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No. 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

Beeler, Nelson Frederick. Experiments with electricity; by Nelson F. Beeler and Franklyn M. Branley; illus. by A. W. Revell. Crowell, 1949. 145p. \$2.50 Gr.5-8

This book contains instructions for doing 25 experiments with electricity, each one having a title that makes it appear to be fun to do. The instructions are more than just directions to follow. They include stimulating questions, reasons for doing the experiment, and ways to use it in social situations. They appeal to the "surprise" or "magic" interest in children. Each experiment includes a list of simple and easy-to-get materials needed and clear pictorial diagrams.

It is apparent that one of the objectives of the authors is safety. They mention both that dry cells are perfectly safe and also that house electricity is dangerous.

Brewton, Sara, comp. Bridled with rainbows; poems about many things of earth and sky; selected by Sara and John E. Brewton; dec. by Vera Bock. Macmillan, 1949. 191p. \$2.75 K- (D3;D7b)

Poetry "bridled with rainbows" has a very free rein indeed, and this anthology deals with many things between earth and sky. Old favorites are to be found here among many new and little-known poems. The format with the Bock decorations is extremely attractive, and, all in all, the Brewtons' trilogy makes a good addition to any library.

Buffler, Esther. Mary; illus. by Elizabeth Rice. Steck, 1949. 47p. \$1.50

An uninspired story of a little girl living in a Pennsylvania Dutch community. The use of unfamiliar idioms and of German words makes difficult reading for the beginning reader. Also the incident of Mary's fall into the well is somewhat harrowing. DeAngeli's Henner's Lydia is a much more satisfactory story of the Pennsylvania Dutch for the younger reader.

Christ, Katherine D. Willow Brook farm; illus. by Hilda Van Stockum. Heath, 1948. 246p. \$1.80 Gr.3-5

Typical events in the lives of the Betzs, a family of Pennsylvania Dutch farmers in the 19th century. The episodes are grouped by the four seasons and describe such typical activities as planting, spring cleaning, soap making, market day, threshing, a husking bee, quilt and carpet making, the various holidays, etc. Each episode can be used separately and may supply useful material on various units beyond the Pennsylvania Dutch background. The design, print, and illustrations seem unusually attractive, but the style has a somewhat didactic or textbookish flavor, and the characters could be more alive.

Cook, Mary E. Blackie and his family; illus. by Michael H. Bevans. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 69p. \$2

An interesting contrast to Eberle's Listen to the mockingbird (see below). In this story the birds (crows this time) talk like human beings, have the same emotions as human beings, and even understand the language of human beings. Such personification is unnecessary to the story and is confusing for young children.

Crampton, Gertrude. The Pottlebys; illus. by Anne Merriman Peck. Aladdin, 1949. 92p. \$1.50 Gr.3-5

Seven short stories about the Pottleby family, composed of Papa, Mama, and five children. They become involved in the most difficult and amusing situations. "The Pottlebys paint the house" tells of the whole family doing the job very rapidly, but when finished each side is a different color. Each time the family is saved by using its common sense. If the reader can wind his tongue around the many "Mama Pottlebys" and "Papa Pottlebys", the book will make good reading aloud somewhat in the manner of the famous Peterkin family. Two of the stories have appeared in other collections.

Creekmore, Raymond. Ali's elephant; story and lithographs by Raymond Creekmore. Macmillan, 1949. 38p. \$2

The third in a series of stories for beginning readers designed to show modern life in foreign countries. The idea is good, but the book fails to achieve its purpose. The use of foreign words without a glossary to aid in pronunciation makes difficult reading for the beginner. In identifying the various groups that make up India, the author fails to identify Ali's group - an item of great interest to the reader. Also, of the 5 groups represented on page 5 only 3 are identified. The story is too slight to hold the reader's attention.

Curtis, Alice Turner. A little maid of New Orleans; illus. by Sandra James. Knopf, 1949. 224p. \$2

A new edition of a story that was popular about 20 years ago. The use of dialect and the stereotyped picture of the Negro hamper the value of the book in present day use. The description of New Orleans is not good enough to offset these objectionable features of the book

Dean, Leon W. Royalton raid. Rinehart, 1949. 241p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8

The story of Gideon Smart's capture by the Indians in 1780, his imprisonment in Canada, escape, and final reunion with his family. Not an outstanding story, as few of the characters seem real and the writing is often stilted. However, there is enough action and suspense to hold the interest of most readers.

