



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.

028.05
CH

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

May, 1949

Published on the 15th of each month with the exception of August
Annual subscription \$1.00

Vol. II

No. 6

New Titles for Children and Young People THE LIBRARY OF THE

Averill, Esther. Jenny's moonlight adventure; written and illus. by Esther Averill. Harper, 1949. 31p. \$1.50 Gr.1-3 (D40b)

Jenny Linsky, the shy little cat with the red scarf, proves herself a heroine on Halloween night when her friend, Madame Butterfly, is in trouble and needs Jenny's help. Jenny is fast becoming an outstanding personality with the very young readers - who will enjoy this new adventure.

Baker, Elizabeth Whitmore. Sonny-boy Sim; illus. by Susanne Suba. Rand McNally, 1948. 31p. \$1 Gr.3-5

A rollicking story of Sonny-boy Sim who lived with his grandmammy and grandpappy in the piney woods. Sonny-boy liked to hunt the animals in the piney woods until one night when they all rebelled. The story is told with all the rhythm of a true folk-tale. Small print and the folk-tale style may discourage voluntary reading. However, the book is excellent for reading aloud or for the story-teller. Nice illustrations.

Baker, Nina (Brown) Robert Bruce: king of Scots. Vanguard, 1948. 247p. \$2.75 j&shs (D22;29;67;70)

An exciting biography of Robert the Bruce which shows clearly his struggles with Edwards I and II of England to attain freedom for his country. There is a fine feeling of the period and the characterization is good. Bruce is not over-idealized - his weaknesses and strengths are plain. Bibliography of sources gives the impression of authenticity. Unbiased - see discussion of Bruce's spider; also various explanations of the killing of Red John Comyn.

Balch, Glenn Viking dog Crowell, 1949 147p. \$2.25 Gr.6-8

The traditional pattern of dog stories is followed in this account of the life of a Norwegian elkhound. The dog is born in captivity, escapes and reverts to wild life for a few years, and then returns to the man who befriended him. Not an outstanding book, but one that may be used if another dog story is needed.

Bannon, Laura Billy and the bear; story and pictures by Laura Bannon Houghton Mifflin, 1949 47p. \$2.50

A simple, amusing story of a boy's ambition to have a bicycle and of how the panic caused by a trained bear "at large" brings him his wish. The pictures are very colorful in the main, but certain of them are reproduced entirely in blue, giving the impression of being in the first stage of the color printing process. There seems to be enough plot and excitement to the story so that in combination with its very simple style it may be useful in remedial reading work.

Barrows, Marjorie Scamper; pictures by Clarence Biers. Rand McNally, 1949 26p. 75¢

A "glowing-eye" book. Insignificant story. Fair illus. Too much of a toy book to have value for library use.

Bethers, Ray. The magic of oil; with diagrams by the author. Aladdin books, 1949. 47p. \$2 Gr.4-6

Two books on oil are reviewed in this issue. This is a photographic picture book with one page of accompanying text for each picture, giving the story of oil from its discovery to its important uses in current life. The interest, use and vocabulary levels grade the book higher than a real picture book.

Bible. The rainbow book of Bible stories; the Old Testament and the New Testament; ed., with an intro by May Lambertson Becker; illus. by Hilda Van Stockum World, 1948. 220p. \$1.25 (A rainbow classic) Gr.5- (D3;D101;D105)

These Bible stories are arranged in chronological order to form a continuous narrative. Contains some of the most outstanding dramas of the Bible. Wording adheres closely to King James version, except where it has been simplified for understanding. Very readable for children. Will not take place of Bible, but to be used with it. An interesting introduction by the editor. The illustrations of the most familiar incidents to children are done in soft colors by Hilda Van Stockum. Can be used for story-telling.

Blyton, Enid. The mystery of the disappearing cat; illus. by J. Abbey. McNaughton, 1948. 170p. \$1.98 Gr.4-6

The story centers around the disappearance of a valuable cat belonging to Lady Candlering. The mystery is solved by the Five Find-Outers, aged 12, and a dog. Their detective work is plausible and quite interesting. Characterization of children is fair, but adults are not so well done. This is one of six mysteries the author has written about the Five Find-Outers. It seems weak in style and the characters, stereotyped - especially in the case of Mr. Goon, the dumb policeman, who follows the pattern of stupidity of so many of the adult "who-dunits". There are better stories; so it is not essential unless stories of the Five Find-Outers are in demand.

