterized by the editor as follows: "Stories... written by adults for adults." As the reader wanders through the pages becoming completely absorbed in the baseball, boxing, track, football, golf, tennis, and horseracing yarns, he is immediately aware of this fact. Both the style of the writing as reflected in the breezy, reportorial accounts and the constant use of adult characters substantiate the statement. In addition, the list of contributors reveals such names as James Thurber, Ring Lardner, Paul Gallico, J. P. Marquand, Frank O'Rourke, Sam Hellman and others.

There is baseball humor as seen in "You could look it up"; rugged perseverance in the narrative, "See how they run"; female warfare on and off the tennis courts in "The amateur spirit"; and trickery in the boxing tale, "The taming of Tiger Merez." These are a few of the choice tid-bits waiting to be digested by the avid sports' fan. My personal choice is O'Rourke, "The greatest victory," the comeback of a baseball nonentity.

Definitely for senior high school students and adult lovers of sports stories. Profanity is present, but leaves no bad taste.

Tubby, Ruth P. A picture dictionary of the Bible; illus. by Ruth King. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 64p. \$1.50

A companion volume to A picture book of Palestine. Clear, simple definitions of many terms used in the Bible. The text and illustrations have been checked by authorities of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths. Recommended for home use and for library reference collections.

Tunis, John Robert. Young Razzle. Morrow, 1949. 192p. \$2.50 (D39)

Tunis fans will welcome some of their favorite characters (Highpockets, Kid from Tompkinsville, etc.) and add a new member to their all star team. Although the book is titled "Young" Razzle and is ostensibly about Joe Nugent - the real hero of the story is Joe's father, "Raz" Nugent, who slides down hill and then makes a great comeback. Written in the usual Tunis style with plenty of action and suspense.

Uchida, Yoshiko. The dancing kettle and other Japanese folk tales; illus. by Richard C. Jones. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 174p. \$2.25 Gr.3-5

Collection of charming tales which will attract the imaginative child. The concepts can be easily understood by the American child, for although much of the supernatural character is present, there is an authentic tone throughout. Kindness and virtue are stressed. Certain of the tales are reminiscent of familiar ones from other lands; e.g. "The wedding of the mouse"; "Isun Boahi"; and "Momotarō: boy-of-the-peach", which will serve to tell children of the common bond of folk literature among nations and peoples.

Webber, Irma Eleanor (Schmidt). Bits that grow big. Scott, 1949. 64p. \$1.50 (Young Scott science books). Gr.1-3

Another elementary botany book for the young child, in which the importance of plants to people is stressed. Chapters on spores, seeds, bulbs - and how they grow into plants - experiments to perform either at home or

school, with clear instructions. This author is very successful in writing scientific material. at the young child's level without "talking down."

Wheeler, Opal. Frederic Chopin son of Poland; early years; illus. by Christine Price. Dutton, 1948. 156p. \$2.75 Gr.4-6 (D62)

The early years of the great pianist and composer, told in a very interesting way. Little known facts about young Chopin are woven into a narrative that is entertaining, informational and inspirational. True to detail, the author blends Chopin's genius, - his extraordinary sensitiveness to sound and color, his emotional reactions to nature, things and events, his imaginative gifts, his powerful concentration and hard work, - with the childlike and youthful traits of a truly growing boy, full of vigorous humor and wholesome mischief.

The compositions actually presented in musical score contain some of the loveliest passages of Chopin.

While obviously intended for children, it should be interesting reading for older, slower readers who are musically inclined. Since this is volume one of a two volume biography, the "proof of the pudding" will be in the author's interpretation for children of his later years.

Wonder books.

Grosset and Dunlap and The Curtis Publishing Co. have jointly taken over from Random House the distribution of the 25¢ Wonder Books, although they will continue to be published by Wonder Books Inc.

In format they are 6 3/8" x 8", signature-sewn rather than singer stitching (not too strong) with covers of dirt resistant Durasheen plastic. Print and paper are satisfactory, and illus. are colorful and appealing.