Decker, Duane. Hit and run. Mill-Morrow, 1949. 188p. \$2.50 j & s h s (D89;D100;D110)

If you begin this story, you won't put it down until the end. Better than average, this baseball thriller has two major problems for the characters and the reader to solve. One is that of Chip Fiske, nimble, peppery short-statured fielder whose uncontrollable temper gets him into "hot water" during his initial stint in the big leagues. The other is Kennie Willard, the lone Negro player, cracking the big-leagues for the first time in baseball history. How these two members of the same club help each other to overcome their handicaps makes the readers tingle with excitement as they live the games and behind-the-scenes life of the players. Sympathetic treatment of personality problems, good hard-hitting descriptive passages, closely woven sequence of events rank this with some of the stories of Tunis and C. Paul Jackson. Incidents pertaining to Ken Willard resemble those which faced Jackie Robinson during his first year with the Dodgers. Highly recommended.

DeVries, Julian. The strike-out king. World, 1948. 216 p. 50¢ (A falcon book)

Reminiscent of the older Frank and Dick Merriwell stories this baseball yarn with its setting in a college community has several strikes against it. The formula for the story is a pat one. Larry Murdock and his opponent, George Brayton, vie for the position of pitcher on the team. Larry wins out but not before he has several harrowing experiences. His enemy, Brayton, is the cause, but the young hero emerges victorious, bringing glory to himself and honor to the school.

The characters are images and not real people - note the portrayal of the minor characters, the Negro maid and Irish Officer. The ending is disappointing and unconvincing.

If the concept of inexpensive series is to be a worthy one the content must measure up to the criteria of good literature. Some of the Falcon books have been of better caliber, and it is unfortunate to allow some of inferior quality to be published.

Eberle, Irmengarde. Listen to the mockingbird; illus. by Sabra Mallett Kimball. Whittlesey, 1949. 64p. \$2 Gr. 3-4

The year-round adventures of a pair of mockingbirds living in Texas. The blending of fact and fiction is well handled. The birds never cease to be birds and are not given supernatural powers of understanding, human beings or other animals. Nice illus.

Erickson, Phoebe. Cattail house; story and illus. by Phoebe Erickson. Childrens press, 1949. 35p. \$1.50

A muskrat goes journeying away from the stream and into the forest. The facts which each animal tells about himself are correct, but the entire plot of the story is false. The muskrat would not try to walk so far - and his relations with other animals would not be so friendly. The personification of the animals is confusing. The title is misleading as there is actually nothing in the story about a Cattail House except that the muskrat is advised to build one.

Evans, Edna Hoffman. Bob Vincent, veterinarian; illus. by Bernice Oehler. Dutton, 1949. 192p. \$2.50

The typical "career" story. Stock characters and trite situations. Not enough information about the work to overcome the weaknesses in the story.

Fitzgerald, Ed. The turning point. Barnes, 1948. 236p. \$2.50 (A Barnes sports novel) (D39;D82;144)

Every high school player dreams of joining a big league team and Marty Ferris is no exception. Outstanding fielder on his team, Marty is scouted by the major leaguers. Offered a contract with the Yankees, he has to decide whether to follow his father's advice and finish school or join the baseball team. What decision he reached and how it was determined are ably handled.

A good high school sports story, filled with healthy family relations, boy-girl relations, and cooperative team spirit. Interesting treatment of behind-the-scenes big league baseball. The author in an attempt at realism makes use of profanity; so librarians in some communities may want to check the vocabulary. A high school reader terms it, "A good sports story and enjoyable reading, but not original nor lasting in its impression."

Garbutt, Katherine (Kendig). Hodie; by Katherine and Bernard Garbutt. Aladdin, 1949. 44p. \$1.75 K-gr.2 (D41)

Hodie is not only a city dog but a French poodle as well. Fate sends him to live on a farm where, despite his unswerving friendliness to man and beast, the farmer has serious doubts of his measuring up to the utilitarian standards for farm dogs. Hodie eventually proves that amicability and usefulness can go hand-in-hand. The pictures are wonderfully expressive of Hodie's temperament and his "interpersonal relationships" as well as giving a real feel for farm animals. The plot is trite but a favorite one of young children, and they will be happy when he wins his place.