Bowers, Gwendolyn. The adventures of Phillipe; illus. by Fritz Kredel. Aladdin books, 1949. 153p. \$2.50 Gr.3-5

When 9 year-old Phillipe's mother sent him on his way to his father in Canada, he did not dream he would arrive there a year late and find no trace of his father. However, life in 17th century Kebec proved rather pleasant for the lad and eventually he was restored to his parents. A rather mildly written story that gives a good picture of life in colonial Canada. Nice illustrations.

Briggs, Barbara. Licorice. Aladdin books, 1949. 22p. \$2

"Poor little Licorice Leopard!" Although her parents wore traditionally patterned coats, hers was black; so she spent her waking hours washing herself and trying to correct the "defect". Finally, she

learns from a similarly colored leopard that he is Prince of the jungle and she is a beautiful Princess. The change in attitude of the jungle animals is amazing, - the tan and disapproving parents are forgotten, and Licorice is happy. Unfortunately such "about face" in attitudes among our own countrymen doesn't happen, but at least we hope parents don't reject their "different" children as freely as happens here. Pictures are appealing, but story is slight.

Bromhall, Winifred. Mrs. Polly's party. Knopf, 1949. 28p. \$1.50 K-Gr.2

Mrs. Polly seems to occupy a similar position of affection in the community to that of Mr. Hobbs. She has a host of treasures at her house, she is kind to animals, and loves to give parties at all seasons of the year, - so all the children love her. The most popular party - described in greatest detail - is the "Sugar on Snow" party, covering the cycle of gathering maple syrup and sugaring off. A pleasant but not outstanding story and Bromhall's charming children all look alike.

Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Wishes come true; illus. by Katherine B. Wireman. Friendship, 1948. 128p. \$1.50 Gr.3-5

Four short stories tell of boys and girls of Puerto Rico, seeking happy family and community living amid poverty and ignorance.

Emphasis in these stories is on the influence of the church workers in the homes, centers, clinics and projects of the people in Puerto Rico. The book is designed primarily to teach the American boy and girl about the ways of the country and the work of the Christian church. Oversimplification of the solutions to the problems of the people and a slight feeling of condescension (these poor unfortunates!) detract from the value of the stories and the purpose for which they are written. Will be used more in church school work. Except for the names, the vocabulary is very simple.

Brown, Margaret Wise. The little cowboy; pictures by Esphyr Slobodkina. Scott, 1948. 32p. \$1.50 K-Gr.2

The interest small children display in this book will be largely because they have already had an introduction to other "big-little" books and because they have listened to "Roy Rogers" and other westerns on the radio. The things the cowboys do are not those which would interest children most; i.e., cooking a steak or singing to the moon do not have much child-like appeal. The ending with the two cowboys serenading the moon may also leave something to be desired - children prefer the definiteness of "going to bed". The illustrations are unusual and the dotted effect (reminiscent of old Benday and the comics) give the feel of the desert. However, the cowboys without faces and the multitudinous checks and dots may bother the child. Binding will not last. Lenski's Cowboy Small (see below) is for a little younger child but seems to translate the cowboy to small children better.

Buff, Mary (Marsh). Peter's pinto; by Mary and Conrad Buff. Viking, 1949. 95p. \$2 Gr.5-7

Using the popular theme of a 12-year-old boy's longing for a horse, the authors tell an exciting tale and at the same time give a vivid description of the out-of-doors and the activities in and about a ranch in Utah. There is good character delineation here and also a sympathetic presentation of Mormons

today. In picking up a Buff book one looks first at the pictures. These are in black and white and this reviewer felt that the artists had been much more successful in the scenic and horse pictures than in those containing people.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. Riding the pony express; illus. by Grace Paull. Crowell, 1948. 95p. \$2.25 (D1;D9;D16;D39;D85)

"My name is Dick Park. I am on my way from New York to meet my father in St. Joseph, Missouri. Please help me get on the right trains."

These words on a tag worn by an 11-year-old boy introduce the reader to the young hero of Riding the pony express. Reaching his destination, Dick discovers that his father has become one of the famed Pony Express riders. Exciting events follow which give Dick a chance to prove his courage and bravery in outwitting a band of robbers and unexpectedly taking the mail when his father is shot. This incident of Dick's dramatic ride during the night, carrying the mail over an unknown route to its next station and his successful means of escape from a pursuing band of hungry wolves seems a little far-fetched. Good for boys and girls in Grades 3-5, but has maturity of appeal to use with older boys with reading difficulties.

Campbell, Camilla. The Bartletts of Box B ranch; by Glenn Chesnut. Whittlesey house, 1949. 256p. \$2.25 Gr.6-8 (D37;D104;D4)

Everything about modern ranch life is brought into this story of a family's efforts to rebuild a once famous cattle ranch. There is a rodeo, a stock show, a cattle drive, sand storm, drought. Taking part are all the stock characters from the "old-timer" to the Mexican sheepherder. In spite of stereotyped situations and characters the book makes pleasant reading. There are good family relations, especially in Phil's attitude toward the younger children.

