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BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Library - Center for Children's Books. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this Bulletin are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

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New Titles for Children and Young People

Alton, Everett E. Gridiron courage; illus. by Bob Meyers. Wilcox & Follett, 1949. 236p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D57)

A football story with a somewhat different slant. The main character, Sandy Morrison, goes as coach to a small and rather exclusive eastern college. He has good material for a team but has difficulty getting the players to take the game seriously. The story is slow in starting. The characters are stiff and the dialog wooden. However, after the first few chapters the author gets into the swing of the story, the action picks up, and the reader's interest is held until the end. There may be too much of a love element to suit junior high school boys although it is subordinate to the football scenes.

Anderson, Clarence William. Bobcat; written and illus. by C. W. Anderson. Macmillan, 1949. 97p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

Greater story interest than Anderson usually gets plus his superb illustrations make a book that has a place in every library's horse story collection. Bobcat is a jumper with too much speed, so his owner and handler turn him to turf racing. In telling the story the author brings in much interesting information about the handling of race horses. This is one of Anderson's best stories and should prove a popular one.

Andrews, Frank Emerson. For Charlemagne; frontispiece by Joseph Karov. Harper, 1949. 207 p. \$2.50. j&shs.

A story of two boys who lived during the days of Charlemagne, attended his palace school, and fought in his army. Good historical fiction that gives a real feeling of the people and the times.

Enough action and suspense to make it a good adventure story for boys who might not be interested in the historical angle.

Archer, Peter. The stage coach robbery. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Ardizzone, Edward. Tim to the rescue. Oxford, 1949. 46p. \$2.50. Gr. 2-4.

Although Tim had promised his parents he would not go to sea again until he finished school, when the opportunity came he could not bear to turn it down and so began his second adventure with the brave sea captain. The voyage was complicated by a red-headed cabin boy, Ginger, whose hair would not stop growing and by a hurricane. As usual Tim solved Ginger's problem and made a daring rescue during the hurricane. The matter-of-fact handling of the fantasy adds to the humor of the story. Illustrations have motion and color and contribute their share to the humor. A good book for reading aloud and for third and fourth graders to handle alone. Board binding, but worth the price even though it soon has to be rebound.

Balet, Jan B. Ned and Ed and the lion; story and pictures by Jan B. Balet. Oxford, 1949. 11p. \$2.50.

Ned and Ed are twins, born on Sunday, so it is possible for anything to happen to them. With the help of the lion from the carousel, it almost does. The story starts out in a child-like manner of matter-of-fact exaggeration and fantasy, but it soon becomes self-conscious and confusing and becomes simply an adult attempt at childlike imagination. The illustrations are equally disappointing. There is life and charm to the colored illustrations; the black-and-white lack vitality and are often confusing. From this book and last year's Amos and the moon it would seem that Balet's contribution is mainly his color work rather than his black-and-whites or his stories.

Barnhart, Nancy, ed. The Lord is my shepherd; stories from the Bible pictured in Bible lands; arranged and illus. by Nancy Barnhart. Scribner's, 1949. 263p. \$4.50. All ages.

Bible stories re-written in a fairly simplified form but retaining the rhythm and flavor of the King James version. Illustrations are somewhat somber although they add to the dignity of the book. This will make an excellent addition to a general library collection and will be useful for home libraries.

Barr, Jene. Little circus dog; a read-it-yourself story; pictures by Kurt Niese. Whitman, 1949. 30p.

\$1.00. Gr. 1-2.

A companion volume to Little prairie dog. This story will have more appeal because of the better known subject. Easy enough for the beginning reader to handle alone. Useful for remedial reading.

Barr, Jene. Little prairie dog; a read-it-yourself story; pictures by Kurt Wiese. Whitman, 1949. 28 p. \$1.00. Gr. 1-2.

A simply written story about a prairie dog named Stumpy. The book contains some information that might be useful for nature study classes. Its primary value will be as a book that beginning readers can handle alone. Could be used as remedial reading material.

Bauer, Margaret Jean. Animal babies; illus. by Jacob Bates Abbott. Donohue, 1949. 88p. \$2. Gr. 4-6.

A well written account of animals of all kinds - with emphasis on the young. Divides the animals into groups by habitat, with chapters on protection, lessons, zoo babies, orphans, domestic babies, etc. Twelve full-page color illustrations, with numerous black-and-white marginal drawings. A satisfactory book for nature study classes, as well as a picture book that young readers will enjoy browsing through. Reinforced board bindings. Oversize format will present a shelving problem for most libraries.

Beck, Lester Fred. Human growth; the story of how life begins and goes on; from the educational film of the same title. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 124p. \$2. Gr. 6-9.