Garland, Joseph. The story of medicine; illus. by Erwin H. Austin. Houghton, Mifflin, 1949. 258p. \$2.75 j & s h s (D29; D31; D114)

History of medicine from pre-historic times to the present day, told in a somewhat kaleidoscopic manner. Further, the author attempts to place medicine in its social, philosophical and intellectual setting of which its pursuit was a part. For pure readability the book is uneven. In the little documented age of early medicine, with its magical and religious accompaniments, Mr. Garland's story is easy enough to follow. So too are those parts of the book in which pages or chapters are devoted to a dominant theme, such as inoculation, anesthesia, the rise of nursing. But the compression of subject matter is so great in much of the book that the reader emerges with the dizzying sensation of having whirled through a couple hundred pages of the Columbia Encyclopedia. There are some attempts at a light touch to relieve the encyclopedic quality, but the result is often prosy or whimsical. "Hippocrates lived to a ripe old age... Perhaps the bees still make their honey about his tomb." Or, "We may call them the Dark Ages, but obviously there were kindly lights that led through the encircling gloom." However, Dr. Garland's task was not so easy and since this seems to be the only panoramic history of medicine for young people - it therefore fills a gap in our material on medicine.

George, John Lothar. Vison the mink; by John and Jean George; illus. by Jean George. Dutton, 1949. 184p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8

A companion volume to Vulpes, the red fox. The same country around the Potomac serves as a setting

and many of the characters from Vulpes appear in this story. The mink is the main character and is shown from birth to death - with all his good and bad points. Excellent writing and illus.

Gombrich, Lisbeth and Hemsted, Clara, ed.

Master Till's amazing pranks; the story of Till Eulenspiegel; with 16 scenes photographed in full color and 41 drawings by Elias Katzer. Chanticleer, 1948. 111p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7

Till Eulenspiegel plays his jokes throughout this book, some of them witty, some practical, some cruel. They are well told and incorrigible Till comes to life. One drawback to the book lies in the color photographs, which are better adapted to a book for younger children as they resemble those in fairy tales, "Tom Tit Tot", "Cinderella", etc., which have been illustrated by similar photographs of dolls. The color work in the photographs is excellent, but its drawings catch the spirit of the old tales better. This book is not a first purchase, and some may object to the "cruel" humor in spots, but in libraries where a more complete folk literature collection is needed or where these tales can be used in relation to the Strauss music it should be considered. Jagendorf's "Till Eulenspiegel's merry pranks" (Vanguard, \$2.50), which contains 37 tales, is still in print. This new collection includes 46 pranks.

Hawthorne, Hildegard. His country was the world; a life of Tom Paine. Longmans, Green, 1949. 239p. \$2.50 shs (D28)

The author feels with Woodward (Tom Paine, America's Godfather) that Paine has been grossly maligned in reputation down through the years. Even in the Fast novel where we admire to a certain extent Paine's spirit and soul, we must sometimes view them through a fog of alcohol+sordidness so that they are seen but dimly. Miss Hawthorne follows the Woodward pattern quite closely but omits much of the digressive philosophy that would discourage all but the exceptional among young readers. The biography may be slightly idealized and move too slowly at first, but it becomes more absorbing as it progresses and will do much to place Tom Paine among our country's immortals for young people. Since Miss Hawthorne made such a point of the false picture that has been given of Paine, we wish she had supplied a bibliography of the sources upon which she has based her interpretation.

Hogan, Inez. Nappy is a cowboy. Dutton, 1949. 46p. \$1.25 K-gr.2 (D87;D103;D115)

In this new story, Nappy plays cowboy, with his friend, Spike, as an Indian. They go out hunting cattle thieves and do all the things that radio and movies tell us cowboys do. The cowboy and western element, - and even the cowboy talk - will have a strong appeal to young readers, although the "vernacular" might make it hard for a first reader to handle on his own. Not an outstanding book but useful for its play patterns, older-younger child relations and the emphasis on appropriate girl and boy roles in play.

Holberg, Ruth (Langland). Rowena Carey; illus. by Grace Paul. Doubleday, 1949. 242p. \$2.50 X Gr.4-6 (D4;D47;D37)

Rowena is a very normal little girl living in a town in Massachusetts. Her one ambition in life is

to own a horse. The event that brings her to within reach of her goal is somewhat unconvincing - but the incidents that lead up to it are both realistic and amusing. The book should be useful in guiding readers from a steady diet of horse stories to stories of every day life. Particularly good family relations.

Jacobs, Helen Hull. Gallery of champions. Barnes, 1949. 224p. \$3.75 shs (D62;D48, p.42-58;D122)

Former tennis champion, Helen Hull Jacobs, writes about 15 of the greatest women tennis players of her era. The author has limited her selection to stars she has played against who have held one of the three big tennis titles, the American, English, or French championships.