Cavanna, Betty. Paintbox summer; with decorations by Peter Hunt. Westminster press, 1949. 191p. \$2.50 j&shs (D66;D4;D47;D107;D53)

Kate Vale had spent most of her life over-shadowed by her glamorous, social-minded older sister until a summer spent in Provincetown working for Peter Hunt showed her that the only way to enjoy life was to be herself. A severe case of "firstlove" helps even more in adjusting her perspective. This is a book girls will (and from reports of the Lab School -do) love. It is completely realistic but written in a vein as light-hearted as Peasant Village art itself. The jacket and decorations by Peter Hunt lend gaiety and charm to the book. A must for every library.

Chase, Richard, comp. Hullabaloo and other singing folk games; illus. by Joshua Tolford; with six piano settings by Hilton Ruffy. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 57p. \$1.25(paper) \$2(cloth) Gr.3-

A collection of traditional English-American folk-games and dances. The tunes are simple enough for children - and teachers with limited musical background. Clear direction with illustrative drawings. Particularly good for summer camps or playground use.

Crump, Irving. Our oil hunters; illus. with photographs. Dodd, Mead, 1948. 210p. \$2.50

This second book on oil (see Bethers above) presents the material through Crump's usual readable technique. Each chapter takes a certain aspect of the

search for oil, dramatizes it by giving one or more actual adventuresome incidents and then concludes by a portion of factual material. Its scope is more limited than in the Bethers book, although the material is much longer and more mature. A small amount of history is included but the account stops with the bringing in of an oil well. Because of the style and the lack of an index the book will be largely for free-reading rather than for reference and instructional use. Perry The petroleum industry (Longmans) and Floherty Flowing gold (Lippincott) give a fuller picture. Because Perry, Floherty and Bethers cover the field more adequately, the book is being put in the Five-Year Collection.

Daringer, Helen Fern. Pilgrim Kate; illus. by Kate Sereby. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 252p. \$2.50

Narrates the evolution of a Pilgrim in the person of 17-year-old Kate Endicott whose "conforming" family lived in Scrooby, England at the time of James I. Here we have a well-told story that deals with the struggles of the Pilgrims in England and their various attempts to steal away to Holland. When a ship load finally succeeds in slipping down Ryton River to the sea, Kate and her family are among them and Hugh Fitzhugh is promising from the shore to join her in Holland.

This is the first of a trilogy which will depict vital periods in our country's development. The next two will not be sequels but rather "descendants" of the first book and its characters.

Denis, Paul. Your career in show business; with a foreword by Abel Green. Dutton, 1948. 240p. \$3 j&shs

Many aspects of show business are treated comprehensively in this volume. The personnel of the legitimate theater, movies, radio and television is included, from the usher in movies to writers and producers. Educational requirements for almost all fields, how to get and hold the desired jobs, statistics of salaries and how many people are engaged in various aspects are included. Mr. Denis has done newspaper work covering various entertainment media and Abel Green, editor of VARIETY, has written the foreword. The book should therefore be authoritative and prove helpful in vocational guidance. Some bibliographies are included in the text.

Eames, Genevieve Torrey. Handy of the Triple-S; illus. by Paul Brown. Messner, 1949. 164p. \$2.50

A very slight story of a boy and a dog. Although dog fans will probably enjoy this book, there is not enough of lasting value to make it worth purchasing for the average library collection.

Emery, Anne. Senior year; illus. by Beth Krush. Westminster press, 1949. 208p. \$2.50 (D9;D37;D47;D75;D103;D113)

Sally Burnaby returns from her vacation with high anticipation for the activities of her last year in high school. Unfortunately, her girl friend and the boy who lives down the street, on whom she has come to depend too much, seem to be lost to her. But the year which starts so badly turns out to be a good one and Sally grows in self-reliance and revises some of her values. In reading this book one has the feeling that Mrs. Emery has drawn freely on the richness of her own family life and that every incident has some basis in reality. Although Sally is the central figure, the other mem-

bers of the family are significant characters too. The maturing of sophomore Jean and 12-year-old Ricky's Hallowe'en escapade are noteworthy. At times, especially at the beginning, there is an artificial note in the setting of the stage, but this fades out as Mrs. Emery swings into her story.

