



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.

BULLETIN

OF THE

CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Published by
The University of Chicago Library - Center for Children's Books

Vol. III

October, 1950

No. 10

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.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$1.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Library. Correspondence regarding the Bulletin should be addressed to the Center for Children's Books, University of Chicago, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

New Titles for Children and Young People

Anderson, Ethel Todd. Rainbow campus; jacket by Margaret Ayer. Nelson, 1950. 192p. \$2.25. Gr. 8-10. (D59)

Like the Scarlet bird this story has the University of Hawaii as a setting. This time the plot is built around the efforts of several students to uncover the disguise of an Indian prince they have reason to believe is a student on campus. His identity, when it is revealed, is even more of a surprise than they had anticipated. Like the earlier story, the main interest here will be in the picture of life on this very international and interracial campus and the descriptions of customs and festivities in the Islands.

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin. Enchanted village; illus. by Eileen Evans. Viking, 1950. 190p. \$2.50.

An attempt to blend the modern and the old by the use of flash-backs. The story begins in modern times with a young city boy who answers an ad for work on a New England farm and discovers that his employer is a fifteen-year-old girl who is trying to prove her ability to make her grandfather's farm a paying concern. Every other chapter goes back to early times to some incident built around an object that the boy and girl find as they explore the house. In the end the boy weaves all these incidents into a play that is given in a barn by the local young people. It is all very unrealistic and disjointed. The flash-backs are awkwardly handled and the play is both vague and dull. The modern characters have about as much reality as the ghosts in the play. Not recommended.

Beeler, Nelson Frederick. More experiments in science; by Nelson F. Beeler and Franklin M. Branley; illus. by A. W. Revell. Crowell, 1950. 176p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. Simple experiments that can be done at home with very little equipment. Similar in format and organiza-

tion to the authors' first book Experiments in science. Drawings help explain the text and add to the usefulness of the book.

Behn, Harry. All kinds of time; written and illus. by Harry Behn. Harcourt, 1950. 57p. \$2.

An attempt to explain the concept of time to young children. The treatment is too subtle for children to understand without considerable explanation from adults. An attractive book and one that some parents would enjoy using with their children. Not a book for general use in school or public libraries.

Benjamin, Robert Spiers, ed. Call to adventure. World, 1950. 220p. 50¢. (A falcon book)

A collection of stories obviously written to combine high adventure and sound moral teaching. In most cases the adventure is not very high and the morals are too obvious. In none of the stories is the writing very good. Not recommended.

Berkley, Ethel S. The size of it; a first book about sizes; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Scott, 1950. 23p. \$1. Pre-school.

Designed to show a very young child differences in size. By using the same objects in several different settings the idea of relative sizes is clearly shown.

Bleeker, Sonia. Indians of the longhouse; the story of the Iroquois; illus. by Althea Karr. Morrow, 1950. 160p. \$2. Gr. 4-6. (D59)

A simply written account of life among the Iroquois Indians. The style is factual, but quite readable and covers details of life during the various seasons. Customs and legends of the Indians are described and one legend is retold.

Bonner, Mary Graham. Haunted hut; a winter mystery; illus. by Bob Meyers. Knopf, 1950. 182p. \$2.

A mediocre mystery story involving four children, an injured pet fox, and a counterfeiter. Conversations are stilted, characters lack reality, and some of the situations are completely implausible. As usual with such stories, the children solve the mystery before calling in the proper adults. Not recommended.

Brittain, Edith M. The valley of the singing bluebells; illus. by the author. William-Frederick, 1949. 16p. 75¢.

Slight story of a little girl who dreams she goes to flowerland and visits with the animals and fairies. Overly sentimental style. Paper bound. Not recommended.

Brock, Emma Lillian. Three ring circus; written and illus. by Emma Lillian Brock. Knopf, 1950. 110p.

\$2.50. Gr. 3-5

The adventures and misadventures of a boy and girl who live next door to each other and who have their hearts set on being a great baseball hero (the boy) and a renowned circus performer (the girl). These ambitions last through one hectic summer of broken windows, smashed bikes, and innumerable scratches and bruises. Finally, to the complete relief of both sets of parents and the neighbors, the ambitions change to quieter activities and peace reigns for a few weeks. Written with humor and understanding in the episodic style that appeals to most third grade readers.

Bronson, Lynn. Timberland adventure. Lippincott, 1950. 221p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D31;D42;D48c)

A story of Oregon in the early days of its development. Nat, handicapped by one leg being shorter than the other, worked long hours in a rope factory to help support himself and his grandmother. He lost his job one day when he befriended an English boy who had jumped ship. To add to their troubles the grandmother's house burned down and the three were left with nothing but a timber homestead claim the grandmother had been talked into filing on by a land shark. With no place else to go the three moved out to the claim and after many hardships began to make a living on it. A good picture of the growing up process of the boys and of the country.