16 books have been published thus far. 4 are reprints of popular Random House picture-story books, 9 are collections of folk-lore and previously published stories that younger children have liked - and 3 reading readiness titles - an alphabet and counting book, a picture dictionary, and a little story of farm life. The material seems good and the greatest use of this series will be in the home and on the library tables in kindergarten to grade 2.

Titles are as follows:

Reprints

Dolbier, Maurice. The magic bus; il. by Tiber Gergely. (M. S. B., February, 1949)

Geis, Darlene. The little train that won a medal; il. by Anton Loeb. (Variation on Engine-that-could theme)

Hurd, Clement. Race between the monkey and the duck; il. by Nedda Walker. (A tall tale for young children)

Nelson, Faith. Randolph the bear who said no; il. by Nedda Walker. (Has been a favorite for some time.)

Collections

Bed time stories, adapted by Eleanor Graham; il. by Masha. (Cinderella, Snow White, Emperor's new clothes, Why the sea is salt)

Famous fairy tales; adapted by Eleanor Graham; illus. by Mervin Jules. (Jack and the beanstalk, Fisherman and his wife, Hansel and Gretel, Princess and the pea)

Little dog who forgot to bark and other stories (Little boy who found his fortune, Why the monkey still has a tail... all from good sources)

Mother Goose; il. by Joseph Hirsch. (42 rhymes)

Peter Rabbit and other stories; il. by Phoebe Erickson. (Henny Penny, The City mouse and the Country mouse)

Shy little horse (Margaret Wise Brown) and other stories; sel. by Theresa Scott; il. by Robinson. (Rabbit's revenge (Kurt Wiese), Polite little polar bear, Good little bad little pig (Margaret Wise Brown), Mischievous monkey (Peggy Bacon).

Storytime favorites; s.l. by Theresa Ann Scott; il. by Anton Loeb. (10 tales from Aesop, Grimm and mythology)

Three little kittens and other nursery tales; told by Eleanor Graham; il. by Rachel Taft Dixon. (Little Red Riding Hood, Little red hen, Three little pigs, Three bears)

Why the bear has a short tail and other stories; sel. by Louise B. Williams; il. by Sari. (Man who kept house, How the rabbit fooled the whale and the elephant)

Reading Readiness

Bonino, Louise. The cosy little farm; il. by Angela.

Fraser, Phyllis. ABC and counting book; illus. by Jack Sarkin.

Moore, Lillian. A child's first picture dictionary (M. S. B., January, 1949).

Woolley, Catherine. David's railroad; illus. by Iris Beatty-Johnson. Morrow, 1949. 159p. \$2 Gr.2-4 (D37;134;47;78)

David's one great interest in life was his model railroad, and he could not see why his mother would not let him spend every free minute playing with it. He had some bad moments both at school and at home until he learned to budget his time to include chores, outdoor play - and his trains. A pleasantly written story of situations that most children face when they start to school and begin to find there isn't always time for everything. Good parent-child relations.

Reference Resources for Young People

Thus far the Materials Center has done little in the evaluation of ready reference materials, - largely because a lack of staff and time have prevented the development of the really evaluative program that is needed for such comprehensive material. It is hoped that sometime in the future such a program may be undertaken. An evaluation of picture dictionaries was presented in the January, 1949 issue of the Monthly Service Bulletin.

Publishers of reference materials have been very cooperative in planning the latest editions of their works in the Center. People planning to purchase reference tools are urged to spend time in the Center, examining and comparing these tools. Following is a list of reference tools to be found in the Center:

- The American Educator. United Education, Inc.
- Book of Knowledge. Grollier Society.
- Britannica Junior. Encyclopaedia Britannica
- Building America. Grollier Society (See Monthly Service Bulletin, March, 1949)
- Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia. F.E. Compton & Co
- The Champlin Encyclopedia. Consolidated Book Pub.
- Childcraft. Field Enterprises.
- Lincoln Library of Essential Information. Frontier Press.
- Richards Topical Encyclopedia. J.A. Richards Pub.
- The New Wonder World. George L. Sherman and Co.
- Oxford Junior Encyclopedia. Oxford U. Press, V. I
- The World Book. Field Enterprises.
- Children's picture dictionaries (Monthly Service Bulletin, January, 1949)

As new reference items are received they will be listed in the Service Bulletin with an annotation that is largely descriptive. For further evaluations consult the reviews in the American Library Assn., "Subscription Books Bulletin."