Fennimore, Stephen. Bush holiday; illus. by Ninon MacKnight. Doubleday, 1949. 242p. Gr. 7-9 (D4;D113;D59)

An unusual setting gives this book its chief appeal. Laid in the bush country of Australia, it pictures life on a ranch - as contrasted with the usual stories of life among the aborigines. The story itself is somewhat contrived. Martin, an American boy, who is visiting on the McLeod ranch, is almost too good. The romance between his mother (his father was killed during the war) and a friend of his father's is not convincing. However, there is enough action and excitement to satisfy most readers.

Fishel, Dick. Terry and Bunky play hockey; by Dick Fishel and Ken Hay; illus. by L. B. Warren. Putnam, 1948. 90p. \$1.75 Gr.3-5

A fourth title in the Terry and Bunky "how to play series" deals with the rudiments of ice hockey. The story has the usual formula of the series; the situations seem unnatural and the characters stilted. Using a fictional approach to present informational material is of questionable value if the simplest fundamentals of literary writing are shunned. Such we fear is becoming the case with the Terry and Bunky books. Explaining the game of hockey through the learning processes of Terry and Bunky may be all right but since this is fiction, the characters should also learn some of the concomitant tasks, such as cooperation in the home, acquiring a sense of responsibility. Their lack is lightly treated by the author as he describes how the boys' forgetfulness in performing an important errand for Frenchy Nordeau almost causes the hockey team to lose. Repetitious phrasing, such as "looked like this" before each diagram becomes monotonous and tiresome. This series could be of more value written as straight informational material, devoid of fictionizing.

Geis, Darlene. Design for Ann. Crowell, 1949. 212p. \$2.25

Ann is a typical adolescent ugly-duckling - sloppy in appearance, ill at ease socially, and completely unhappy with herself and her family. A chance to go to New York to display some of her fashion designs brings a complete change. Overnight, she becomes popular, sure of herself and careful of her appearance. The change is too sudden to be convincing. It also seems unlikely that a girl with Ann's sense of style, which makes it possible for her to create such unusual accessories, should be so completely slovenly in her own dress. The picture of the library will be especially provoking to school librarians, even though true of this particular school.

Gomez, Winnifred Loerch. Merry songs; illus. by Eunice Young Smith. Follett, 1949. \$1.60

Really a text but could have general library and home use because of its range of songs, the grouping and the attractive, durable format. Very brief instructional notes at bottom of each page are supposed to motivate music appreciation and use of book. "Big Chief Indian" may contribute to children's sense of rhythm but could well have been left out from the

"stereotyping" aspect. Some songs are well-known and others new.

Gottschalk, Fruma. The youngest general; illus. by Rafaello Busoni. Knopf, 1949. 169p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9 (D29)

Here is a warmly sympathetic, extremely readable account of the life of Lafayette from his childhood to the time he was commissioned as a general in the United States Army. The author is the wife of an historian and authority on Lafayette, and her work reflects the accuracy one would expect from such a writer. Most American children tend to think of Lafayette in terms of his part in the Revolutionary War and so may be disappointed because this biography ends at the point where this greatest interest begins. Indexed.

Gwinn, Alice E. Fun and festival from Japan; by Alice E. Gwinn and Esther Hibbard. Friendship press, 1949. 35¢ 48p.

A very useful pamphlet of material on social life and customs in Japan, prepared by two teachers in Kyoto, Japan. It covers language, eating, music, poetry, games and entertainment, special days. The style is simple and readable. Most can be read by children as low as gr. 3 or by children gr.5-.

Helmericks, Constance. Our Alaskan winter; by Constance and Harmon Helmericks. Little, Brown, 1949. 271p. \$3.50

Third in a series of straightforward, factual accounts of the experiences of a young white couple who spent three winters and two summers in the Arctic circle. The authors lived with the Eskimos, partaking of the food, sharing their houses, and adopting their way of life, and the book is filled with details concerning the conditions of Eskimo living and the habits of the people.

Boys especially will enjoy the detail with which building, hunting and travel are described, and the tone of authenticity. No attempt is made to romanticize, and many popular beliefs about the country and the people are debunked. There is plenty of adventure, however: the blizzard, the caribou hunt, the incident of the polar bear and the homeward journey by canoe are exciting enough without any literary embroidery. Not deathless prose, but the style is appropriately matter-of-fact, and not without humor.

Hosford, Dorothy (Grant). Sons of the Volungs; adapted by Dorothy Hosford from Sigurd the Volsung by William Morris; illus. by Frank Dobias. Holt, 1949. 168p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9

A re-issue in new format of a book that has long been a favorite.

