



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. IV

January, 1961

No. 2

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

Aesop. The fables of Aesop; selected, told anew and their history traced by Joseph Jacobs; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Macmillan, 1950. 174p. (New children's classics) \$2.00 Gr. 4-6.

The familiar Jacobs version of Aesop's fables in a new format and with new illustrations by Kurt Wiese. The illustrations catch the spirit and humor of the fables and the page set-up makes pleasant and easy reading. Compares favorably with the Lippincott Classics edition.

Allen, Gertrude E. Tammy Chipmunk and his friends. Houghton, 1950. 55p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5.

Brief stories about several small animals of the woods: the chipmunk, the mink, the skunk, and the porcupine. The animals are not personified and there is much good nature lore in the stories. Easy style for beginning readers. Attractive illustrations.

Anderegg, Sally. One world through friendship: friendship and brotherly love around the world - a play for classroom and young group presentation. William-Frederick, 1950. 28p.

A play showing how an eighth grade hobby club learned world friendship through its stamp collection. Dull and the morals are pointed up too obviously. Not recommended.

Anderson, Clarence William. Horses are folks. Harper, 1950. 90p. illus. \$3.50 Gr. 9-12.

Anderson's superb horse pictures with text that compares the horses with their human counterparts. There is everything from the toddler to the prima donna. The text is adult both in difficulty and in concepts. Some good readers in the seventh

grade might be able to handle it, but the main use will be at the high school level. (9½x11½ size).

Andrea, Geri. Circus parade; designs by the author. World Arts and Sciences, 1950. 72p. \$2.95.

Poems about the various animals and performers in the circus. The writing is very uneven. A few of the poems have a nice rhythm and catch the spirit of the circus but most of them seem quite forced. Illustrations would have helped since some of the poems are such a complicated play on words that the meaning will be lost to most children. Not recommended.

Baker, Nina (Brown). Sir Walter Raleigh. Harcourt, 1950. 191p. \$2.50. Gr. 9-12. (D29)

A quiet, dignified biography that ignores or refutes the many legends that have grown up around Raleigh and pictures him as a man with vision and knowledge far beyond his time. The emphasis is placed on his ideas of colonization, his work in chemical and other scientific experimentation, and his poetry rather than on his naval exploits. More mature in style than the Trease (see below), this will appeal to older readers.

Barnwell, Mildred Telford. Cindy for short; the saga of a favorite cat. William-Frederick, 1949. 10p. \$1.50

A rather coy story of a kitten who goes to live with a poet. Both the cat and its mistress break into verse at the slightest provocation and to the further detriment of the story. Not recommended.

Barrett, Oliver O'Connor. Little Benny wanted a pony; pictures by Richard Scarry. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 29p. (A little golden book) 25¢

Benny wanted a pony but because he did not have one he went around trying to find someone who would sell him an angry frown. At last he found a frown hanging on a nutmeg tree, put it on, and went home only to learn that his pony had arrived and was at that moment playing havoc with the pantry. The story ends with Benny and the pony sitting at the dining room table. Silly. Not recommended.

Baum, L. Frank. The Wizard of Oz; adapted by Allen Chaffee; illus. by Anton Loeb. Random house, 1950. 64p. \$1.00

A re-written, watered-down version of The Wizard of Oz that lacks all the humor and the charm of the original. There seems no good reason for taking a book that middle elementary grade readers can, and do, appreciate in the original and trying to foist it off on younger readers in such a mutilated version. Not recommended.

Biffi, Giammaria Mazzoleni, illus. A visit to grandma; adapted by Judith Zimet. Roy, 1950. 26p. \$1.50.

Translation from the Italian of the story of a fox family and its visit to grandma fox. Every other illustration has a flap (representing a door) that lifts up to show the activities of the fox children and their grandmother. Slight story with some questionable values in the children's complete lack of consideration for their mother and grandmother. Not recommended.