An excellent presentation of the basic facts in human growth and reproduction based on the film "Human growth" and useful either with the film or alone. The straightforward approach gives clear and simple explanations that are accurate without shocking or offending either young people or adults. Questions and answers at the end of each section help to clarify the subject. Highly recommended for both library and home purchase.

Bianco, Margery (Williams). Herbert's zoo and other favorite stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Bice, Clare. Across Canada; stories of Canadian children. Macmillan, 1949. 119p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5. (D62)

Geography the easy way is provided in these stories of Canadian children from Nova Scotia to the far north. The simply written stories show the various religious, national, and economic backgrounds of the children. At the same time they show the children as having much the same pleasures, troubles, wishes, and needs as children anywhere else in the world. Easy enough for the upper third grade to read alone.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. The little haymakers; illus. by Grace A. Paull. Macmillan, 1949. 77p. \$2.

A simple little story of a small boy and his pair of steers. Life in the country is described in a fairly realistic manner. The main character, Terry, is much too goody-good to have much interest or reality. Children are more likely to identify with his young brother, Robert, who occasionally gets into mischief. Not enough story interest for the price.

Dawson, Mitchell. The magic firecrackers; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Viking, 1949. 192p. \$2.50.

Gr. 5-7.

To have an uncle come all the way from China with a complete retinue of Chinese servants was an exciting event for any boy. But, as if that were not enough, Greg's uncle brought with him some magic firecrackers which, when exploded, gave anyone around a chance to make a wish and have it come true. Having wishes come true has always been a favorite theme in children's books. Here the author combines with the excitement of the wishes a great deal of humor - both in the things Greg and his friend, Jimmy, wish for and in the way the wishes come true. The combination of fantasy and realism is well-handled.

Desmond, Alice (Curtus). The talking tree; illus. by Ralph Ray. Macmillan, 1949. 177p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D59;D29;D69)

The odyssey of a young Tlingit Indian boy over most of Alaska in search of the big redwood trees from which he is to make a memorial totem for his dead uncle. A swift-paced tale filled with adventure and showing, too, many of the customs and beliefs of the Indian tribe. A rare combination of excitement and dignity, of high adventure and moral courage, are blended in the account of the boy's travels through Alaska and his growth to manhood.

Dickson, Marguerite (Stockman). Turn in the road; jacket by Jessie Robinson. Nelson, 1949. Gr. 7-9. (D4;D57)

A not outstanding, but pleasantly readable story of a young girl's struggles to help her family overcome the stigma of financial failure and regain its position of respect in the community. The scene is Hackmatack Point in Maine, and the author has succeeded in drawing a very realistic picture of the small town of Lane's Cove. Librarians will appreciate the predicament of the town's "public library", and the struggles of the heroine to save it. There is a slight love element, but the story's main interest lies in the character development of Isobel, the young heroine.

Disney, Walt. Mystery in Disneyville. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Downey, Fairfax Davis. Dogs of destiny; with pen-and-ink illus. by Paul Brown. Scribner's, 1949. 186p. \$2.50.

Brief accounts of some famous dogs of history and the present day. The stories are too sketchy to have much interest. Might have some reference use.

Felsen, Henry Gregor. Bertie makes a break; illus. by Jane Toan. Dutton, 1949. 192p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D80;D37;D48d)

Further doings in the life and troubles of Bertie Puddle. This time Bertie becomes involved in high finances, has his usual series of blunders, tangles with his small brother, Bart, and disappointments on the football team. However, Bertie is showing definite signs of growing up. He takes his financial losses in a way that would do credit to any man, and by the end of the book he has given up his stubborn determination to play in the back-field and accepts a line position. Bertie's troubles are so typical of every adolescent boy he should draw sympathetic chuckles from adults and young

people alike.

Felton, Harold W. Pecos Bill, Texas cowpuncher; illus. by Aldren Auld Watson. Knopf, 1949. 177p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-9.

A somewhat more mature presentation than the Bowman, this version of the Pecos Bill stories will appeal to adults as much as to children. Written with restraint and a dry sort of humor that adds much to the enjoyment of the stories. A good edition for library use and one that will have a place in most home collections.

Fisher, Clyde. The life of Audubon; with a foreword by John Kieran; with paintings and drawings by John James Audubon. Harper, 1949. 76p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

A sympathetic, well-written biography of one of the country's most famous artists and naturalists. The author is quite obviously biased in favor of his subject, but he manages to present a fairly well-rounded picture. Of particular value are the 20 full page reproductions of Audubon's works.