Sketches of these tennis careers are accurate and fairly well-written. The book tends to drag after the first few chapters, due to repetition of content, same tournaments and matches described several times, and to the author's inclusion of too little colorful biographical material.

Miss Jacobs stresses the good sportsmanship of her opponents, although a few examples of poor sportsmanship are cited. The overcoming of physical handicaps by several of the players who went on to become champions will interest young people. The book will appeal to the older girl who is already a tennis enthusiast.

Jarecka, Louise Llewellyn. Made in Poland; illus.

by M. S. Nowicki. Knopf, 1949. 289p. \$3.50 shs

This is the story of Poland - not so much the history of the country as the arts and customs of the people. The chief value of the book will probably be as a reference tool. However, the style is so very readable that where there is an interest in the country, the book will serve for pleasure reading. Indexed.

Kellino, Pamela. The cats in our lives; by Pamela

Kellino and James Mason; with drawings by James Mason. A. A. Wyn, 1949. 199p. \$2.50 shs

Cat fanciers will find much valuable information in the experiences which the authors have had with cats. Written with a touch of humor and a sympathetic understanding of cat nature, the book should appeal to many readers (except, maybe, some staunch dog fans). The section on "cat complaints" (p.95-116) gives cause and cure of more cat ailments than I ever knew existed.

Klem, Grace. Serena and the cookie lady; story and pictures by Grace Klem. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 30p. \$1.25 Gr.1-3

Serena, the cat, and Mrs. Twigley, the cookie lady were living happily but improvidently until their money supply in a china hen ran low. As was her custom when she became sad, Mrs. Twigley baked an over supply of cookies and knitted. It was Serena who drew crowds to the neighborhood to buy cookies until the china hen overflowed once more with money. Characterization of Mrs. Twigley is good, and Serena is an endearing cat. Illus. attractive. Will appeal to beginning readers. Good suspense for story telling.

Lambert, Janet. Treasure trouble. Dutton, 1949. 189p. \$2.25

Sequel to Where the heart is. Poor writing.

Characters neither act nor talk naturally. Highly improbable situations.

Levine, Milton Isra. A baby is born; by Milton H. Levine and Jean H. Seligman; illus. by Eloise Wilkin. Simon & Schuster, 1949. 53p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5 (D115)

A doctor and his wife have written this book which is designed for younger children than their The wonder of life (Simon & Schuster, 1940). The blurb reports that this new book has been approved by representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergy and tested by a group of children. Our kindergarten staff has been looking for suitable material in sex education for their children, but reported that while this was simple enough in style, it seemed too detailed and mature in material and illustrations for the age level for which it was intended. The material seems good, and, as in the case of all books for children in sex education, it is a question of the degree of detail needed, and desirable. Individual purchasers must read the book and decide whether this answers their needs.

McMeekin, Isabel (McLennan). Kentucky Derby winner; illus. by Corinne Dillon. McKay, 1949. 272p. \$2.50

Jackie fell in love with the red colt the first time he saw it, and nothing could shake his belief that this was to be the most famous horse of its day. His faith is justified when Aristides (Risty to Jackie) wins the first Kentucky Derby. This is more than just a horse story. The relationships between Jackie and his mother and between Gramper and all the children are particularly good. The characters are, for the most part, well drawn. Jackie's father never seems quite real - and the author very conveniently keeps him away from home most of the time. Tom, the villain of the story, is unconvincing. It hardly seems logical that a man of his type would have lasted as long as he did on a farm where kindness to animals was the rule, and there was strict supervision by the owner. There may be some objection to Blue Jay's name, especially since there is no indication that it is a nickname.

Meany, Tom. Baseball's greatest teams. Barnes, 1949. 276p. \$3. j&shs

In a series of thumb-nail sketches and anecdotes, a well-known sports writer gives the history of each big league team, but emphasizes particularly the year when it hit its zenith. For all of the "fans" - boys particularly - and even the non-reading fans, this book will offer much enjoyment. Lots of the data will be old stuff to the really well-informed, but they will still enjoy reminiscing about these famous teams as Meany recalls them. And now that the baseball season is well under way, the 33 pages of statistics in the back may come in handy in reference work.

Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Mary Mapes Dodge, jolly girl; illus. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 199p. \$1.75 Gr.3-5 (Childhood of famous Americans series)

A fictionalized life of the famous author-editor. Although her early life as one of five children is lively and interesting, unfortunately her later life as editor of St. Nicholas and as a children's author, so vitally concerned with childhood, is related very briefly. Sometimes the title of this series seems to limit the contents too much, as in this case. It is, however, one of the better titles in the series, and the fact that it has romance in it will make it usable with older girls who have reading difficulties.