Jackson, Kathryn. (Tenggren's) Cowboy's and Indians; stories by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; with pictures by Gustaf Tenggren. Simon and Schuster, 1948. 96p. \$2 (A giant golden book)

This "Tenggren-gone-western" book seems like a conglomeration of stories, poems and pictures about the West, at first glance. More careful examination shows that the stories, pictures and some poems deal largely with characters introduced in the beginning through "rhymed prose". The book may excite great interest and the pictures studied in detail, but there are some negative features to reckon with. The pictures, incidents and conversations are filled with stereotypes. Many of the plots are as melodramatic as old western movies with children as the main characters. The

picture book format places the book at a younger reading level than the text sometimes warrants. Some of the pictures are good, but the coy young fry and animals do not jibe with the adult figures and western background.

Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Snowshoe paws. Morrow, 1949. 62p. \$2 Gr.2-4

A simply written story of a cat with six toes on each paw. Young children will enjoy having it read aloud. Not much permanent value.

Jones, Lloid. Holiday mountain; by Lloid and Juanita Jones. Westminster press, 1949. 208p. \$2.50 Gr. 7-9

This is the story of life in a resort camp in the Colorado Rockies from the point of view of the family that operates the camp. There are excellent family relations, especially in the way each member pitches in to help during a crisis. The characters have reality and action is swift enough to keep the readers' interest.

Kiser, Martha Gwinn. Sunshine for Merrily; illus. by Eloise Wilkin. Random house, 1949. 130p. \$2 Gr.3-4

Merrily Hayes, her sister, Meady, and her brother Bucky lived at the County Home because all the orphanages were too full to take care of them. It was a very exciting day for them when Miss Allie Mays, the town spinster, took them for a temporary visit - that turned out to be permanent. The story is told by Merrily - a style that is irritating at first and will probably limit the appeal. Story is too precious for the general reader but will have some appeal for the imaginative child.

Lenski, Lois. Cowboy Small. Oxford, 1949. 46p. \$1 4-6yr.

As in all "Small" books, story and pictures are definitely geared to the child. Cowboy Small does everything a child expects a cowboy to do, but does it in a child-like way, in contrast to Margaret Wise Brown's The little cowboy. Even a list defining various words such as "bedroll", "chuckwagon" which will probably appear in every boy's vocabulary shortly after hearing the story, is included. Breezy, informal style appropriate to a cowboy. Sturdy binding.

Levinger, Elma (Ehrlich). Albert Einstein.

Messner, 1949. 174p. \$2.75 j&shs (D59)

The phenomenon of a scientist who captured the imagination and won the respect of the people of the world even though only a handful of those people could understand his theories is skillfully handled in this biography of Albert Einstein. The author writes with a warmth and sincerity that succeed in creating a very real picture of the man as well as the scientist. Einstein's theories are simplified enough for the layman to gain a fair degree of understanding.

Catherine Owen Peare's Albert Einstein, a biography for young people (Holt, 1949) which appeared simultaneously lacks the warmth and color that make the Levinger book so readable. Both books are acceptable, but the Levinger will probably have the greater appeal for young people.

Lochlons, Colin. Stretch Smith makes a basket. Crowell, 1949. 194p. \$2.25 jhs (D1;D4;D109; D122;D126)

The problems of adjusting to new classmates,

teachers, and different school routines face every boy and girl entering the Junior High School for the first time. Added troubles of adjusting to urban ways confuse the rural student. These were some of the problems confronting Stretch Smith, six foot, ninth grader, who came to Lincoln High School.

Awkward, shy and lacking faith in himself Stretch desires to play basketball and star on the team. Interspersed in his struggles on the basketball court are the games, the pleasant and unpleasant incidents for Stretch in the classrooms, and his rivalry with Mark Yerry. Through his coach, Mr. Gedlon, Stretch learns the techniques and the origin of basketball and eventually leads his team to victory and championship.

The sudden discovery of latent confidence by Stretch in the closing minutes of the crucial game as he listens to the sermon of the coach and the sharp turn-about in attitude of Mark Yerry, the rival player, are unconvincing. The vocabulary is simple and the print is large type.

Lum, Peter. The stars in our heaven; drawings by Anne Marie Jauss. Pantheon, 1948. 245p. \$3.75 j&shs (D25;D50;D62;D137)

Excellent content. Well written. Tells the stories of the fables and myths which the various cultures have developed about the stars and constellations. Weaves some scientific data into stories, but does this so subtly that it is absorbed rather than "learned". Does not write down to reader. No index, but since the fables and myths are grouped around their particular stars and constellations and the table of contents leads very easily to myths, none is really necessary. The book is illustrated with scientific star-charts upon which are drawn the mythical figures. Cultures include Egyptian, Chinese, Roman, Greek, Indian, and American Indian. Highly recommended.