Floherly, John Joseph. Five alarm; the story of fire fighting; with 32 illus. from photographs. Lippincott, 1949. 149p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-10. (D86)

Somewhat better written than most of Floherly's books - more cohesion, less repetition. Includes general information on fire fighting equipment, professional and volunteer fireman, some of the nation's most disastrous fires, and special departments such as fireboats and forest patrols. Will be useful as vocational guidance material and may be read for the general subject interest.

Ford, Corey. A man of his own and other dog stories; by Corey Ford and Alastair MacBain; illus. by Robert Candy. Whittlesey house, 1949. 196p. \$2.75.

A collection of stories about dogs of various breeds. Uneven writing and a tendency toward extreme sentimentality weaken the book's value.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. The wonderful house-boat-train; illus. by Fritz Eichenberg. Random house, 1949. 63p. \$2.

Jepco 98 was a wonderful house-train which Pop-pops and his four grandchildren made out of six old sheds lined up in a row. When the house had to be moved to make room for the new road it became a house-boat-train. Boys and girls eight and nine will like the idea of creating a house that looks like a train. The humor is quite nice and will be appreciated, though some of the names are a little obvious, e.g., Whistleville - Toottown Railroad. Sturdy format, entertaining illustrations. The ending seems unnecessarily contrived with too much tragedy to the house. Not an important book.

Garfield, Robert. The penny puppy and other dog stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Garfield, Robert. Train stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Golden story books. Simon and Schuster. 25¢
A new series designed for a slightly older

group than those who read the Little golden books. The stories vary in quality from fairly good to very poor. Some of the collections have stories that have proved favorites over the years. The format is poor for library use. Margins are too narrow all around to allow for pre-binding. The original bindings are too tight, making the books difficult to hold open. Illustrations vary, but, in general, are better than the ones in the Little golden books. Individual titles should be examined before purchase for use in library and home collections. Some of the better titles will have value for libraries because of the inexpensive price.

Archer, Peter. The stagecoach robbery; pictures by Beth and Joe Krush. 128p.

A tale of the wild west, complete with Indians (friendly ones) and pay roll robbers. Steve started out with his Uncle Bean, a stage coach driver, on what should have been an uneventful trip to Dawson City and back. He ended up saving his uncle and the payroll from the local bandit. The writing is adequate, though not outstanding. Story should appeal to comic book fans.

Bianco, Margery Williams. Herbert's zoo and other favorite stories; by Margery Bianco, Lesley Frost, Hazel Wilson, Thornton W. Burgess, William Fene Du Bois; pictures by Julian. 128p.

A collection of stories that have had a degree of popularity through the years. Titles included are: Mr. A and Mr. P; Herbert's zoo; The very mischief; Elizabeth the cow ghost; and Spotty the turtle wins a race. All are humorous stories and the illustrations are quite in keeping with that humor. Acceptable for library use.

Disney, Walt. Mystery in Disneyville; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Richard Moores and Manuel Gonzales. 128p.

This should be a candidate for the anti-climax department. Interest is built up by the terror of all the people who learn that Mickey and his friends are planning to camp at Gruesome Gultch. Then the mystery turns out to be a few items of food stolen by a family of bears. Buried treasure is thrown in for good measure, but it is strictly incidental to the rest of the story. Only the staunchest Disney fans will find much of interest in the book.

Garfield, Robert. The penny puppy and other dog stories; pictures by Aurelius Battaglia. 128p.

Just average stories. Lacking the humor and quality of writing that are found in Herbert's zoo.

Garfield, Robert. Train stories; by Robert Garfield and Jessie Knittle; pictures by Tibor Gergely. 128p.

A circus train, a retired engineer, a train that came apart, and a train crew and a little boy's bicycle make up the contents of these train stories. Writing is very uneven. Illustrations not outstanding.

Hubbard, Joan. The boss of the barnyard and other barnyard stories; pictures by Richard Scarry. 128p.

Talking animals in stories that are neither factual nor good fantasy. Illustrations are less successful than some other titles in this series.

Jackson, Kathryn. Circus stories; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; pictures by Charles E. Martin. 128p.

An ever popular subject. The stories are uneven, but not too poorly written. Subjects include a lioness, an elephant, a monkey, and a clown. Average illustrations.

McKimson, Tom, ed. Bugs Bunny's treasure hunt; pictures by Warner Brothers Cartoons, Inc.

Typical Hollywood humor. Bugs is too lazy to work for what he wants so he persuades his friend, Porky, to go hunting buried treasure. They find treasure - but not the kind they started out after. The same kind of story youngsters get in the Disney comic books except that there is more text than in most comics.

Nast, Elsa Ruth. The magic wish and other Johnny and Jane stories; pictures by Corinne Malvern. 128p.