Meek, Sterner St. Paul. Boots; the story of a working sheep dog. Knopf, 1948. 234p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7

Very interesting and well-written dog and boy story of the adventures of Bob McLeod and his border collie, Boots. The pattern is an old and often-used one, but the story is not dull or boring. Details of sheep raising and dog-training and showing are authentic. The appendix gives some good material on sheep dogs and sheep dog trials.

Meigs, Elizabeth Bleecker. The silver quest; drawings by Frederick T. Chapman. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 173p. \$2.50 (D7b;D59) Gr.5-7

Chela, a young Mexican girl, dreams of someday seeing the Silver Loneliness, a white stallion supposed to be a descendant of Cortez' famous Arab horse. The story of her friendship with the stallion is told with such delicacy of touch that it may keep the book from being widely read. However, the imaginative child should enjoy this almost mystic quality.

Moore, David William. The end of Black Dog; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Crowell, 1949. 198p. \$2.75 jhs

This is a kind of sequel to Treasure Island. Shanghied in a dingy Havana grog shop by Black Dog, the pirate, the two young heroes of the story, Jim Hawkins and Ned Connor, find themselves members of a crew of evil brutish buccanniers. Seeking the long lost silver bars on Treasure Island and engaging in piracy on the high seas, the boys face danger and adventure but finally escape from the ill-fated ship.

The story has a good framework for developing a lively yarn, the situations are not too numerous and the characters are fairly but not too fully depicted. What is lacking are the elements of depth, suspense, and more drama. A salty sea yarn without salt, it may arouse a desire to read Stevenson's Treasure Island, if the reader has not already done so. If he has read Treasure Island this tale may not measure up too well.

Palazzo, Tony. Susie the cat. Viking, 1949. 50p. \$2.50 K-gr.2

There is a real charm in Tony Palazzo's pictures and prose, although we are quite frank to say that we are not fickle enough to substitute Susy for Jenny Lenski in our affections. Young children will enjoy the circus if they are circus-minded, and woe betide any cat that may share their home. Lots of fun, but not essential unless your book budget is in good shape. Since writing, this book was selected by a primary teacher for a little girl, - just beginning to read - and who adores cats. Now the teacher reports that the whole second grade loved it.

Parks, Edd Winfield. Little long rifle; illus. by Bob Meyers. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 139p. \$2 Gr. 5-7

The adventures of 12-year-old Bob Winchester during the frontier days of Tennessee in 1801. Bob becomes involved with a band of horse thieves (Indian and white), and only his courage and resourcefulness save his father's herd.

The book will appeal to intermediates because of its simple style and thrilling content. Indian Pete is a curious character who teaches Bob to shoot and the ways of the woods but at the same time is hand-in-glove with the horse thieves. However, he is not typed in his evilness, although the rest of the "villians" are not gilded. The incident of the murder plays only a very small part in the actual story and does not seem out-of-place in the story-setting. Book could very well be a true portrait of life on the frontier.

Peterson, Roger Tory. How to know the birds; an introduction to bird recognition. New American Library, 1949. 144p. 35¢ (A mentor book)
A pocket guide to common American birds. The paper edition is suitable for individual use, but the \$2 Houghton ed. is preferable for library purchase.

Renick, Marion. The Dooleys play ball; illus. by Dwight Logan. Scribner's, 1949. 165p. Gr.3-5 (D21;D37)
This amusing, well written story of the Dooleys, a lively family of softball players, will appeal to the middle graders. Mother and Father Dooley had six boys who loved softball and played on different teams; then their cousin Linda arrived with her duck, Mortimer. Imagine, a girl and a Dooley who didn't know the first thing about softball! How Linda learns the game, helps in the home and proves herself a competent player and a true-blue Dooley make this an entertaining account.

Good picture of wholesome family life, parent and child relations, team spirit and cooperation give the story credibility. Included at the end are suggestions for playing softball. The picture of the Dooley family on page 135 would have been better as a frontispiece. The illustrations, by the way, are excellent. May be used in remedial reading.

Rich, Louise Dickinson. Start of the trail. Lippincott, 1949. 216p. \$2.50 j&shs
This is the story of Bill Gordon's first summer as a licensed Maine guide. There is action and suspense in the swift moving plot, plus a real feel for the woods. Both the work of a guide and that of a game warden (Bill's father) are shown. The characters are real; the situations never seem melodramatic or implausible. This should be as popular for young people as We took to the woods was for adults.