Martin, Charles M. Once a cowboy; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Viking, 1948. 191p. jhs

Randy Peasley, a spoiled, wealthy 13-year-old boy is to spend part of his summer vacation on a ranch instead of at an expensive lodge. Initial unsatisfactory relationships with the other boys cause Randy to realize that he must change his attitudes and his actions. He gradually learns to love the western life, makes friends with the boys, especially Joe Walters, better known as Segundo. From a spoiled, stubborn youngster Randy emerges as a full-fledged cowhand, a changed individual and part-owner of a purchased ranch.

Charles Martin has failed in his task to write a convincing story for the juvenile reader. Characterization is poor, particularly the change of character in Randy. Both the conversation and the western colloquialisms seem forced and in some instances, contrived. Randy's father, referred to as "old R. W." or "your old man" lacks a positive paternal status. The shadowy figure of Randy's mother could have been omitted altogether. Her death and its effect on Randy are unreal and unnecessary. A good idea of the poor quality of writing may be seen in the chapter entitled "Horses".

Mason, George F. Animal sounds. Morrow, 1948.

\$2 Gr.3- (D91)

An interesting, accurate and authoritative account of the sounds of some of our common animals, birds and insects. The author describes in words and illustrations how many of them produce their musical tones, as well as their warnings of danger. In many cases he tells of the mechanical processes involved. This is a companion volume to Animal tracks and Animal homes. Mr. Mason is on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The book will appeal to nature lovers of all ages.

Week, Sterner St. Paul. Midnight; a cow pony. Knopf, 1949. 217p. \$2.50 j&shs (D7c;D60;D19)

The foreman of Lazy E ranch, against the protests of the horse wrangler, employs a young man who appears to be too soft for the tough life of a cowpuncher, Bill Stephens of New York. He proves his worth on the Texas panhandle ranch; trains Midnight, a spirited unmanageable horse, to be the most valuable on the ranch; and pulls the place out of debt. All the characters are adult and the characterizations are good, especially Bill. The author has an understanding knowledge of horses and cattle ranching. Although the mystery of the owner of the ranch is guessed early in the plot, it is a story that will appeal to boys and girls interested in horses and cowboys.

Meyer, Jerome Sydney. Picture book of the weather; illus. by Richard Floethe. Lothrop, 1948. 48p. \$2 Gr.3-5

A well-known science teacher writes: This book is attractive and readable and much of it is well-done from the stand-point of scientific accuracy. Unfortunately, it contains some errors and gives erroneous impressions in certain places. Six examples were cited from the first twenty-five pages. Aside from these inaccuracies, the book would be excellent supplementary science material for grades 3-6 as well as good free reading material. It would seem as though the book should be used only under the direction of teachers who have a good science background and can offset these inaccuracies. The format is very attractive and Floethe's pictures seem unusually fine.

Moffitt, Virginia May. The Jayhawker; and the adventures of Brett Pruitt with the outlaws and Indians of the Texas plains; illus. by Robert Candy. Page, 1949. 275p. \$2.50

A poorly written, melodramatic story with a style reminiscent of the dime-novels. Particularly objectionable stereotypes of the Negro.

Monrad, Jean. How many kisses goodnight; pictures by Lucienne Bloch. Young Scott books, 1949. 19p. \$1 1-3yrs.

The idea here is good because the pre-school child's interest centers on himself and his surroundings. It is natural, therefore, for him to become number conscious about things of greatest interest; i.e., his toes, fingers, etc. The illustrations however, are sometimes too vague and delicate in color to catch and hold the interest of the child of that age who loves bright colors. The simple verses seem overly sentimental in spots, "How many 'toeses'. How many ears, like roses curled?"

O'Brien, Margaret. My diary; with drawings by the author and a foreword by Lionel Barrymore. Zippincott,

1948. 117p. \$1.75

The account of a year in the life of Margaret O'Brien, child actress. The book seems to be a verbatim reproduction of the author's diary and records her daily activities as well as the trips and public appearances she made. The author writes about her friends, family, pets, toys and the famous people she has met. Also mentions the movies she is working in, but not in great detail. The uncorrected spelling, grammatical errors and poor punctuation made the book hard to read. In addition the content lacked appeal to this adult reader. In my opinion, if the book is in demand at all, it will be because of the prestige of the author and wishful thinking on the part of other little girls, who will find it pretty monotonous before reading very far.

Peet, Creighton. Dude ranch. Whitman, 1939.

96p. \$2 (A Junior press book)

Half-page photographs with brief text accompanying each. Text is supposed to tell the story of two young boys on a ranch. The writing is uninteresting and is sometimes confusing when compared with the illustrations.