Simple stories about the everyday doings of Johnny and Jane. Sometimes the morals of the stories seem a bit too obvious, but this is a book parents might find helpful. Contains stories about running away from home; learning to share toys; helping with the new baby; and the little boy who refused to eat.

Werner, Jane. Christopher Bunny and other animal stories; pictures by Richard Scarry. 128p.

Personified animals in stories that are too slight to have any value or lasting interest. Illustrations distort the animals until they are quite grotesque.

Gollomb, Joseph. Albert Schweitzer: genius in the jungle. Vanguard, 1949. 249p. \$2.75. Gr.7-9. (D29)

It is difficult to present a well-rounded picture of a man who has as many abilities and interests as Albert Schweitzer. The author has partially solved the problem by presenting a character study with a rather superficial handling of the activities in which Schweitzer has engaged. Although there is a tendency toward sentimentality - especially in the first chapters, the book is essentially readable and will serve as an introductory biography for junior high school readers.

Grew, David. The ghost mare. Coward-McCann, 1949. 241p. \$2.75.

A horse story with many of the elements that make a good book - conflict between two boys over a wild horse; the capture and taming of the horse; a blizzard. Unfortunately the good parts are lost in the extremely poor writing. Sentence structure is awkward. Pronouns seldom have the right antecedents - so that the reader often has to repeat a page in order to follow the story.

Hogan, Inez. World round. Dutton, 1949. 61p. \$1.75. 4-8 yrs.

This is a book that needs to be shared. The text, which tells of a whale and a sea lion who journey around the world to see if it is round and if it is large, needs to be read aloud to be fully enjoyed. There is humor in the text and illustrations and the kind of repetition children particularly like. There is a place for such a book in every story-teller's collection, on the general shelves (for there is some useful geography here), and in the home library.

Hogeboom, Amy. Cats and how to draw them. Vanguard, 1949. 39p. \$1.50. Gr. 4-

Another in the "how to draw them" series. Clear,

simple explanations and illustrations of various types of cats and a variety of poses. It not only looks easy - it is. Useful for art classes or for the home "rainy day and convalescent" collection.

Hubbard, Joan. The boss of the barnyard and other barnyard stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Jackson, Caary Paul. Rose Bowl All-American. Crowell, 1949. 245p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D109)

Psychological problems have served as a basis for numerous girls stories in the past few years. Now they have invaded the field of football. Dick Thornley, son of a professor at Michigan, acquires a serious inferiority complex when a classmate accuses him of getting by on his father's influence. His insecurity almost causes him to lose his place on the team before he finally convinces himself and his classmates that he is lacking in neither courage nor ability. Not too convincing a plot and some of the characters lack reality. However, Jackson's ability to write graphic descriptions of football games will save the book in the estimation of most readers.

Jackson, Kathryn. Circus stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Jackson, Kathryn. Little galoshes; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; pictures by J. P. Miller. Simon and Schuster, 1949. 39p. 25¢ (A little golden bk)

Little Galoshes is presumably the name of a little boy who always wears his galoshes when he goes outdoors in the winter time. One day he forgets them and none of the animals will speak to him until he goes back in the house and puts them on. Story is weakened by moralistic tone and by the personification of the animals. Illustrations are not outstanding.

Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. Upstate, downstate; folk stories of the middle Atlantic states; illus. by Howard Simon; introd. by Henry W. Shoemaker. Vanguard, 1949. 299p. \$2.75. Gr. 6-8.

A delightful collection of folk tales from the Middle Atlantic states. There is humor in the tellings and in the illustrations. Some of the stories are legends with a basis of historical fact, some are pure tall tales. All are well told and add a definite contribution to Americana. Story tellers will want this in their collection and it is fun just to read alone.

James, Frederick. Cloud hoppers; pictures by Katherine Evans. Children's press, 1949. 40p. \$2.13.

Two young boys have a chance to go for a very brief airplane ride with their uncle, who is a pilot. The story is too slight to justify the price. Mediocre illustrations.

Keith, Harold. Shotgun Shaw; a baseball story; illus. by Mabel Jones Woodbury. Crowell, 1949. 163p. \$2.

A baseball story with little to recommend it beyond its subject interest. The characters are types, dialog is stilted, and the plot follows a pattern that has been used many times for sports stories.

Krauss, Ruth. The big world and the little house; pictures by Marc Simont. Schuman, 1949. 40p. \$2. K-gr.2. (D37;D137)

The author sets out to achieve two purposes - the concept of home and the concept of the world. In

neither is she successful - but she has managed a pleasant picture book, beautifully illustrated, that will please children even though they do not grasp the full meaning of the text. Used as a picture book to be enjoyed for the rhythm of the prose, the interest in the family reclaiming an old, abandoned house, and the color of the illustrations it should be successful - and it is possible that an occasional child will get the full import of the text.