Bronson, Wilfrid Swancourt. Cats; written and illus. by Wilfrid S. Bronson. Harcourt, 1950. 78p. \$2. Gr. 3-5.

The ways of cats in general and one Tom in particular told in a simply written style for beginning readers. The emphasis is more on the physiology of cats than on their care and training. Excellent illustrations add meaning to the text.

Brown, Margaret Wise. The quiet noisy book; pictures by Leonard Weisgard. Harper, 1950. 32p. \$1.50.

Another addition to the Brown-Weisgard book a month partnership. This time a puppy hears a slight sound and goes through the list of things it could be but isn't until he finally realizes it is day breaking. A whole lot of nothing and all for \$1.50. Not recommended.

Burack, Abraham Solomon, ed. Christmas plays for young actors; a collection of royalty-free stage and radio plays. Plays, Inc., 1950. 308p. \$2.75. Gr. 3-8.

Twenty-six royalty-free stage and radio plays for the elementary grades. Uneven in quality but, in general, an acceptable collection. Instructions for staging are given at the end.

Burgan, John. Martin Butterfield. Winston, 1950. 210p. \$2.50.

Martin Butterfield is a "Penrod" type character whose worse escapades usually end with him as a hero. His mother is perpetually fluttering and weeping and his father suffers from the kind of stupidity that is usually associated with radio serial parents. Tongue-in-cheek humor that is not intended for children and has limited appeal for adults. Not recommended.

Burgess, Thornton Waldo. The adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse; illus. by Harrison Cady. Grosset & Dunlap, 1944. 187p. 75¢. (A bedtime story-book)

These highly personified, overly sentimental nature stories have little value for nature study classes and have been supplanted by more realistic animal stories.

Burton, Virginia Lee. Calico, the wonder horse; or, The saga of Stewy Stinker; story and pictures by Virginia Lee Burton. Houghton, 1950. 57p. \$2. K-Gr.2.

A new edition of an old favorite. The illustrations have been completely re-done and are a decided improvement over the original edition. Text has been changed slightly although the story is still essentially the same.

Case, Patricia. Tiger! Tiger! Macmillan, 1949. 151p. \$1.25.

A highly personified story of a tiger from its birth in the African jungle to the birth of its cubs several years later. The author attributes to the tigers the ability to think and reason as well as having them talk in rather stilted, formal English. The style is immature and affected. Not recommended.

Clark, Ann Nolan. Magic money; illus. by Leo Politi. Viking, 1950. 121p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5. (D80;D114; D134;D62)

Tony, a small boy living in Costa Rica, had a secret. It was not a wanting secret, but a doing secret. He wanted to earn enough money to buy his grandfather a pair of oxen to replace the one that had recently died and left his grandfather with no means of support. It was hard for a boy as young as Tony to earn money, especially when he had such difficulty staying awake in the middle of the day. Finally, with the help of his grandfather, he found a way for both of them to work together and earn the money. There is warmth and loving sympathy between Tony, his family and his grandfather, and Tony learns some important lessons about the power and importance of money. Politi's pictures are among his very best.

Cleveland, Charles B. The great baseball managers. Crowell, 1950. 250p. \$3. Gr. 6-8.

Brief accounts of the careers of some outstanding figures in big league baseball. Written in a journalistic style that becomes somewhat monotonous, especially since most of the careers followed the same pattern. A book of useful information for baseball fans, but not one that is likely to be used for pleasure reading.

Crampton, Gertrude. The golden funny book; pictures by J. P. Miller. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 76p. \$1. Gr. 1-3. (A big golden book)

A collection of riddles, guessing games, and puzzle pictures. A useful book for convalescence or for train travel.

Dixon, Ruth. Three little bunnies; photographs by Dale Rooks. Rand McNally, 1950. 32p. 25¢. (A book-elf book)

Story of three young rabbits and their adventures the first day they go out to see the world. Slight story, poorly written, with forced humor. Illustrated with color photographs of real rabbits dressed to represent the characters in the story. Not recommended.

Du Bois, Theodora. We merrily put to sea; illus. by Jean MacDonald Porter. Doubleday, 1950. 247p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D55)

The only bright spots in the lives of the three Scott children after their father went to Europe and felt them in the care of an elderly couple who neither understood nor particularly liked children, were the

all too rare visits of their grandfather. Therefore the chance to sail down the Atlantic coast with him came as a welcome surprise and they determined to let nothing stop them. Nor did they, even when their grandfather became ill and was forced to temporarily abandon the ship. The adventures of the three children are plausible and just the sort many readers dream of having. A good adventure story and some interesting information about coastal sailing.