Childcraft; rev. ed. Field Enterprises, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago. (Formerly The Quarrie Co.) 14v. Pre-school - Gr.6.

Contents: Poems of early childhood; Story-telling and other poems; Folk and fairy tales; Animal friends and real adventures; Life in many lands; Great men and famous deeds; Exploring the world about us; Creative play and hobbies; The growing child; Guidance for development; Ways of learning; Art and music; Science and industry; Guide-index, plus useful supplementary and current services.

Field Enterprises has spared no expense in securing the resource people to make this a beautiful, complete and authoritative set for parents and teachers. The list of editors, contributors and consultants is impressive. The illustrations both photographic and original are unusually fine. In fact, more than 100 well-known children's illustrators have contributed work to the literature volumes.

A set of this kind always raises the question as to its correct function, especially in relation to the broad field of children's literature. We feel that its chief role is in adult use to serve as a basis for a wider use of materials and to help the parent or teacher who has an inadequate background in materials. It is not a set to be substituted for other materials but should motivate wider use of materials. For example, the literature volumes are a selection from children's literature and the editors have been careful to include complete selections and samples rather than cut and rewritten versions. The range of selection represents many authors whose work ranks high in children's literature. There are good bibliographies of children's books as well as examples of the art work of fine illustrators. Adults should use these volumes to lead to wider reading by children, the use of libraries and the development of fine home libraries. They should not expect the set to enact a solitary educational role.

Oxford junior encyclopedia; general editors: Laura E. Salt and Geoffrey Bounphrey; illus. ed.: Helen Mary Petter. Oxford Univ. Press, 1948. Vol. I: Mankind. \$10.00 Gr. 5-

Vols. 1-3 of this new junior encyclopedia have already been published: it is to consist of 12 volumes: Mankind; Natural history; The universe; Communications; Great lives; Farming and fisheries; Industry and commerce; Engineering; Recreation and crafts; Law and order; The home; The arts.

Within this classified arrangement the material is presented alphabetically with numerous cross references to related material in all volumes. However, each volume is independent in character and capable of independent use. Articles have a maximum length of 2000 words.

Several people at the University have examined Vol. I. They report that it seems thorough - will provide a different approach to universal knowledge in clear style, although the vocabulary is not always simple. It will be useful also with adults lacking an extensive education. However, it is an English encyclopedia and frequently material reflects a British point-of-view or flavor. Also, in some instances, a tendency to oversimplification or generalization may contribute to stereotyped thinking; e.g. in the article on Armenians, it says, "They are often, like the Jews, money-changers, bankers and merchants."

This set, used with other young people's ency-

clopedias can enrich the reference resources of a young people's collection.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Material

American Council on Education. Reading ladders for human relations; rev. and enlarged ed.; by the staff of Intergroup Education in Cooperating Schools. Washington, Author, 1949. 115p. \$1.25

Changes from first edition include:

1. Introduction to each Ladder includes a summarizing statement of the idea, its importance to children, discussion questions, and how to integrate with the curriculum.
2. 150 new titles
3. New material in Ch. 1, "Ways of using books."
4. "Community Contrasts" as a heading has replaced "Rural-Urban Contrasts."

Burt, Harold E. "Typography and readability." Elementary English, 26(April, 1949) p.212-21.

Dale, Edgar and Chall, Jeanne S. A formula for predicting readability. Ohio State University. Bureau of Educational Research, 1948.

(Reprinted from the Educational Research Bulletin, January 21 and February 17, 1948.)

Havighurst, R. J. and Taba, H. Adolescent character and personality. John Wiley, 1949.