Lawton, George. How to be happy though young; real problems of real people. Vanguard, 1949. 300p. \$3. Gr.8-10. (D37;D4;D112;D119)

Questions and answers from the author's column in Scholastic magazine. The answers do not always fit the questions - being occasionally too general for the specific problems raised. The book's chief value will be for the guidance counselor who may find in it possible solutions for problems that are brought to him. Not particularly valuable for general library collections.

Longstreth, Thomas Morris. Mounty in a jeep. Macmillan, 1949. 158p. \$2.50.

Sam Acton, member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, welcomes the chance to take over the Hind Dog territory as a means of speeding his promotion and as an escape from the "ounties' Youth Program. He succeeds in the first but fails in the second when he faces a serious problem in juvenile delinquency. The story combines a fast-moving plot with sure-fire subject interest. Unfortunately it is marred by extremely poor writing. The dialog is unnatural, sentence structure is poor, and the entire book gives an impression of hasty writing with little or no revision. Disappointing from this author who usually produces good prose as well as interesting stories.

Lyon, Elinor. Wishing water gate. Coward-McCann, 1949. 212p. \$2.50.

A mystery story laid in England. Robin and Alison go with their mother to spend a summer in the house she inherited from their Great Aunt Jane. During the summer they meet two children from the nearby manor, and the four join forces to find the Wishing Water gate and restore the family fortune. As a mystery this is adequate. However, it is mediocre writing, the adult characters are particularly unrealistic, and the actions are not always in keeping with the characters.

McCormick, Wilfred. Flying tackle; a Bronc Burnett story. Putnam, 1949. 184p. \$2.

Another Bronc Burnett story - about football this time. Bronc is just too good to be true. He always does the right thing, has the right answers, and adopts the right attitude. When he is wrong he humbly admits his mistake and goes out of his way to see that no one else suffers from his mistakes. In addition to Bronc's excess of virtue the book contains long and detailed expositions on the techniques of successful football. These are not woven into the descriptions of the games but are given by the coach in the form of lectures to the Booster Club. There is not enough action to off-set the dullness of the lectures.

McCracken, Harold. Caribou traveler; illus. by Rod Ruth. Lippincott, 1949. 204p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

The life of a caribou bull from the time he is born on Victoria Island until he becomes leader of the herd three years later. The story takes place in the days when caribou were plentiful in Alasaka and the Indians were first becoming acquainted with guns. A well written story that will appeal to readers who are more interested in information about animals than in plot structure.

MacDonald, Betty (Bard). Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle's magic; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Lippincott, 1949. 126p. \$2. Gr. 3-5.

Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle has an appeal for young readers that it is difficult to account for. The reason may lie in the utter ridiculousness of most of the situations or it may be the fascination of the ease with which she solves some of childhood's most provoking problems. Whatever her secret, it brought her many fans who will look forward to this new story. The technique has changed this time - cures are effected by magic rather than by natural means - and some of the young readers have expressed disappointment with the result.

McKimson, Tom, ed. Bugs Bunny's treasure hunt. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

McMeekin, Isabel (McLennan). The first book of horses; pictures by Pers Crowell. Watts, 1949. 45p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-5.

All the facts a young reader wants to know about horses, with excellent illustrations to help clarify the text. Of especial value is the double page spread explaining terms used in connection with horses and naming the various parts of the horse.

Marshall, Dean. Dig for a treasure; illus. by Christine Price. Dutton, 1949. 188p. \$2.50. Gr.4-6. (D4;37)

Follows, although not necessarily a sequel to, Invisible Island. The same children are here, plus two new ones. This time they go digging for buried treasure - with quite surprising results. Like the earlier story this one has many of the same qualities that characterize the Ransome books but done with a faster pace. These are good books to introduce young readers to Ransome or to use when the Ransome books are not available.

Martinson, Helen. Grandpa's farm; by Helen and Melvin Martinson; illus. by Chauncey Waltman. Children's press, 1949. 40p. \$2.13 (Reinforced edition), \$1.50 (Trade edition). Gr. 2-4.

Simply written story of a little girl from the city who visits her grandparents' farm. Not outstanding writing, but it does give the young reader an introduction to farm life. Easy enough for most third graders to handle alone. End papers show various grains that are grown on a farm. The illustrations are excellent and will supply the main interest of the book.

Meeks, Esther K. Fireman Casey and fireboat 999; illus. by Ernie King. Wilcox & Follett, 1949. 24p. \$1 Gr. 3-5.