Farley, Walter. The blood bay colt; illus. by Milton Menasco. Random House, 1950. 307p. \$2. Gr. 5-7. (D97)

Bonfire, the blood bay colt, is sired by the famous Black but, unlike his illustrious father, wins his fame in harness racing. The story is built around the training of the colt for harness racing and of Tom, a young high school boy, for driving. Conflict is provided in the fight of Jimmy Creech, Bonfire's owner, to preserve county fair racing in the face of overwhelming competition from night race tracks and wealthy, amateur sportsmen. Farley fans will like this one. There is more substance and less sensationalism than in most of his earlier books.

Felt, Sue. Rosa-too-little; story and pictures by Sue Felt. Doubleday, 1950. 25p. \$2. K-Gr.2.

Rosa liked better than anything else to go to the library and her great despair was that she was not old enough to take out her own books. How she learned to write her name and thus became eligible to own a library card makes a pleasant little story pre-school children will enjoy. A kind of Rufus M for younger children. Nice illustrations.

Fenner, Phyllis Reid, comp. Indians, Indians, Indians; stories of tepees and tomahawks, wampum belts and war bonnets, peace pipes and papooses; illus. by Manning deV. Lee. Watts, 1950. 288p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-9.

A collection of Indian stories, old and new. Most of the stories are concerned with the white-Indian wars. Only one is about modern Indians. Several of the stories are slanted toward the whites with the Indians as the villains. This seems a rather unfortunate choice when the present trend in books is toward a fair and unbiased picture of the Indian's side of the struggle. In general, the stories lose in meaning and value by being taken out of context.

Fenton, Carroll Lane. Worlds in the sky; written and illus. by Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton. John Day, 1950. 96p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

A well-written, simplified astronomy for young readers. Describes and explains the planets, stars, and other bodies that make up our universe and explains their effect on such phenomena as day and night and the seasons. Excellent illustrations.

Fenton, Edward. Hidden trapezes; illus. by Reise Lonette. Doubleday, 1950. 240p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

Coming from a long line of aerial performers, Robin could not accept his uncle's decision that he should not follow the family pattern. Even the death of his parents and the permanent crippling of his uncle in aerial accidents could not change him. His ambitions were aided by the sympathetic under-

standing of Mrs. Fatima, an ex-snakecharmer with whom he lived in Brooklyn, and the help of her neighbors, all of whom had associated with circus life in some capacity or other. A colorful tale of life among retired circus performers that has all the glamor of the circus itself.

Foster, Genevieve (Stump). Abraham Lincoln; an initial biography. Scribners, 1950. 111p. \$2. Gr. 4-6.

Second title in Mrs. Foster's series of initial biographies. Like the George Washington this is a simply written, very readable biography, that can be easily read at the fourth grade level but would be enjoyed by any age. The author has done a good job of handling the many legends that have grown up around Lincoln - especially the Ann Rutledge affair.

Friendlich, Dick. Warrior forward. Westminster, 1950. 190p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

Roger was quite sure of his position in sports at Broadhurst college. So sure, in fact, that he went home for the Christmas holidays and thus missed the first three weeks of basketball practice. Much to his surprise the team did not particularly miss him, mostly due to the presence of a new player who was quite adequately playing Roger's position. To make matters worse the new player, Frank, seemed to have a strong antagonism toward him. In the end Roger learns to face the fact that there are other people who can do things as well as he can and Frank loses his antagonism which is based on jealousy of Roger's financial and social position. Acceptable basketball and fairly well drawn characters. Not outstanding.

Frost, Frances Mary. Then came Timothy; illus. by Richard Bennett. Whittlesey House, 1950. 155p. \$2. Gr. 4-6.

Gramp had a firm belief in leprechauns and he kept telling Kathy that some day one would come sailing across the Atlantic in an eggshell and land on their island off the coast of Maine. She was not very much surprised therefore when Timothy Sweetfern appeared one morning. He looked just as her grandfather had said he would and he even had his eggshell boat to show how he had come over from Ireland. While he was on the island many wonderful things happened and when he left Kathy's only consolation was the thought that someday someone in Ireland would again forget to crush an eggshell and Timothy would come back to see her.