Rienow, Leona Train. The dark pool; illus. by Allen Pope. Scribner, 1949. 149p. \$2.25 Gr.5-7
Sequel to The bewitched caverns and a tale of life in the prehistoric age of Cro-Magnon man. Story deals with a fight between two hunters over a slain beast and with exciting events resulting from the fight. Author makes much use of superstitions, beliefs, and fears of supernatural current in the period. Well told with an air of excitement and suspense, but author tends to endow her characters with attributes that are too modern. Anthropological or historical liberties are permissible if they do not destroy the true spirit of past times or events. However, rather than tying the book up too much with the present, it would be better to show more clearly and with greater emphasis the depth of time and the vast space of history that separates our life and culture from that of the Cro-Magnon era. Buy if there has been great interest in previous book or if there is need in social studies for material on this period.

Rinden, Gertrude Jenness. The watch-goat boy; illus. by Elayne Carol. Friendship, 1948. 127p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5 (D4;D37;D41;D45;D65;D62;)

Living with his missionary father and mother in China, Johnny had two big wishes - he wanted to own a goat and he wanted to be friends with the goat boys, especially Lao-hu. At first he is ridiculed by the goat boys, but the young American eventually wins their friendship. Johnny also secures his goat, but the ownership of the animal brought many difficulties as well as unexpected delights.

In his friendly relations with the ragged, superstitious Chinese boy, Lao-hu, Johnny reveals his concern for others less fortunate than he. He also learns of the customs of the Chinese people in their homes and communities. In the words of Johnny's father, "It seems to me... that Johnny is one of the best missionaries in our family."

The watch-goat boy is an appealing, well-written story, filled with humor and sparkle. Most important, it expresses a feeling of understanding of others and world neighborliness. Its added religious touch (not disproportionate, however) makes it also good supplementary material for church school primary classes.

Schloat, G. Warren. What shall I do? Scribner's, 1949. 88p. \$2 Gr.4-7

Games, tricks, things to make and do - activities for the child who is temporarily on his own. Excellent illustrations and clear, simple text. Primarily for home use, but libraries will find it a valuable addition to the hobbies shelf. Spiral binding.

Scott, Judith Unger. Manners for moderns; illus. by Ruth K. Macrae. Macrae Smith, 1949. 207p. j&shs (D112;D119)

An up-to-date book of conduct and etiquette rules for teen-age boys and girls. Has one section for girls only, one for boys only and a third for both boys and girls.

An interesting and simple presentation marred somewhat by the person to person, slangy style typical of this type of book. However, it is not as predominant here as in some cases. The etiquette rules sound sensible and modern.

Streatfeild, Noel. Movie shoes; illus. by Susanne Suba. Random house, 1949. 274p. \$2.50 Gr.5-8 (D13; D37; D107)

When it became necessary for the Winter family to leave London and go to Hollywood, Jane was the one who rebelled most strongly. She was the middle and untalented one of the family - and she saw no prospect of any improvement in her status. A chance to play the leading part in The secret garden helps to change her mind - and helps her to do some much needed growing up. The book has some unconvincing characters and situations, but Jane is drawn with realism and restraint that may well make her an outstanding character in children's fiction. Good picture of Hollywood and the making of a film.

Thompson, Mary. Hillhaven. Longmans, Green, 1949. (See review in April MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN)
Bertha Gunterman, Children's Editor at Longmans, has this to report: "A former occupational

therapist, Jane Cobb, who also wrote a book on the subject, says, Hillhaven is the best she has seen and is recommending it... The National Assn of Occupational Therapy is buying the book in quantity for its own publicity use..." Our review said it was sentimental and questioned its usefulness to guidance counselors; so these two viewpoints will make it an interesting book to evaluate by librarians and counselors.

Tregarthen, Enys. The white ring; ed. by Elizabeth Yates; with illus. by Nora Unwin. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 65p. \$2 Gr.3-5

An old Cornish legend tells how Nan, a fairy child, lived on earth with Uter, an old man, and the manner in which she finally broke the spell that held Uter enthralled and won her way back to fairy land. The story moves rather slowly; but with a quiet beauty; consequently it will capture the interest only of the more imaginative child.