To the fascination of fire engines is added the appeal of boats in this story of one phase of fire-fighting in a large city. Details of the life of a fireman and of some of the equipment and work of a fireboat are woven into the story of Fireman Casey and the time he won a medal for heroic action. Excellent illustrations add greatly to the text.

Moffitt, Virginia May. Pollyanna of Magic Valley; frontispiece by Harold Cue. Page, 1949. 292p. \$2.50. (The Pollyanna glad books)

Follows the usual pattern of the Pollyanna Glad books, with an overdose of sentimentality, unrealistic characters, stilted dialog, and poor plot construction.

Nast, Elsa Ruth. The magic wish and other Johnny and Jane stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Neilson, Frances Fullerton (Jones). Bruce Benson: thirty fathoms deep; illus. by John C. Wonsetler. Dutton, 1949. 179p. \$2.50.

Less well done than the first Bruce Benson book. This time Bruce's father takes him on a deep-sea diving expedition to teach him how to get along with people. It all started when Bruce had a fight with one of his playmates and ends with the two of them helping to thwart a group of pirates. To add to the excitement there is a hurricane, a kidnapping, and an attempt to murder a member of the crew. This all seems a rather drastic way for Bruce to have to learn that the playmate with whom he fought was simply frustrated because his father wouldn't let him take piano lessons.

Newcomb, Ellsworth. Stars above. Dutton, 1949. 191p. \$2.25.

Sequel to Window on the sea. This takes Joan through a visit with her grandmother in New York during which time she restores her grandmother to physical and mental health, saves a friend's family from being separated because of the housing shortage, and finally becomes engaged to Bill Ambler. The writing of these books is mediocre, and although they will be read as light love novels there is nothing of sufficient value to justify their inclusion in library collections.

Oakes, Virginia Armstrong. Footprints of the dragon; a story of the Chinese and the Pacific railways; by Vanya Oakes (pseud.); illus. by Tyrus Wong. Winston, 1949. 240p. \$2.50. j&shs. (Land of the free series). (D59;D135)

By far the best title in this series. This is less a story of contributions the Chinese have made to this country, or even of the problems of adjustment they have had, than it is a story of a tremendous engineering achievement - the building of the Pacific railway from the west coast to Utah. Ho and his friends and rivals are characters drawn with a great deal of warmth and reality. Seen through the eyes of Ho as he struggles through three long years the railroad also becomes a character and a vital part in the book.

Paul, Grace A. A horse to ride. Doubleday, 1949. 28p. \$1.25. Gr. 2-4. (Junior books)

An easy book for beginning readers. The story is very slight - a small boy wants a horse, gets one, and then has to find a place to board it during the winter. Chief value of the book lies in its combination of subject interest and simple vocabulary that a beginning reader could handle alone. Nice illustrations.

Pease, Eleanor Fairchild. Book of horses and their pictures; pictured by James L. Cannon. Whitman, 1949. 31p. \$1.50.

Brief, uninteresting stories about various kinds of horses. Illustrations are poster-like and add

little to the book. Could have value for remedial reading collection, but not for general library purchase.

Price, Willard DeMille. Amazon adventure; dec. by George T. Hartmann. Day, 1949. 242p. \$2.50.

When Hal and Roger Hunt started out with their father to explore a part of the Amazon where white men had never been before, they anticipated excitement but had not counted on having to make the last part of the trip alone. The account of the boat trip and their experiences in capturing and caring for wild animals of all kinds makes excellent reading. Unfortunately the author was not satisfied with these adventures but tried to improve on the story by bringing in a typical Cicero gangster and his men. The result is a melodrama where the author might have had an exceptionally good adventure story.

Robinson, Mabel Louise. Back-seat driver; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Random house, 1949. \$2. 68p.

Riley is a jaunty and tough Irish terrier who sat on the back seat of the Doctor's car and told him how to drive, until he got a car of his own. Then his own driving adventures began. This is realistic fantasy - always difficult to handle, and the result here, as so often happens, is a self-conscious adult humor. The reader is half-way through the story before he realizes that Riley's conversation is understood by the Doctor only. Riley is a lovable terrier and adult readers, especially if they drive a car, will be delighted with his back-talk to everyone he meets. It just misses being wonderful nonsense.

Rounds, Glen. Rodeo; bulls, broncs and buckaroos. Holiday house, 1949. 157p. \$2.25. Gr. 5-9.

All the action and color of the rodeo are woven into this account of the various contests. Also explains how each event originated and the rules that have been developed through the years. Typical Rounds style of writing that simulates the dialect of the cowboy. Line drawings that are filled with action and humor. Glossary of terms at end.

Schneider, Herman. How your body works; by Herman and Nina Schneider; introd. by Milton I. Levine; with illus. by Barbara Ivins. Scott, 1949. 160p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5.