Glasscock, Joyce. Cowboy Eddie; illus. by Dorothy Grider. Rand McNally, 1950. 31p. 25¢. (A book-elf book)

A slow-paced story of a small boy whose father has bought a ranch and who is learning all about horses, cattle, and cowboys for the first time. The story has no plot and very little suspense to hold the reader's interest. Uneven leading on some pages makes reading difficult. Not recommended.

Gridley, Marion E. Hiawatha; illus. by Irma Wilde. Rand McNally, 1950. 32p. 25¢. (A book-elf book)

A prose version of Longfellow's poem. Mediocre writing. Illustrations caricature people, personify animals. Not recommended.

Hall, Andrew. Peeps Elliott & Family. Dodd, Mead, 1950. 248p. \$2.50.

Further adventures of Peeps, Ike and Emma (Peeps' father and mother), who first appeared in Like father.

like fun. Ike is even more the symbol of absolute perfection than he was in the first book and it is a toss-up which is the more tiresome, Ike with his perfection or Peeps with his adoration of Ike. Even the sports angle of the book fails to compensate for the overdose of sweetness and light shed by the incomparable Ike. Not recommended.

Hayes, Helen. Star on her forehead; by Helen Hayes and Mary Kennedy. Dodd, Mead, 1949. 247p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-10.

A career story based on the actual experiences of the authors. There is some authentic information about acting and the usual career story pattern of success in a relatively short time. The main character, Elizabeth, is not particularly attractive and many readers will identify with Hannah, a secondary character, who is in most ways more interesting and likeable than Elizabeth.

Heuman, William. Fighting five. Morrow, 1950. 189p. \$2.50.

A mediocre basketball story that never quite comes to life. Jay, son of a millionaire, is expelled from the State University because of his drinking and disregard for campus rules. His father sends him to a small, run-down private college in the hope that he will settle down. He arrives with a sneer, and before the first day is out has fallen in love with the pretty registrar (niece of the Dean), made a place for himself on the basketball team, and fallen under the spell of its coach (a rough but worthy character who is garbage collector by day and coach by night). Through the superb direction of the coach and the inspired playing of Jay the team goes to the National Tournament in New York City. There they face defeat when their coach seemingly sells out to some underworld characters, but all comes right in the end. Completely unrealistic. Not recommended.

Hitte, Kathryn. Surprise for Susan; pictures by Pelagie Doane. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950. 19p. \$1.

Susan was going to get a surprise when Mother came home. She asked everyone from the cook to Daddy and each person gave her a different answer. In the end she discovered they were all right - but not completely so. It was, of course, a baby. Very slight. For home use only.

Holt, George. Noah and his ark. Little, Brown, 1950. 48pl \$2.

An account of the flood told in a modern vein. Anthropologists would argue with the artist's concepts of the three sons of Noah: Shem (a Chinese), Ham (a Negro), and Japheth (a Caucasian), and many people will object to the perpetuation of a legend that has been pretty well disproved. The illustrations of the animals are the best part of the book. They have real humor and personality. The print is rather fine for young readers and will limit the book to the read-aloud class. This is a book to be examined carefully before purchasing.

Hunt, Mabel Leigh. Better known as Johnny Appleseed; decorations by James Daugherty. Lippincott, 1950. 212p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9.

At long last a story that does justice to this semi-legendary character. In a style that has dignity, warmth, humor, and much of the saltiness of folk lore, the author has woven a picture of Johnny

Appleseed from the known facts and all the legends that have grown up around his name. Although she is careful to indicate where fact ends and legend begins, she does so in a manner so skillful that it never disturbs the reader or detracts from his enjoyment of the story. Not only has she given a very realistic picture of Johnny Appleseed, she has made the people and the country come alive so that they too become good friends of the reader.

Ipcar, Dahlov (Zorach). One horse farm. Doubleday, 1950. 32p. \$2. K-Gr.2.

A pleasant little story of a boy and a colt who grew up together and helped run the boy's father's farm until the horse became too old to work, the farmer bought a tractor, and the horse was retired to the meadows. The illustrations add much to the story which will be especially useful for primary classes that are studying farm units.

Jackson, Kathryn. Pirates, ships and sailors; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; pictures by Gustaf Tenggren. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 96p. \$2. Gr. 4-6. (A giant golden book)

A collection of stories and poems about ships and sailing. Uneven in quality but with enough good stories to make it worth buying where there is a strong interest in sea stories.

LeSueur, Meridel. Sparrow Hawk; illus. by William Moyers. Knopf, 1950. 174p. \$2.50.

An account of the last stand of the Sauk Indians against the white men and of the friendship of an Indian and white boy. The story is slow-paced and the style too stilted to hold the attention of most readers. Not recommended.