Bowen, Robert Sidney. Blocking back. Lothrop, 1950. 187p. \$2.00

A run-of-the-mill football story. Johnny Marsh finishes college determined to quit football and become a marine architect. Within a week's time his mother becomes seriously ill and needs an expensive operation and he loses the job that had been waiting for him. Desperate for money he turns to pro football where he has had an offer from an unsavory character who coaches the champion pro team. From there on his life is complicated by the presence of his rival from college days and the attempt of the coach and said rival to throw the year's major game and put the blame on him. Needless to say Johnny foils their plans and wins the game single-handed. Not recommended.

Brown, Margaret Wise. The dream book; first comes the dream; illus. by Richard Floethe. Rand House, 1950. 20p. \$1.50

An attempt to create a mood for the very young child. The sections in which the animals are dreaming are not too bad but when the author brings in man's social progress starting with the dream that precedes each step then the ideas become too complex to have any meaning for the pre-school age level. Illustrations are not outstanding. Not recommended.

Brown, Margaret Wise. The peppermint family; pictures by Clement Hurd. Harper, 1950. 30p. \$1.75.

A very slight, completely pointless story of the Peppermint family. Mr. Peppermint goes to the North Pole for no discernable reason. While he is there Mrs. Peppermint gives birth to a son, cannot decide what to name him, writes to Mr. Peppermint at the North Pole and he replies that the child shall be named Chocolate. Illustrations and type are all in red and are without any elements of appeal. Not recommended.

Brown, Marion Marsh. The swamp fox. Westminster, 1950. 185p. \$2.50 Gr. 8-10.

Biography of Francis Marion, Revolutionary War general whose guerilla tactics helped win the war in the south. This is a poorly constructed biography that lacks balance between the space devoted to Marion's early years and the account of his activities during the war. The unfortunate repetition of the term "picaninny" to describe the Negro children will further weaken the book's usefulness. On the positive side this gives a good picture of the part the south played in the Revolutionary War -- a part that is too often neglected in histories and fiction, and for this reason the book will have some value as supplementary reading for history classes.

Cam. Barbara lamb. Roy, 1950. 31p. illus. \$1.00
Barbara is a lamb who aspires to become a concert

singer, has her wish granted, but finally reverts to the idyllic life of pasture and stream. Sentimental in tone and in illustrations. Not recommended.

Chalmers, Audrey. High smoke; written and illus. by Audrey Chalmers. Viking, 1950. 224p. \$2.50

Debby's mother and step-father are vaudeville players living in cheap hotels and dreaming of the day when they will make the "big time". Nine-year old Debby has no liking for the theater but longs for the peace and quiet of the country -- preferably her grandfather's farm, High Smoke. How she finally gets her wishes and even solves the problem of several of her vaudeville friends makes a pleasant story but not an outstanding one. There is an over abundance of coincidence and it is all thickly coated with sentimentality. Not recommended.

Cohen, Barbara. Once upon a time...; a collection of short stories for children of all ages; by Barbara Cohen who is eight years old. William-Frederick, 1950. 14p. 7¢

Several stories written by an eight year old girl. As such they have some interest but as stories they offer little that will appeal to other eight year olds. Not recommended.

Conger, Marion. A day at the zoo; pictures by Tibor Gergely. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 40p. (A little golden book) 25¢ K-Gr. 1.

A small girl and her father spend a day at the zoo. Satisfactory although not outstanding.

Davis, Caroline. Jungle child; illus. by Jean Martinez. Viking, 1950. 256p. \$2.50.

When Elf was born her mother died and her father was left with the task of rearing a daughter in a small village in the midst of India's jungle. His solution was to turn Elf over to the Indian servants and forget her as much as possible. The story, told from Elf's point of view, portrays all the loneliness of a child brought up under such conditions, wanting her father's companionship and feeling that he did not care what happened to her. Unfortunately the author has the British colonial attitude toward the natives and pictures them all as naive, superstitious, and childlike, with no ambition greater than to become a servant in a British household. The problem of Elf's relationship to her father is never satisfactorily resolved even though the story ends with the two of them on friendly terms. There is some good material here in the descriptions of the jungle but the negative points far outweigh the positive. Not recommended.

Dennis, Wesley, ed. Palomino and other horses; edited and illus. by Wesley Dennis. World, 1950. 249p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8.