Wright, Jack. On the forty-yard line. World, 1948. 214p. 50¢ (A falcon book)

Another of the Falcon Books, this football yarn is much better in treatment than the two others cited. The sport is football, the setting, a college campus. The principal characters include Jim Davis, the hero, his roommates, the Coach, the astronomy professor, the professor's daughter, and Weldy Gray, who tried to ruin Jim at all costs.

The inevitable happens, Jim Davis becomes the college hero, is worshipped by all, becomes implicated in a shady plot through the efforts of his enemy and loses his standing. He redeems himself with the aid of friends and arrives just in time in a most spectacular manner to participate in the final game. In analyzing the Falcon Books, the criticism can be directed toward the stereotyped plots, the leaning toward pulp magazine story sensationalism, and the old patterns of plot and situations so characteristic of the Merriwell "recipe." Recommended with reservations.

Yarnell, Duane. The winning basket. World, 1948. 217p. 50¢ (A falcon book)

Horatio Alger, 1948 style, can best characterize this lukewarm sports story. The ingredients include honest, eager-eyed Ben Mason, a homeless waif, admitted to exclusive Clearwater Academy. When his background is discovered, he is unceremoniously asked to leave. He returns later when sponsored by the wealthiest man in the state who meets him in true Alger fashion. Shunned by all, he gains a place on the basketball team, learns the game and stars on the team in a very short time. In true martyrdom he suffers for the good of the team and, eventually, learns his true identity.

Negative aspects of school spirit, poor student-faculty relations, unrealistic methods of building team spirit and cooperation help to deaden the effectiveness of the book and dull the sense of the reader.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material

Albany (N. Y.) State College for Teachers will sponsor its 2nd annual Workshop for Children's and Young People's Librarians August 1-12, 1949.

Subject: Periodicals and pamphlets for today's problems. Director - Laura K. Martin, author, Magazines for School Libraries.

American Council on Education. Committee on the study of teaching materials in intergroup relations.

Intergroup relations in teaching materials; a survey and appraisal. The Council. 1949.

Report makes use of 124 quotations in 61 textbooks published before 1944. In December 1948 a recheck was made of any new editions but it was found that only one of the textbooks had real changes and improvement in point of view relating to treatment of minorities.

Hampel, Margaret, Dale, Edgar, and Quick, Marie. Films interpreting children and youth. Assn. for Childhood Education, 1206 16th St. N. W., Washington D.C. (or from for Sup. and Cur. Development). 1947. 35¢

Basic science education series. Row, Peterson and Co. 1949. (write for prices)

Nine new titles in this attractive and useful series, in which Bertha Parker collaborates with others, have appeared this year. It is interesting to know also that film strips are to be correlated with them, of which six are now ready. Write for a catalog. Some of the titles of the new booklets are as follows:

Animal world Six-legged neighbors
Domesticated animals Toys
Domesticated plants Plant world

Bureau of Naval Personnel. U. S. Navy occupational handbook; a manual for civilian guidance counselors and navy classification officers. Washington D. C., Author. Nov.'48

Includes 66 Vocational Information Briefs covering the major job opportunities in the Navy. Note: these briefs are also available as separates.

Buell, Clayton E. "Philadelphia teachers select the textbooks they use." School Board Journal (April, 1949) p. 41-2.

A description of the methods and forms used for evaluating textbooks in one school system.

Sattley, Helen R., ed. "Children's books about foreign countries." Elementary English (Jan. 1949 - date)

Five articles in this series have now been published: Evaluations and re-evaluations (general); India; Canada; Russia; Africa, excluding the Egyptian area.

Cundiff, Ruby E. Recommended reference books for the high school library; 3rd ed. Wilcox-Follett. 1949. 50¢

Denver serves its children; a handbook of school and community resources for the use of parents and teachers. Denver Public Schools. 1948. 60p. apply

Eakin, Mary K. "Supplement to Reprints of children's books in series and editions." Library Journal, 74(May 15, 1949)p.792-94.

This brings up to date the very excellent evaluation done by Eakin and Janacek in Library Journal (April 15, 1948).

Kambly, Paul E. "Elementary school science library for 1947-1948." School Science and Mathematics, 49(March, 1949) p.237-40.

The fifth list of this type.

Light, Israel, comp. Bibliography of bibliographies on atomic energy (For teachers, students, and adult discussion groups). Washington D. C. Office of Education. Feb. 1949. (Interdev'l Comm. on the Ed'l. Implications of Atomic Energy, Bib. no. 1) Free- limited supply.

Madison (Wisconsin) Public Schools. Children's Books Committee. Fun for all and all for fun; books for "comics" fans; 1948-49. Author.