Lipkind, William. The two Reds; by Will (pseud.) and Nicolas (pseud.). Harcourt, 1950. 46p. \$2. Gr. 3-5.

One Red was a boy; the other was a cat. They both lived in a large city and neither had many friends. The story tells of their adventures one afternoon when the cat was chased by a fishmonger and the boy by a gang and each helped the other escape. Illustrations are in bright reds and yellows that are very loud but somehow pleasing.

Lyons, Dorothy. Copper Khan; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Harcourt, 1950. 232p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

Follows the same pattern as Golden Sovereign and Silver Birch. Connie rescues another horse, this time one with a broken leg, nurses it back to health, and wins spectacular races. Like the other books this one is not outstandingly good writing, it is however an acceptable horse story and one that will have especial appeal for girls.

McClung, Robert M. Ruby Throat, the story of a hummingbird; written and illus. by Robert M. McClung.

Morrow, 1950. 46p. \$2. Gr. 3-5.
The story of a hummingbird through one season in the north, a migration south, and the return to its first home. Written in a simple style that beginning readers can handle, the author has created a character without resorting to personification.

McGillicuddy, Cornelius. Connie Mack's baseball book; foreword by Red Smith; illus. by Floyd Torbet. Knopf, 1950. 234p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-

Everything a would-be baseball player wants to know - from how rookies are chosen to details about playing

each position, told by baseball's grandest figure. Well-written in a highly readable style that will appeal to baseball fans from eight to eighty.

Mallette, Gertrude Ethel. Clear to land. Doubleday, 1950. 212p. \$2.25.

The Harrisons are a fabulous family in which each member owns his own plane and is an accomplished pilot. Shelby, the daughter, owns a helicopter and this is the cause of a quarrel between her and Peter Cornell, the man she loves - he prefers jets. Although they agree on such minor matters as books, music, and food, Shelby feels that if they disagree on really important matters, i.e. helicopters vs. jets, there is no point in continuing their engagement. Of course it all comes out right. Peter crashes, Shelby rescues him in her trusty helicopter, and he sees the error of his ways. Rather feeble writing and wholly unrealistic. There are also a newspaper reporter and some top military secrets floating around but they don't help much. Not recommended.

Martin, Charles M. Monsters of old Los Angeles; the prehistoric animals of the La Brea Tar Pits; illus. by Herb Rayburn. Viking, 1950. 127p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

A fascinating account of life in California just before the ice age as seen through the eyes of a pair of raccoons, the only animals of that age and area that were never trapped by the tar pits. Excellent illustrations.

Masani, Shakuntala. Gandhi's story. Oxford, 1950. 101p. \$2.50.

A simplified life of Gandhi similar in style to Nehru's story. The writing is too difficult for readers below the fifth grade and the tone is too condescending to be acceptable above that age level. Eaton's Gandhi, fighter without a sword (Morrow, 1950) is preferable even though it is designed for a somewhat older age group. Not recommended.

May, Stella Burke. Let's read about Mexico; illus. by Kreigh Collins. Fideler, 1949. 111p. \$2.36.

Simply written history and geography of Mexico. The frequent lapses into story form are irritating and not especially informative. Neither is the author's refusal to use the real names of cities and towns much help. Her reason - that Mexican names are too difficult to pronounce - seems rather strange in a book that is supposed to be useful as a text book. The same material is available in other books that are more informative and more interesting. Not recommended.

Meek, Sterner St. Paul. Surfman; the adventures of a Coast Guard dog. Knopf, 1950. 267p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

A better than usual story for this author. The scene is a North Carolina Coast Guard station and the story involves a crew member's attempt to clear the name of his father who is on the records as a deserter. Good picture of the work of the Coast Guard.

Milne, Alan Alexander. Now we are six; with decorations by Ernest H. Shepard. Dutton, 1950. 102p. \$1.75. K-Gr. 2.

A reissue that will be welcomed by all libraries.

Musgrave, Florence. Mary Lizzie; illus. by Robert Candy. Houghton, 1950. 187p. \$2.25. Gr. 4-6. (D45;D59;D42; D28)

In the Welsh village where Mary Lizzie had lived all of her ten years she was considered strange because she had red hair. When she and her parents came to America she was pleased to see other children with red hair, but she soon found that she was still set apart because of her clothes and her speech. It took a long time and some unhappiness before she learned to make a place for herself in this new land, but when she did she was then able to help other newcomers to adjust. A good book for helping children to appreciate the difficulties of people who come here from other countries and to understand differences in ways of saying and doing.