An acceptable although not outstanding collection of stories about horses from earliest times to modern days. Contents include stories by Will James, Thomas C. Hinkle, Elisa Bialk, Ross Santee, Ernest Thompson Seton, and James Baldwin.

Disney, Walt. Cinderella's friends; told by Jane Werner; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Al Dempster; from the motion picture "Cinderella". Simon and Schuster 1950. 26p. (A little golden book) \$.25

Slight story of the activities of the mice on the night of Cinderella's wedding ball. Not recommended.

Disney, Walt. Donald Duck's adventure; told by Annie North Bedford; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio:

adapted by Campbell Grant. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 25p. (A little golden book) \$.25

Mickey Mouse's picnic; story by Jane Werner; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 25p. (A little golden book) 25¢.

These two books are based on short film skits. Neither has the humor that is usually found in the antics of these two characters. Not recommended.

Dutton, Lewis. Rags, M.D.; illus. by Edgar Norfield. Warne, 1950. 96p. \$1.00

Another story of the dogs, Rags and Tatters, and their owner, Michael. The dogs have an amazing command of English both written and spoken and are personified to the point where they have no reality as either dogs or people. Not recommended.

Ehrlich, Bettina. Cocolo's home; by Bettina, [pseud.] Harper, 1950. 31p. illus. \$2.50.

Another story of Cocolo, the little Italian donkey. This time Cocolo gets homesick for Italy, returns with Lucio, and discovers that America is where he wants to be after all. Lacks the charm of story and illustrations that the first Cocolo book offered. Not recommended.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. Elmer and the dragon; illus. by Ruth Chrisman Gannett. Random house, 1950. 87p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5.

Having rescued the baby dragon (in My father's dragon) Elmer is faced with the problem of getting back home. He and the dragon start flying over the ocean, stop off at an island long enough to find some buried treasure and thus satisfy the curiosity that is killing off the canary inhabitants of the island, and finally land safely in Popsicornia in time for Elmer's father's birthday. More of the matter-of-fact nonsense that made the first book such fun.

Garthwaite, Marion. Tomas and the red headed angel; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Messner, 1950. 190p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8.

A story of California in the early days of its history. Tomas is a young Indian slave on the ranch of Don Luis de la Marenga; Angelita, the "red headed angel", is Don Luis' foster daughter whose high spirited ways lead her and Tomas from one escapade to another. In the end they both rebel against Don Luis' harsh rule - Angelita to elope to Mexico with Don Edwardo, and Tomas to return to Ti'Anna's people far back in the hills. A fast-paced, well-written story that gives a good picture of the people and the times in which they lived.

Gaisel, Theodor Seuss. If I ran the zoo; by Dr. Seuss [pseud.] Random house, 1950. 54p. illus. \$2.00.

A disappointing book in many ways. The animals all look too much alike and do not always match their descriptions. The text seems forced and below the quality of either Mulberry Street or McElligot's pool. Not recommended.

Green, Roger Lancelyn. The story of Lewis Carroll. Henry Schuman, 1950. 179p. illus. (Story biography series) \$2.00 Gr. 8-10.

A well-written, entertaining biography of Lewis Carroll. The publishers intend this series for Grades

5-10 but the style of writing and the format of the book will appeal more to 8-10 grade readers. The format is dull and uninteresting but the writing will hold the reader's interest. Illustrated with photographs by Lewis Carroll.

Hall, Stella. I learn how to dress. Hoffman, 1949. 12p. illus. (All by myself playbook)

A toy book designed to help young children learn to lace their shoes, button, hook, zip, and snap their clothes and tie ribbons. Some of the pieces of material seem much too small and too closely fastened to the page for very young children to handle with any ease. The text begins on the front cover and ends on the back cover, so some of it will be lost through dirt and wear. This is not a book for library purchase though it may have some value for home use.

Halperin, Judith. Mickey Marcus, the story of Colonel David Marcus, by Judith Halperin and Phyllis Kreinik; illus. by Rita Schweitzer. Bloch, 1949. 36p. \$1.50

The story of David Marcus, a Jewish hero of Israel's struggle for independence, written and illustrated by the children of an English class at Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn, New York. As a book written by children this has some interest for adults but it will not have much appeal for young readers. The text is reproduced from the original hand-written manuscript which is interesting but difficult to read. Not recommended.