Indiana (State) Dept. of Education. School Library Division. Spring shower of books. Indianapolis 4, Author, April 1949. 13p. mimeographed. Apply for price.

A very inclusive annotated graded list. Includes-books for faculty.

New Paltz (New York) State Teachers College. Campus Elementary School. A guide for celebrating Christmas with your children. 26p. Mim. Apply for price.

Sets forth suggestions for handling the anticipation period of Christmas, - especially with the very young; some of the pre-Christmas activities; advice on selecting gifts for children; selecting stories, books and recordings for children; recipes for children's holiday parties.

Rue, Eloise. Bibliography in library science reading guidance and book selection. Arizona State College, Tempe, Arizona. 1949. 17p. Mim. 20¢. (List of juveniles also available at 15¢)

Science Research Associates, 6755 N. Clark St., Chicago 26, Illinois. Life adjustment booklets. 1948. Single copies 75¢; 15- 60¢ each; 100-40¢ each. Instructor's guide and poster free with 15-copies.

Designed to help in building a human relations program in the school, these attractive 48-page booklets cover areas in which there is little material. Sample titles are: Why stay in school; Dating days; Getting along with others; Streamlining your reading.

New Editions of Story-telling Lists

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Boys and Girls

Department. Stories to tell children; a selected list for use by libraries, schools, clubs and radio with general listing of stories and poems for holidays and music programs; 6th ed. Pittsburgh, Author, 1949. 96p. \$1.00

This was previously listed but with an error in price. Has stories grouped by age level, for holidays, with recordings and a classified grouping. A title index is provided.

Enoch Pratt Free Library. Children's Department. Stories to tell; a list of stories and poems with annotations. Baltimore, Md., Author, 1948. 62p. 65¢
Annotated list grouped as follows: Picture books and stories for little children; stories; poems; programs for story hours; subject list of stories; list of sources; list of poetry collections. All stories have been tried with groups.

Steinmetz, Eulalie, comp. Stories; a list of stories to tell and to read aloud; alphabetically arranged followed by a subject index. New York Public Library, 1949. 99p. 75¢

730 titles with 3 subject index: Folk tales, Heroes, Festivals and fete days. Each story has been told to children and its inclusion rests on their acclaim.

Childhood of famous Americans (Bobbs-Merrill)

Because our recent reviews of titles in this series have laid stress on the lack of detail about the subject's adult career, Patricia Jones, the Juvenile Editor, has written us at length about the scope and purpose of this series. Space will permit us to quote this letter in part and we think it will be helpful to do so.

"To a greater degree than in many series, we insist on uniformity of pattern ... Each volume is intended to tell a detailed story of the subject's childhood years from about 6 to 12, and then in one or two concluding chapters to give a glimpse of the later career, and explanation of why the subject became famous, enough to encourage the reader's subsequent curiosity. The purpose has never been to give a complete biography, but only to serve as an introduction to the subject, in terms children today can understand from their own experience. We hope such introductions may stimulate children's interest in the famous Americans of our history and may lead them on, when they are ready, to read complete, authoritative biographies.

"The books are designed for children of 7 years and older, children who are beginning to read to themselves, ... Their vocabulary is limited. They are not yet able to absorb more than one 'specific' to a sentence. They have little or no background knowledge of history or other environments. (The value of the books for remedial reading was a later discovery... not part of the original intent.) Each book is story, and each word must have narrative value. Exposition is discouraged. Each book is directed to readers...whose interest is caught by stories only.

"For the third-grade level, toward which these books are slanted, much of the adult achievement, we feel, holds very little interest."

This is a good analysis of the purpose of biographical fiction generally. The "trueness" of the central character frequently makes a strong appeal to the intermediate child and it will help to tell how this person ties in with history and life as the child today views it. Because the series is designed to motivate later biography reading, good biographies, written for a little older child, should be available. The series might also be considered as "history, - or science, or language arts-readiness" material.

University of Chicago
Center for Instructional Materials

Periodical Division
University of Illinois Lib
URBANA, ILLINOIS