Newberry, Clare (Turley). T-Bone; the baby-sitter; story and pictures by Clare Turley Newberry. Harper, 1950. 26p. \$1.75. K-Gr.2.

T-Bone is a large cat whose chief function in life is to baby-sit. He sits with the baby when she is sunning on the porch, when she is in her play pen, and when she is asleep. He is not much help with essentials such as bottles and diapers, but as long as she sits she is happy. One day he lets his wilder instincts come to the fore and tears up a pair of nylon stockings and a hat before he is banished to a farm. There he is unhappy and back at home the baby is unhappy - so finally they are reunited. Children and adults alike will enjoy reading and re-reading this story. The pictures are Newberry at her best.

Oliver, Marjorie Mary. Horseman's island; illus. by Bill Wickham. Westminster, 1950. 155p. \$2.50. Gr.4-6.

Sequel to Riding days. This time the three children visit Catherine's grandmother at her family estate in Ireland. There is a very slight mystery but it adds little to the story and the main interest is in the training of the ponies.

Paschal, Nancy. Sylvan City; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Viking, 1950. 254p. \$2.

The discovery of oil in their farm brought happiness to all the Taylor family except Callie. To her it meant leaving the farm she loved and going to Sylvan City to attend a very exclusive private school. The prospect of living with wealthy relatives in Sylvan City did not make her any happier. Her adjustment became easier when she discovered that her relatives were pleasant, friendly people, and she soon came to like school well enough to determine to finish no matter what happened. This determination was put to a severe test when her father lost all of his money, but everything came out all right with the discovery of still another oil well. The idea behind the story is a good one but the characters and incidents are not at all convincing. Not recommended.

Pashko, Stanley. Ross Duncan at Bataan. Messner, 1950. 161p. \$2.50.

It is difficult to see any reason for a book such as this one being either written or published at this time. Ross Duncan is a soldier on Bataan during the early days of World War II and this is the story of his experiences during the bitter fighting that finally ended with the capture of Bataan by the Japanese. There is no character development and the entire emphasis of the book is on the growing hatred of the Americans for the Japanese. Not recommended.

Pistorius, Anna. What wildflower is it? Wilcox & Follett, 1950. 24p. \$1.81. Gr. 3-8.

Follows the same pattern as the other What is it? books. Text is in the form of a quiz, with the answers given in the back. Good illustrations of the more familiar wild flowers. Books in this series have been used successfully with remedial reading cases for stimulating interest in reading.

Politi, Leo. A boat for Peppe. Scribner's, 1950. 30p. \$2. Gr. 2-4.

Peppe wanted a boat - not a large one like his father's fishing boat, but a small one he could sail. Finally the festival of Saint Rosalia came round and Peppe had his boat - one his grandfather had carved for him. A simple little story of life in the Sicilian sector of Monterey, California. As in most of Politi's works the illustrations are the most important part of the book.

Pratten, Albra. Winkie the grey squirrel; illus. by Ralph S. Thompson. Oxford, 1950. 46p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-5.

A pleasant little story of a young squirrel that falls out of its nest, is rescued by a man, and taken home to his son. The squirrel is kept in the house until he is old enough to care for himself and then is allowed to go free. His escapades as told in the text and pictured in the illustrations will delight young readers. The somewhat fine print may be difficult for third grade readers but the book could be used for nature study classes at that level. Full-page colored illustrations add to the pleasure and understanding of the story.

Putnam, Nina Wilcox. Lynn, cover girl. Messner, 1950. 186p. \$2.50.

In typical career story style Lynn comes to New York as a naive, small-town girl determined to become a model; does all the wrong things; and within a year has won for herself the most coveted modeling jobs of the season and a handsome young bachelor. Stock characters and situations with definitely negative values throughout the book. Not recommended.

Rushmore, Helen. Cowboy Joe of the Circle S. Harcourt, 1950. 147p. \$2. Gr. 4-6. (D47)

Eight-year-old Joe came to the Circle S ranch wanting more than anything else to learn to be a cowboy and to have a real cowboy name. He had to put up with such names as "Dude" and "Dogie" before he finally got a name that satisfied him, but it was one he had truly earned. The author writes with a real understanding of and sympathy for small boys as well as a knowledge of modern ranch life.

Scott, Jane. Washing is fun. Peggy Cloth-Books, 1950. 10p.

For home use only. Printed in washable colors on cloth, each picture shows an animal washing itself and has a jingle about the animal and its habits. The rhymes are only fair and there is unnecessary personification of some of the animals. Each book has a bath sponge shaped like one of the animals.