Helm, Ruth H. The bear on the balcony; pictures by Hohn Archer. Oxford, 1950. 37p. \$2.00

When Johnny was cross his mother told him he was just like an old bear and that he should leave the bear on the balcony. One day he comes home and there is the bear - so Johnny leaves it on the balcony. There is very little humor to the story and the bear is a particularly dull one. Nice illustrations. Not recommended.

Hillcourt, William. Field book of nature activities; illus. by Francis J. Rigney. Putnam's, 1950. 320p. \$3.95 Gr. 7-12.

Useful guide to nature hobbies. Gives information on equipment needed and sources of help and information for such hobbies as bird watching, plant and animal life projects, and nature clubs and camps.

Hogben, Lancelot, ed. How the first men lived; prepared by Marie Neurath and J. A. Lauwerys. Chanticleer pr., 1950. 36p. illus. \$1.50 Gr. 6-8.

A simplified account of history from the days before man appeared to modern times. The text is exceedingly readable although it is too difficult for the elementary grades for which it is intended. Illustrations are highly stylized, many of them in graph form, and would have little meaning for young children. Many of the illustrations and some of the text are printed so close to the inner margin that re-binding would be impossible, although the insubstantial stitching of the original would make some reinforcement necessary. An interesting book but one that will have limited usefulness.

Hogeboom, Amy. Forest animals and how to draw them. Vanguard pr., 1950. 39p. illus. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5.

Another title in the popular "How to draw them" series. This one deals with rabbits, squirrels, deer, beaver and other animals, large and small, of the forest. Interesting information about each animal and clear instructions for drawing them.

Holt, Jack. Lance and cowboy Billy; by Jack Holt and Carolyn Coggins; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey house, 1950. 48p. \$2.00.

More about Lance and the horse he received as a birthday present when he was six years old. This time Lance and Star are visiting Billy's ranch. The two boys take part in the ranch activities in a mildly interesting way. The lines of text are broken up into thought units, presumably to make easier reading. Since one of the most difficult parts of reading is learning correct eye movements, a book of this type will tend to hinder rather than aid the beginning readers. For older readers it would be merely confusing. The text is too difficult for beginning readers and the story too slow for use as remedial material. Not recommended.

Horowitz, Caroline. Eighty play ideas for little children. Hart, 1949. 96p. \$1.25 illus.

Presumably a book for pre-school children, many of the activities will be too difficult for this age child without considerable help from an adult. Coy tone of writing and over-use of the word "cute" are irritating. Not recommended.

Jackson, Kathryn. Brave cowboy Bill; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; pictures by Richard Scarry. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 39p. (A little golden book) \$.25 K-Gr. 1.

Brave cowboy Bill (all of six or seven years old) goes out and tackles wild horses, stampeding cattle, rustlers, and rodeo broncs - and conquers them all. Then he comes home at night for his mother to tuck him into bed. Very young children will appreciate Bill's vivid imagination and his deeds are told in rhythmical verse that makes easy reading.

Kelsey, Alice (Geer) Big family; illus. by Mary Field Terrel. Westminster, 1950. 49p. (Children's hour library) \$.65

Rambling, dis-jointed story of two children who live in Holland and make friends with delegates who are attending an international religious conference. These people tell the two children stories about the children of their own lands. Framework is confusing and the stories have little to offer of interest. Paper. Not recommended.

Klein, Sara G. Westminster nursery books. Westminster, 1950. 4v. illus. (Children's hour library) \$1.49 set.

Contents: His name is Jesus; In our church; I'm growing; The little seeds that grew.

Four stories that might be used for Sunday School. The writing is easy enough for beginning readers to handle alone and the subjects are directed toward Sunday School teachings. "In our church" and "His name is Jesus" are directed toward Protestant teachings; "I'm growing" and "The little seeds that grew" could be used in any church school.

Knoop, Faith Yingling. Lars and the Luck Stone; illus. by John Moment. Harcourt, 1950. 182p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7 (D62;D42)

The adventures of a young Lapp boy during one year's winter camp. The story is built around the mysterious disappearance and eventual recovery of the family's herd of reindeer but the main interest will be in the details of life among the nomad Lapps. Well-written with enough action and suspense to

carry the story at a fast pace and hold the reader's interest.