A very good list except for the poor captions for each grouping.

Madison (Wisconsin) Public Schools. The Magazine Committee. Magazines for the elementary grades; rev. ed. Author. 1949. 46p.

Contents: Appeal of the comics - Differences in content of comics. - Recommended magazines by subject classification. - Evaluation of recommended magazines. - Guiding children's magazine reading.

Museum of modern art. 11 West 53rd Street, New York 19, NY. Circulating exhibits, 1949-1950. (Catalog)

New York HERALD-TRIBUNE. Forum for high schools. Working together for the world we want. Author, 230 West 41st St., New York 18, NY. 1949. 87p. 75¢

These proceedings of the New York HERALD-TRIBUNE Forum for High Schools are truly exciting. 34 students from 17 Marshall Plan countries participated in the discussion.

Ostrowsky, Clara. Books to grow on; a planned library for boys and girls. Jefferson School of Social Service, 575 Avenue of the Americas, New York 11, NY. 10¢ mimeographed.

Particularly a list for parents to choose from.

Paulson, Blanche. Days of our youth; illus. by Lois Fisher. Chicago, Board of Education, 228 N. LaSalle Chicago, Illinois. 1948. 70p. 25¢ (Self-appraisals and careers, pamphlets no. 6)

People are different; illus. by Lois Fisher. (rev.) Chicago, Board of Education, 228 N. LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois. 1945. 52p. 25¢ (Self-appraisal and careers, pamphlet no. 6)

Pictorial Map Company. These United States; pictorial, educational maps. Author, 4520 N. Clarendon Ave., Chicago 40, Ill. \$3.50 ea. (In color); \$1.50 ea. (Black & white); \$10.00 (For set of 3 in color). 29½" x 37½".

These three very attractive and colorful maps, done by Robert Hyde deGrange, depict our American heritage, our resources, and our products and industries. They will make attractive wall pieces in the classroom and the library as well as stimulating instructional material when the teacher takes into consideration the limitations of such material and uses it advantageously. For example, such maps have to be selective so as a result one's own locale or state will not contain everything that it should. Therefore the children should be motivated to supplement for the region they are studying or make local maps. Possibly the publisher might issue additional lists for more specific locales. In future maps, rivers should be indicated and clearly marked, for they have figured so largely in our country's history and production that they are needed to complete the picture. One of

our Social Studies teachers liked especially the "Our American Heritage" map and plans to get one for his wall.

Wechsler, Herman. The pocket book of old masters.

Pocket Books has issued an excellent book of art reproductions at 25¢, to be followed by Craven, Thomas Famous artists and their models.

Rue, Eloise. "Subject headings for elementary school catalogs." Library Journal, 74(May 15, 1949) p. 795-7.

Some helpful side-lights on how children use their school catalog with implications for subject headings.

Sullivan, Helen Blair, ed. Selected list of books for remedial reading. Boston University, Educational Clinic. 1948. 50¢

Gives both vocabulary and interest levels, gr.3-12.

Whitcomb, Adah F. McClurg's new graded list of books for elementary schools. A. C. McClurg & Co., 333 Ontario St., Chicago 11, Ill. Apply.

Wisconsin Elementary Principal's Assn. An evaluation study of elementary films used in the course of regularly conducted classroom work; in cooperation with the Univ. of Wisconsin. Bureau of Visual Instruction (W. A. Wittich, Director). Author. 1947. 27p. 25¢

Annotated list with symbols indicating area of usefulness, maturity level, price, etc. The evaluation form could be used by schools in making similar evaluations of newer films.

Wisconsin Joint Committee for Better Radio Listening. Let's learn to listen; radio, everyone's responsibility. Mrs. N. W. Madding, 143 West Hancock, Madison, Wisconsin. 25¢

Wolfe, Ann G. Leader's guide; a manual for better human relations for leaders in youth-serving agencies. American-Jewish Committee, 386 4th Ave., New York 16, NY. 15¢ (Special rate for quantity orders.)

Congratulations to Carson Pirie Scott's "The Hobby Horse Presents" radio program. It has been awarded first place in the juvenile radio field by the Chicago Federated Advertising Club for promotional value and technical qualities.

And more congratulations to this worthy steed for the praiseworthy outcome of its "Favorite authors" contest (see P.W. May 28, 1949 p.2179). The high calibre of the first-placing authors is a tribute to the fine work that these radio programs in cooperation with libraries, are doing for children's tastes in reading.

University of Chicago
Center for Instructional Materials



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