Scott, Sally. Rip and Royal; pictures by Beth Krush. Harcourt, 1950. 59p. \$1.75. Gr. 2-4.

Peggy wanted a dog she could be proud of and Royal, a thoroughbred collie, seemed to be just the right one. However Royal had been trained as a

working dog and he was not happy living in a city where there was nothing to do. Worse still, in the large family, he got so many contradictory orders he was constantly bewildered as to what was expected of him. Then the family moved to the country for the summer. There Royal found his rightful place and Peggy was consoled with Rip, a very bouncy, very loving, cocker spaniel who adopted the whole family and Peggy in particular. An easy reading book that most second graders could handle alone.

Sherman, Edith (Bishop). Bright college year. Doubleday, 1950. 274p. \$2.50.

A rather dull account of one girl's experiences as a freshman in an eastern women's college. The experiences are undoubtedly authentic but they read more like a case history than a novel. Characters are types: Emma Louise, Southern, blond, lazy, and with an ungrammatical use of "you all" that would brand her as uneducated in any southern town; Sara, New England, prim, precise, and penny pinching; and the girls from the middle West, wholesome, pleasant, and good students. Too slow-paced to hold the reader's interest. Not recommended.

Simon, Charlie May (Hogue). Saturday's child. Dutton, 1950. 189p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-10. (D134)

A fairly mature novel that should appeal to teen-age girls. The scene is Memphis, shortly after the Civil War. Margaret and Letitia are the daughters of a poor but genteel couple living on the very edge of the respectable section of town. The two girls are unlike in their reactions to life - Margaret has too much pride and puts too much emphasis on material wealth; Letitia has little concern for what people will think, approves of the suffragette movement, and wants to train as a nurse. The story takes them through a year in which Memphis suffers a severe typhoid epidemic, Margaret falls in love with an Irish carpenter, and Letitia gets her chance to learn nursing when she meets and marries a young doctor.

Skaar, Grace. What do they say! Scott, 1950. 19p. \$1. K-Gr.1.

The sounds made by common farmyard animals in a question and answer pattern that leads up to the fact that boys and girls can make all these sounds and more. Illustrations show the animals at their everyday activities.

Smith, Irene. Lucky days for Johnny; illus. by Kurt Weise. Whittlesey House, 1950. 64p. \$1.75. Gr. 2-4

Johnny is in the first grade and so fond of his teacher that he can not enjoy this year for worrying about next year when he will no longer be in her class. How his problem is solved and what his lucky days turn out to be make a pleasant little story that beginning readers can handle alone.

Ulreick, Nura (Woodson). The kitten who listened; story and pictures by Nura (pseud.). Harper, 1950. 30p. \$1.50. K-Gr.2.

The Leverings lived in a mining town and were very fond of cats. Not that they had ever had a cat, but they all looked forward to the day when they would. Trouble arose when they could not decide on a name for the cat-to-be. Each one had a different name and not one was willing to give in to the others. Then the cat came and named himself in a way that will surprise and delight young readers.

Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. Skymountain. Morrow, 1950. 224p. \$2.50.

Robin transferred to Skymountain College because it had the best skiing teacher in the country and she was determined to become the outstanding woman skier in the country. Money meant nothing to her nor had she ever given much thought to anyone else's rights or feelings. The high moral values stressed in the college plus the love of a poor (relatively) but honest student stand her in good stead when she is suddenly faced with the loss of her money and they help her decide to go back to waiting tables at the village inn in preference to marrying an ex-boy friend who has nothing to offer except wealth. The conversion is too sudden to be convincing or for the reader to feel that it will be very lasting. Not recommended.

Watkins, Richard. Hurricane's secret; illus. by Lois Darling. Harcourt, 1950. 244p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9.

Modern piracy in the Caribbean Sea. When Rock's father sent him to spend a year with Captain Anderson before joining the merchant marines neither of them anticipated that it would be quite such an exciting experience. At times when Rocky and his friend, Danny, were dodging pirates around the Bottle Islands, hunting lost treasure, and fighting heavy seas in a small boat it seemed like too much adventure. Boys who like sea stories will enjoy the suspense and danger of this one. It moves fast enough to hold the reader's interest and is plausible both in action and characterizations.

Werner, Jane. The marvelous merry-go-round; pictures by J. P. Miller. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 39p. 25¢. (A little golden book)

Tommie had always planned that when he grew up he would have a merry-go-round with real animals. So he grew up - and he did have a merry-go-round with real animals. The trouble was no adults would let their children ride because the animals were real. Finally Tommie painted the animals to look like wooden ones and then only the children knew they were real. Slight story, mediocre pictures. Not recommended.