Krauss, Ruth. The backward day; pictures by Marc Simont. Harper, 1950. 30p. \$1.50. K-Gr. 2.

When the little boy got up in the morning he decided it was a backward day, so he dressed backwards (starting with his coat and ending with his underwear), went down stairs backwards, and sat in his father's chair with his back to the breakfast table. Then, of course, he had to go back to bed since that is the logical way to start a backward day, and when he got up the second time it was a normal day. His family joins in his make believe to the extent of greeting each other backward and sitting with their backs to the table. The story will appeal to young children who are feeling rebellious at their regimented lives and will, at the same time, show the limits to which rebellion can go.

Lach, Alma S. A child's first cook book; illus. by Doris Stolberg. Hart, 1950. 96p. \$1.25 Gr. 2-4.

A simple cook book for the very young child. Explains terms used in cooking and pictures the utensils used in following the various recipes. Warnings are given about activities that might be dangerous for young children to do alone and the assumption is clearly made that an adult will be on hand to help with such things as lighting the oven. Recipes range from simple drinks such as tea and lemonade, to more complicated dishes such as beef stew and cakes. Suggested menus are given at the end.

Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. The Bounces of Cynthiann!; illus. by Grace Paull. Doubleday, 1950. 260p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8.

The four Bounce children - Matt, 14; Markia, 12; Luke, 10; and Johanna, still a baby, came to Oregon to find their uncle after their mother died. They reached Cynthianna just two weeks after their uncle was killed and were immediately taken in by the town. Matt's determination to keep them together as a family makes life difficult at times but eventually their problem is solved. The solution is the least realistic part of the book but it will satisfy most readers and the main part of the story is worth while both for its characterizations and its picture of life in a small Oregon town in the late 1800's.

Leaf, Munro. History can be fun. Lippincott, 1950. 64p. illus. \$1.75 Gr. 4-6.

Simplified history in Leaf's own style of writing and drawing. The result is entertaining and instructive. There is more text here than is usual with Leaf's books and the difficulty level is higher. Useful for non-readers or for remedial reading classes as well as for use in history classes.

Lippincott, Joseph Wharton. The wahoo bobcat; illus. by Paul Bransom. Lippincott, 1950. 207p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8.

A most unusual friendship is developed between nine year old Sammy and a great bob-cat who is called Tiger by the residents of the Florida swampland. Forest fire and flood endanger the existence of both boy and wild-cat. Because the farmers and hunters hated and feared the Tiger, Sammy waged a long struggle to save him from being shot. Dramatic development of the story plot, an excellent feeling for background, and some fine characterization make this a book that will have

wide appeal. Also useful as supplementary reading for conservation classes.

Litten, Frederic Nelson. Code of a champion. Westminster, 1950. 224p. \$2.50.

Ross Vincent, an ex-G.I., comes home to find his home town in the grip of an unscrupulous politician, Dasonier. At first Ross tries to work with Dasonier but he soon realizes the man is crooked, turns against him, and eventually brings about his downfall. The story is melodramatic, the characters are unrealistic, and the author's ideas of white supremacy objectionable. Not recommended.

Long, Eula. Chocolate; from Mayan to modern; written and illus. by Eula Long. Aladdin, 1950. 207p. \$2.75. Gr. 5-7.

A fictionalized history of the discovery and development of chocolate told through the adventures of children living in the times and places where chocolate played an important part in history. Beginning with the mythological account of the origin of chocolate in the Mayan jungle, the author traces its progress through Mexico, Spain, Holland, and South Africa to its present use all over the world. Well-written and interesting.

Long, Laura. David Farragut; boy midshipman; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1950. 192p. (Childhood of famous Americans series) \$1.75.

Fictionized account of the childhood of David Farragut. As is usual with this series the account takes the character through his early days and either omits or briefly sketches the part of his life that makes him a worthwhile and memorable character. In this instance even Farragut's famous speech at New Orleans is omitted. The characters are lifeless; conversations wooden. No sources are given to substantiate the information about his childhood. Not recommended.