Physiology for the young child. In simple, clear language the authors explain the processes of digestion; assimilation; circulation; the bone and muscle structure; and the nervous system. References are given to other, fuller treatments of sex and the processes of reproduction. An excellent book for the science collection and one that should have value for home libraries.

Scoggin, Margaret Clara, ed. More chucklebait; funny stories for everyone; dec. by Saul Steinberg. Knopf, 1949. 285p. \$2.50. j&shs.

Companion volume to Chucklebait. The selections are grouped around teen-age interests such as: Growing pains, Problem parents, For the love of sport, Minor mishaps, etc.; and are drawn from fiction and non-fiction. An excellent volume for the home library shelf of favorite read-aloud books, and a must for general library collections.

Shippen, Katherine Binney. Moses; frontispiece by Lili Cassel. Harper, 1949. 132p. \$2. Gr. 5-7.
A beautifully written story of the life of Moses

from young manhood to his death. Closely follows the Old Testament version but with better explanations of the miracles that are recorded there. This has a place in every biography section as well as for use in religious education.

Smith, Helen R., ed. Laughing matter; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Scribner's, 1949. 166p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5.

A "Chucklebait" for the younger reader. The collection contains humorous short stories, folk tales, poems, and excerpts from longer stories. An excellent edition for libraries, both for individual reading and for the story-teller. Also of value for home libraries - especially for bed time story hours.

Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver's travels in Lilliput; with 11 scenes by Hugh Gee photographed in full color and 36 line drawings. Chanticleer press, 1949. 95p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-9.

An adequate edition of this favorite section from Gulliver's travels. The use of puppets in the color photographs lends credibility to the story and illustrations. Good format.

Laber, Gladys (Bagg). The first book of dogs; pictures by Bob Kuhn. Watts, 1949. 45p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-5.

Similar to The first book of horses (see above). Dogs of all types are described in text and illustration. Some brief suggestions on the care and training of dogs as pets are given in the final chapters.

Tatham, Campbell. The first book of boats; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, 1945. 40p. \$1.50.

Rhebus style picture book about a young boy and his boats. There is some good material here on boats but it is lost in an impossible format. The reader loses the continuity of each sentence by having to look from the text to the top of the page to see what each picture is supposed to be. Particularly poor for the beginning reader who is learning to control his eye movements.

Vance, Marguerite. The Lees of Arlington; the story of Mary and Robert E. Lee; illus. by Nedda Walker. Dutton, 1949. 160p. \$2.50. Gr.8-10. (D29)

The emphasis on the romance and home life of Robert E. and Mary Custis Lee makes this a biography that will appeal almost exclusively to girls. There is warmth in the characterizations and a real feeling for the period. Because of the somewhat superficial treatment of the events of the day this will be more valuable as a period love story than for its historical background.

Waldman, Frank. Famous American athletes of today. 11th series. Page, 1949. 352p. \$3.00. Gr.7-10.

Latest edition in the series of biographies of current sports heroes. Most of the subjects are from the field of baseball. Additional information given on some of the men whose biographies appeared in earlier books.

Walpole, Ellen Wales. Why should I? illus. by Douglas Anderson. Harper, 1949. 102p. \$2.

The author's stated object "is to encourage children to consider the results of their conduct." It is written in the form of questions and answers one to a page, with three sections concerning: Our Father in Heaven; You and Yourself; Heaven and Earth. It is designed not for self-reading by the child, but for reading by the parent, either to a

child or as a basis for his own interpretation to the child. It presents a religious basis for conduct but does not develop the creed of any one religion. It is therefore broad enough to be acceptable to Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic readers. The answers seem sound and reasonable in keeping with a young child's experience and should be useful especially to those parents who do not belong to any church. A criticism might be made of the use of the symbol "self" as having some of the connotation of "original sin" doctrine. Because many of the answers are introduced with a negative approach the book may seem to lean toward the didactic, but otherwise it is quite well-handled and should prove a useful book to use with children from 4-8 yrs.

Wanklyn, Joan. Bobtail Shawn; written and illus. by Joan Wanklyn. Warne, 1949. 175p. \$2.50.

Shawn is a bay pony, born in Ireland and taken to England while he is still quite young. The pony tells his own story, and this use of the first person may discourage some readers. The English setting and use of English expressions will serve to introduce that country to American readers. The illustrations are excellent, but the story is not outstanding enough to compete with other horse stories that are more familiar in language and setting.

Werner, Jane. Christopher Buny and other animal stories. Simon and Schuster. (See Golden story books)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material

The materials listed here are not available from the Children's Book Center. Orders should be sent to the publishers of the individual items.