Zim, Herbert Spencer. Owls; illus. by James Gordon Irving. Morrow, 1950. 59p. \$2. Gr. 3-5.

A new title in Mr. Zim's excellent series of nature study books. Like the others this has a difficulty level and type size suitable to beginning readers and a subject and style that will appeal to all ages from second grade to adult. Superb illustrations.

Wilson, Dixie. Mystery in spangles. Dodd, Mead, 1950. 230p. \$2.50.

Gay and Amy who solved the mystery in Mystery of the scarlet staircase are called in by their friends in the Melbourne circus to solve a mystery there. This one involves the side show's wild man who has mysteriously disappeared. The man was captured in Africa by the side show owner, brought to this country, and kept in a cage. Apparently it never occurred to anyone, whether in the circus or outside, to question the right of one man to hold another man captive in this way. When the police were called in they set about trying to recover the Captain's "stolen property". Needless to say the girls solve

the mystery and are applauded as being among the few people connected with the case who thought to consider the "wild man" as a human being. The Captain's only punishment was the loss of his "property". Incredibly poor writing in addition to negative values that make the book actually harmful. Not recommended.

Zeligs, Dorothy F. The story of modern Israel for young people. Bloch, 1950. 370p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7. New edition of a book first published in 1940. A well-written account that brings events in modern Israel up to date with a brief tracing of the early history of the country. The author rather obviously slants her material to show only the favorable side of the Jewish settlement of Israel and the book should be used with this limitation in mind. It does present a more well-rounded picture of Israel than did Hoffman's Land and people of Israel (Lippincott, 1949).

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.

Books for the youngest readers; compiled for the State-wide Library Committee by the Elementary School Librarians of the Madison Free Library Staff in consultation with their first grade teachers. Madison, Wis.: Madison Free Library, 1950. apply.

Books to read aloud in family groups. Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State Library, State Office Building, 1950. Annotated list.

Casey, Sally L. Ways you can help your child with reading. Row, Peterson & Co., 1950. Free.

Excellent advice to parents whereby they may help their children and at the same time avoid conflicts with the teaching program.

Educators guide to free slide films; compiled and edited by Mary Foley Horkheimer and John W. Diffor. 2d ed., rev. Randolph, Wis.: Educators Progress Service, 1950. 128p. \$3.

Educators guide to free films; compiled and edited by Mary Foley Horkheimer and John W. Diffor. 10th ed., rev. Randolph, Wis.: Educators Progress Service, 1950. \$5.

Elementary teacher's guide to free curriculum materials; edited by John Guy Fowlkes, Ann Meyers and Paul T. Cody. 7th ed., rev. Randolph, Wis.: Educators Progress Service, 1950. \$4.50.

Evaluative criteria, 1950 ed. Washington, D.C.: Cooperative Study of Secondary School Standards, 1950. \$2.50 (paper); \$3.50 (cloth)

Federal Security Agency. Office of Education. Statistics of public school libraries. Free.

Films for public libraries; selected by The Publications Committee of the American Library Association Audio-Visual Board. Part 2, ALA Booklist, Vol. 42, No. 1, Sept. 1, 1950. Annotated list for all ages.

Free and inexpensive learning materials; George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1950. 5th list. 50¢.

Gwynn, J. Minor. Curriculum principles and social trends. Rev. ed. Macmillan, 1950. 768p. Contains sections on the place of the library in the total program of the school.

Hartley, William H. A guide to audio-visual materials for elementary school social studies. Rambler Press, 1950. 192p. \$3.50.

Haviland, Virginia. The travelogue story book of the nineteenth century. Horn Book, Inc., 1950. 70p. \$2.25. A Caroline Hewins lecture.

National Conference on Research in English. Education and the mass media of communication. Chicago: The National Council of Teachers of English, 1950. 72p. 65¢. Papers reprinted from Elementary English, January to May, 1950.

Stewart, Maxwell S. Prejudice in textbooks. Public Affairs Pamphlet # 160. 20¢. Based on Intergroup Relations in Teaching Materials (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, 1949).

Taba, Hilda and Elkins, Deborah. With focus on human relations; a story of an eighth grade. Intergroup Education in Cooperating Schools, Work in Progress Series. Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, 1950. 227p. \$2.50.

An account, based on extensive discussion records, student papers, and teacher logs, of a three year program in problems of human relations. The teacher used the three subjects she taught - literature, guidance, and social studies - to develop the program. Her descriptions of the ways in which she used fiction will be of particular interest to librarians. A useful book for every library's professional shelf.

Mr. Lester Asheim
Rm 852
Faculty Exchange