Longstreth, Thomas Morris. Showdown. Macmillan, 1950. 196p. \$2.50.

An exciting but improbable story of a Prince Rupert basketball team that crash landed in the north Canadian woods and was saved by the ingenuity and resourcefulness of one of its members. There are doubtful ethical values in Nicky Rowel's rebellion against his parents and his stowing away in the plane after having been told by the coach, the pilot, and his parents that he could not go on this trip. The characterization of the Indians as simple minded people, wholly inferior to the white people is objectionable. Not recommended.

Mace, Kay. When I grow up; by Kay and Harry Mace; pictures by Corinne Malvern. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 40p. (A little golden book) \$.25

Everyone kept asking Christopher what he would be when he grew up but he never had an answer. The illustrations show the various occupations he considers as possibilities. His final answer to the question is much more mature than could be expected from a five year old child and will probably have little meaning for other young readers. His answer: "When I grow up, I will tell you. Right now I want to be a boy because then I can make believe I am anything I want." There is a jig-saw puzzle on the back cover of the book. Not recommended.

Machetanz, Sara. Barney hits the trail; by Sara and

Fred Machetanz; illus. by Fred Machetanz. Scribner's, 1950. 195p. \$2.00

One of Barney's presents on his eleventh birthday was the chance to go to Unalakleet, a village in northern Alaska, to spend the winter with his uncle who had a trading post there. While in Unalakleet Barney made friends with the Eskimos - especially Anagik, an Eskimo boy his own age; he helped with a rescue mission after a blizzard; learned to drive a dog team and hunt for seal; and ended his stay by finding gold along one of the rivers not far from the trading post. The story of his winter in the far north makes an interesting picture of life in a modern Alaskan outpost. The book has many typographical errors which should have been corrected, the illustrations are quite poor, and the finding of gold so close to the trading post is highly improbable. Not recommended.

Macmillan, Miriam (Look) Etuk, the Eskimo hunter; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 1950. 177p. \$2.75 Gr. 7-9.

An interesting story of life among the Eskimos living on the northern shores of Greenland. The author has drawn on her own and her husband's first hand knowledge of these people and in the adventures of Etuk and his friends has woven real incidents. The characters are well-drawn and there is enough suspense to make this a good adventure story as well as a good picture of the Eskimos.

McPhedran, Marie. David and the white cat; illus. by Victor J. Dowling. Aladdin, 1950. 47p. \$1.75

Simply written episodes describing a small boy and his white cat. There is no plot and not much action to the story. The appeal will be primarily in the subject and the easy style. The pictures of the cat are excellent but the people are very poorly drawn. Not recommended.

Malkus, Alida Sims. Colt of destiny; a story of the California missions; illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Winston, 1950. 244p. (Land of the free series) \$2.50 Gr. 8-10.

This is one title of the "Land of the free" series that will undoubtedly have a great popularity because of its subject. The time is 1792, the place, California. The story is built around Jaime Otero's attempts to capture and tame some of the wild horses living in the hills near the mission at Carmel, and the conflicts between the Church and the Military for control of the Indians. The story is somewhat slow-paced and the author's constant ejaculations and repetition of descriptive phrases become annoying by the end of the book. It is, however, a good picture of the period and the parts about the capture and taming of the wild horses are quite exciting.

Martin, Bill. Golden Arrow; by Bill and Bernard Martin. Tell-Well pr., 1950. 30p. illus. \$1.00.

Golden Arrow, son of an Indian chief, is given a wild horse as a present. He tames the horse and later it saves his life. Dull. Not recommended.

Martin, Bill. Wild horse roundup; by Bill and Bernard Martin. Tell-Well pr., 1950. 33p. illus. \$1.00

A rather mediocre account of a wild horse roundup that has nothing to recommend it. The characters are lifeless, the writing too poor to give reality to even

the most exciting bits of action. Not recommended.

Martin, Frances Gardiner (McEntee) Nine tales of coyote; pictures by Dorothy McEntee. Harper, 1950. 60p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-6.