Politi, Leo. Song of the swallows. Scribner, 1949. 30p. \$2 K-Gr.2 (D59)

Mr. Politi adds a third title to his charming series of stories on the customs and festivals of the Mexican-Americans in California. Here in very simple and rhythmic prose is the story of the Mission of San Juan Capistrano and the swallows' regular advent and departure. The pictures - especially the landscape spreads - are beautiful.

Selleger-Elout, J. M. Marian and Marion; tr.

by Hilda Van Stockum; illus. by B. Midderigh-Bokhorst. Viking, 1949. 177p. \$2

A translation of a book by one of Holland's most popular authors of today. The book was first published in 1934 and unfortunately, the original illustrations have been retained. The strange clothes of the American girl will seem as foreign to modern American children as those of the little Dutch girls. The story is not outstanding, the character of Marion being particularly unconvincing. According to one authority who is acquainted with the original version, the translation has lost much of the charm of original.

Shouisky, Judith. Ali of Baku; by Judith Shouisky and Ruth T. McGibeny. Crowell, 1949. 213p.

\$2.50 Gr.5-7 (D31;D62;D63)

Most people will have to study the map on the end paper to see where Azerbaijan and its capitol, Baku, are in relation to Russia and the Caspian Sea and will quickly realize that this is a new area for children's books. The story starts out very much in the traditional manner of most stories of other lands. but very quickly the reader is enmeshed in a fast-moving plot fraught with adventure, narrow escapes, hardships and even death. Ali is a Mohammedan boy but one is aware of intolerance and mistrust among peoples of that part of the world just as in our own country, - only this time the Christians are rejected. The culture and customs of these people are skillfully woven into the story which takes place shortly after the Russian Revolution of 1917. A weakness of

the narrative, from the adult viewpoint, is the rapid solving of all Ali's problems after a long period of utter misery.

One of the authors, Dr. Shouisky, lived many years in this country.

Walsh, Mary Regina. The widow woman and her goat; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Knopf, 1949. 54p. \$1.75

A delightfully Irish tale for the storyteller. The use of dialect and unfamiliar words make too difficult reading for the interest level. Not for the general collection unless additional story-telling materials are needed.

Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. The mystery of the gulls; illus. by Janet Smalley. Westminster, 1949. 202p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7 (D81)

Taffy Saunders and her mother go to Mackinac Island to spend the summer running the hotel that Aunt Martha has left to Mrs. Saunders. The mystery revolves around the stipulation that Mrs. Saunders run the hotel profitably until September. Several disturbing incidents occur and it is soon apparent that someone is determined to keep Mrs. Saunders from being successful.

The book is well-written and plausible. The plot is not gory or cruel and is unlikely to give the young reader unwholesome ideas. The children act as children should and are not given super-human sleuthing powers or unusual amount of freedom. The adults in the book are handled very well - especially Mrs. Saunders. I would recommend this book definitely.

Wyatt, Geraldine. Buffalo gold; illus. by E. A. Furman. Longmans, Green, 1948. 184p. \$2.25 Gr.5-7 (D37;D56;D77;D104;D92)

Fifteen year-old idealistic Anson Hull loved the new family home on the Kansas plains. Arriving there in 1873 with his mother, war-injured father, and sister, he develops emotional and material independence while assuming many tasks unable to be done by his father. Battling droughts, blizzards, cattle drives, the family encourages their sensitive son who eventually brings security and hope to all in a satisfactory discovery.

Careful development of character, positive family relationships and gradual adjustments to new situations are revealed. Weaknesses noted include: (1) the injection of too many incidental characters; (2) the incongruous character portrayal of the Indians who appear in war paint and scalps hanging from the belts, yet are always friendly and helpful to the settlers; and (3) the story takes some liberties with historical accuracies: e.g., by 1868 most of the Indians had been removed to a reservation in Oklahoma. The herd law was passed at a later date than that indicated in the story.

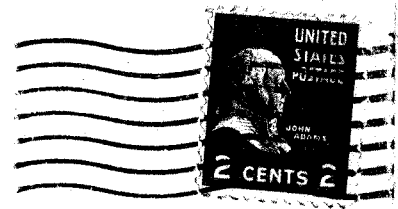
These are not drawbacks that would interfere with the enjoyment of the book, although we hope boys will sense the incongruity of the Indians.

Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver's travels; adapted by R. A. Pulliam and O. N. Darby; illus. by Warren Hunter. Steck, 1949. 144p. \$2.50

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Kidnapped; adapted by R. A. Pulliam and O. N. Darby; illus. by Elizabeth

- Rice, Steck, 1949. 207p. \$2.50 (A treasure book)
- Irving, Washington. Rip Van Winkle and The legend of Sleepy Hollow; adapted by R. A. Pulliam and O. N. Darby; illus. by Elizabeth Rice. Steck, 1949. \$1.50 (A treasure book) 64p.
Excellent format and illustrations. When compared with the original, the text seems dull and to have lost most of the flavor of the original. May have value for remedial reading classes but not recommended for general library use.
- Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material
- Beard, Virginia M. "From library - to library - to you; an experiment in regional film distribution." Educational Screen (April, 1949) p. 162-3, 173.
- Betts, Emmett A. "Readability: its application to the elementary school." Journal of Educational Research, 42(February, 1949)p.438-459.
- Carlsen, George Robert. "Literature and emotional maturity." English Journal, 38(March, 1949)pp.130-8.
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Stories to tell to children; 6th ed. Pittsburgh (Pa.) Carnegie Library Boys and Girls Department, 1949. 75¢
A selected list for use by librarians, schools, clubs, and radio with special listing of stories and poems for holiday and music programs.
- De Boer, John J. "Cultivating powers of discrimination in reading." School Review, 57(January, 1949)pp. 28-36.
- Diederich, Paul B. "Educational news and editorial comment." School Review, 57(January, 1949).
We thought the discussion of Americans as readers and the suggestion on page nine to abolish formal English classes in high schools and have students read in a "well-appointed" library was very challenging.
- Frank, Josette. Comics, radio, movies - and children. Public Affairs Pamphlet, No. 148. 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York. 20¢
- Gillen, E. B. Books bring adventure to the orthopedic ward. National Association for Crippled Children and Adults. 11 So. La Salle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois. 10¢
Reprinted from the Crippled Child (December, 1948).
- Gray, William S. "Summary of reading investigations, July 1947 to June 30, 1948." Journal of Educational Research, 42(February, 1949)p. 401-437.
- Indiana school librarians association. A date with your future? Indiana State Department of Education, Indianapolis 4, Indiana, 1949.
Attractive library recruiting leaflet. Single copies free. In quantities, 2¢ each.
- Kerr, Margaret. "Use of readability formulas in selecting textbooks." Elementary School Journal, 49(March, 1949)p. 411-14.
- Kingdom of children; books for children. Woman's Day, 19 West 44th Street, New York 18, New York. 10¢ each (add 15¢ for mailing tube and postage)
A 22½ x 16½" chart done in color by Fritz Kredel. Titles were selected by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Reproduced, with coupon for ordering included, in the May issue of Woman's Day.
- Lewis, Philip. "T - V and teen-agers." Educational Screen (April, 1949)p. 159-61.
An inquiry among 1700 students of Chicago to determine the impact of T - V on teen-agers. The study seemed to stress effects on homework. We wish someone would do a quick and long range study on the effects on the reading habits of our young people.
- Lottick, Kenneth V. "Literature and American history." Social Education, 13(March, 1949)p.117-9
- Materials Center, University of Chicago. The developmental tasks and adolescent reading. The Center, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois May, 1949. 20¢ (in 2¢ stamps or coin)
A seminar at the University has analyzed the developmental tasks of adolescence in terms of reading material and prepared an annotated bibliography of illustrative types for each book.
- Myers, Kurtz, ed. "The Audio-Visual bookshelf for busy librarians." Pt. I "Audio" Library Journal (March 15, 1949); Pt. II "Visual" Library Journal (April 1, 1949)
This bibliography is well worth checking for sources of good audio-visual material. The Falemer and Holden items on filmstrips (Library Journal, April 1, 1949, pp.566,567) are especially welcome.
- Volberding, Eleanor. "Out-of-school behavior of 11-year-olds." Elementary School Journal, Ap.'48 pp. 432-41.
"Out-of-school behavior of 11-year-old boys for different socio-economic groups." Elementary School Journal, Feb'49 pp. 348-52.
"Characteristics of successful and unsuccessful 11-year-old pupils." Elementary School Journal, Mr '49 pp. 405-10.
These three articles have some very interesting and useful material for those working with the intermediate age.
- Washington (State) Institute of Government. Public library section. Avenues and vistas for bringing library materials to children and young people; Proceedings of the 13th annual institute, 1948. University of Washington, Bureau of Governmental Research and Services in cooperation with the Div of Adult Education... January, 1949. 62p. (Report no. 100) mimeographed.
Stenographic transcription of four panel discussions discussing this theme from the point of view of the metropolitan library, the town library, extension units and the rural sociologists, the school library and a consideration of effective coordination of the various "avenues".
- ~~Woolson, Herman. The pocket book of old masters. Pocket Books has issued an excellent book of~~

University of Chicago
Center for Instructional Materials



Periodical Division
University of Illinois Library
Urbana, Illinois