Altsetter, Mabel. Children's books ... for seventy-five cents or less. General service bulletin of the Association for Childhood Education International, 1200 Fifteenth Street, N. W., Washington 5, D.C. 1949 ed. 35¢.

Brickman, William W. "Intergroup education." School and Society. 70:341-46. November 26, 1949.

A review of the literature on intergroup education.

Childhood Education. "Using what we know about children in teaching reading." Vol. 26, Dec. 1949.

The entire issue is devoted to the problems of teaching reading.

Children's Spring Book Festival.

The second week in May has been designated as the time for celebrating the Children's Spring Book Festival. The New York Herald Tribune, which has sponsored this festival for fourteen years, will again offer cash awards for each of three books regarded as the best published during the spring season for boys and girls in three different age groups.

This year's poster by Barbara Cooney is sure to delight children and adults alike. Posters are available, without charge, from: Carolyn Coggins, New York Herald Tribune, Room 1105, 250 West 41st Street, New York 18, New York.

Dolch, E. W. "Self-survey of a school program for teaching reading." The Elementary School Journal, 50:230-233. December, 1949.

An outline prepared to aid educators in their look at the reading program.

Johnson, Marjorie Seddon. "Factors in reading comprehension." Educational Administration and Supervision. 35:385-406. November, 1949.

Stresses the need for every teacher to be a reading teacher. Bibliography.

Kerlan, Irvin. Newbery and Caldecott awards; a bibliography of first editions. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota press, 1949. 51p. \$2

A descriptive catalog of first editions of Newbery and Caldecott award books. Its primary value will be for collectors and students of children's literature.

New York (City). Board of Education. Bridges between the school and the community in junior high schools and grades seven and eight of elementary schools. The Board, 1949. 79p. Apply for price.

School-community relations as they are practiced in New York City.

Pocket Book, Jr. is the new name for Comet Books. The books will be the same size and design as regular Pocket Books. New titles include many best sellers for teen-agers. Good inexpensive series. For list of new titles see Publisher's Weekly, Dec. 10, 1949.

Report of the Committee of the American Legion, Department of Michigan, on the evaluation of instructional materials. Michigan Education Journal, 27:218-220. November, 1949.

U. S. Office of Education. Statistics of public school libraries, 1947-1948. Circular number 259.

A chart showing advance data for cities with populations of 100,000 or more. Copies of the chart may be obtained, without charge, by writing to: Nora E. Beust, Specialist for School and Children's Libraries, Federal Security Agency, Office of Education, Washington 25, D.C.

Vogt, Autor. "Towards the evaluation of reading aims: Reading for information." Education (New Zealand publication), 2:12-14. September, 1949.

Weber, Christian O. "Reading inadequacy as habit." The Journal of Educational Psychology, 40:427-33. November, 1949.

Discussion of one cause of reading difficulty and what can be done about it.

White, Margaret L. Eliminating the "Fourth-Grade hump" in reading. Monograph on language arts, no. 59. Row, Peterson and Company. Free.

Wollner, Mary Hayden. Children's voluntary reading as an expression of individuality. Contributions to education, no. 944. Teachers College, Columbia University, 1949. \$2.55.

When ordering new books don't forget these 1945 titles that have proved successful.

Assn. for Childhood Educ. Told under the Stars and Stripes. Macmillan. \$2. 8-12 years.

Brindze, Ruth. The Gulf stream. Vanguard. \$2. Gr. 4-6.

Bronson, W. S. Turtles. Harcourt, Brace. \$1.75 5-8yrs

Elting, Mary and Gossett, Margaret. We are the government. Doubleday. \$2.00. Gr. 6-9.

Haywood, Carolyn. Betsy and the boys. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.00. Gr. 3-5.

Kennedy, Jean. Here is India. Scribner's. \$2.75 j&shs.

Lenski, Lois. Strawberry girl. Lippincott. \$2.50 Gr.4-6

McGinley, P. The plain princess. Lippincott. \$2.50 Gr3-5.

McNeer, M. Y. The story of the southern highlands. Harper. \$1.50. Gr. 4-7.

Means, F. C. The moved-outers. Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.00. Gr. 7-9.

Olds, Elizabeth. The big fire. Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.00. 5-9 years.

Slobodkin, Louis. Clear the track for Michael's magic train. Macmillan. \$1.50. Gr. 4-7.

Sperry, Armstrong. Hull-down for action. Doubleday. \$2.00. Gr. 7-9.

Undset, Sigrid, ed. True and untrue, and other Norse tales. Knopf. \$2.50. Gr. 4-7.

Wiese, Kurt. You can write Chinese. Viking. \$1.50. All ages.

Miss Winifred Van Nooy
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