Nez Perce Indian legends of the days before man lived on earth. From the same period as the legends told in When coyote walked the earth (Holt, 1949), these are more readable, with more story interest and less of the obscure symbolism that so often characterizes Indian legends. Excellent for reading silently or for the story teller.

Melady, John Hayes. The nature dictionary; a picture guide to living things; illus. by Samuel Nisenson; with an introd. by Marvin M. Brooks. World, 1950. 120p. \$2.00

There is a great need for a book of this kind and it is unfortunate that this one is so poorly done. The illustrations are worthless for use in identification. The colors do not always match the textual descriptions and the drawings are not clear. The text has some unbelievably poor writing that is, to say the least, confusing and is often ungrammatical. For example: "Chokecherries make good jelly; when ripe, spread a bed sheet or open umbrellas on the ground, and shake." Not recommended.

Monsell, Helen Albee. Woodrow Wilson, boy president; illus. by Syd Browne. Bobbs-Merrill, 1950. 186p. \$1.75.

Like the other titles in this series this one gives just the early days of Wilson's life and has no indication of how much that is told is true and how much the author has invented. There is little to the book that would give the reader an understanding of Wilson in his later years. Not recommended.

Munn, Ian. Johnny and the birds; illus. by Elizabeth Webbe. Rand McNally, 1950. 32p. (A book-elf book) 25¢ K-Gr. 2.

Simple facts of bird life woven into the story of a small boy who goes out to pick wild strawberries and stops on the way to see the various birds. Not outstanding but it could be used for nature study classes.

Nathan, Adele Gutman. The building of the first transcontinental railroad; illus. by Edw. A. Wilson. Random house, 1950. 180p. (A landmark book) \$1.50. Gr. 5-7.

The building of the first transcontinental railroad told in simple but graphic style. Designed for younger readers than is Footprints of the dragon (Winston, 1949), it lacks the character development and some of the drama of the fictionalized version, but is nevertheless good reading for the elementary grades.

Near, Gale H. Lost dog: Laddie's great adventure. William-Frederick, 1950. 10p. 50¢

An overly sentimental story of a dog that dies and goes to dog heaven. There he waits until his master dies and comes for him. Not recommended.

Peare, Catherine Owens. Mahatma Gandhi; a biography for young people. Holt, 1950. 229p. \$2.75. Gr. 9-12.

Another well-written, interesting biography of Gandhi. This one is more detailed than the Eaton,

Gandhi, fighter without a sword (Morrow, 1950) and is designed for older readers.

Picard, Barbara Leonie. The mermaid and the simpleton; illus. by Philip Gough. Oxford, 1950. 253p. \$2.00 Gr. 4-6.

Beautifully written imaginative tales of the romantic fairy story variety with princesses and king's sons and poor shepherds winning gentle love. Several of the tales would read or tell well to eight and nine year old girls and fourth and fifth grade girls will enjoy reading. Will not replace the traditional fairy tales but acceptable as modern imaginative literature.

Salten, Felix. Bambi's children; adapted by Allen Chaffee; illus. by Phoebe Erickson. Random house, 1950. 64p. \$1.00.

Re-written for younger readers. Lacks the appeal of the original. Much of the continuity is lost in cutting with the result that the story jumps about in time and place with no connecting passages. Confusing. Not recommended.

Scott, William Rufus. The water that Jack drank; paintings by Charles G. Shaw. Scott, 1950. 22p. \$1.50.

The story of water, where it comes from and how man controls it for his own uses; told in the "House that Jack built" style. The idea is good but the language is too technical for the very young child. Older readers would probably reject the book because of its babyish tone. Not recommended.

Seeger, Ruth Crawford. Animal folk songs for children; traditional American songs; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1950. 80p. \$2.50. All ages.

Similar in format to American folk songs for children. All of the songs are about familiar animals. Some of them are singing games. This is a less satisfactory volume than the American folk songs for children because of the difficult and unfamiliar arrangements of many of the songs. Humorous illustrations.

Sharp, Adda Mai. Gee Whillikins; illus. by Elizabeth Rice. Steck, 1950. 63p. \$1.50.

Gee Whillikins is a palomino colt that started life with a wild horse band and then allowed itself to be captured and tamed by a young boy. Readers with any knowledge at all of horses will reject the story because of the manner in which the wild horse sought and accepted captivity. The story ends with the colt refusing freedom and returning home to warn the ranch of a prairie fire. Characters are wooden and plot lacks reality. Not recommended.

Sherwan, Earl. The smart little mouse; illus. by Katherine L. Phillips. Rand, 1950. 32p. 25¢ (A book-elf book)

Coy story of how a little mouse outwitted the fox that was frightening all the small animals of the forest. Personified illustrations. Not recommended.

Stevenson, Augusta. Booker T. Washington; ambitious boy; illus. by Charles V. John. Bobbs-Merrill, 1950. 199p. (Childhood of famous Americans series) \$1.75.

The life of Booker T. Washington from early childhood until he started to college, with his later life briefly summarized in a few pages. The reader gets the impression that the author thought Washington and the

other slaves were better off before the Civil War than afterward. Mediocre writing that gives no real feeling for the man or what he accomplished. Not recommended.

Stewart, Elizabeth Laing. Billy buys a dog. Reilly, 1950. 44p. illus. \$2.00 K-Gr. 1.

An easy reading book built around photographs of dogs and a boy who is trying to make up his mind which one to buy. The text has nothing to recommend it except that it is easy enough for beginning readers to handle alone. The photographs are excellent and interest in them could overcome the lack of story interest.

Strong, Patience. Honey for tea; with illus. by Susan B. Pearse. Dutton, 1950. 47p. \$1.50.

Verse for the young child. Many of the rhymes are forced and the subjects incline toward the precious. Poor illustrations. Not recommended.

Stubbs, Harry C. Needle; by Hal Clement, pseud. Doubleday, 1950. 22p. (Young moderns series) \$1.00

Science fiction in which two beings from another planet crash land on earth and begin a rather macabre game of hide-and-seek. The one hiding is a killer; the seeker is a detective. As neither of these beings has a body they must insinuate themselves into the body of a human being where they can live with no particular inconvenience to the human. The chase takes place on one of the South Pacific islands and reaches its climax when the hunter, who has found refuge in a 15-year-old boy's body, locates and helps destroy the killer, who is inhabiting the body of the boy's father. Not recommended.

Tousey, Sanford. Horseman Hal. Doubleday, 1950. 41p. \$1.50

Horse thieves, chicken hawks, a twister, Indians, and a new horse are all covered in this one short book. The writing is pedestrian and the characters completely lifeless. Not recommended.

Trease, Geoffrey. Sir Walter Raleigh; captain & adventurer. Vanguard, 1950. 248p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

Trease has written a more swashbuckling biography than Baker's Sir Walter Raleigh (Harcourt, 1950) but for a younger audience. He has made no attempt to differentiate between fact and legend and has given little space to Raleigh's ideas of colonization and his experiments in chemistry. Of the two, Trease has created a character with more glamor, but Baker has shown a man with more dignity and more real substance.

Tucci, Niccolo. Tico-Tico; photographs by Ylla; story by Niccolo Tucci; design by Robert Pontabry. Harper, 1950. 34p. \$2.00

A romance between a squirrel and a cat that has been very obviously written to fit a series of photographs. The photographs are excellent but the story leaves much to be desired. Not recommended.

Wadsworth, Wallace Carter. Number 9, the little fire engine; illus. by Eleanor Corwin. Rand, 1950. 32p. 25¢ (A book-elf book)

A personified fire-engine that outlives its usefulness and retires in a blaze of glory. Too slight. Not recommended.

Waldman, Frank. Giant quarterback; illus. by Robert Candy. Houghton, 1950. 153p. \$2.00. Gr. 8-10.

An acceptable story of pro-football. There is good character development in Tommy Rogers' attempt to make a come-back after a serious neck injury and his final acceptance of the fact that his days of active playing are over. The rivalry between Gene Smith, the rookie who takes Tommy's place, and the rest of the team adds suspense to the story and is well-handled.

Werner, Jane. Pets for Peter; pictures by Aurelius Battaglia. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 40p. (A little golden book) \$.25

The same idea, but not nearly so well done, as Georgie's pets (Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950). Peter is not content with animals that might logically be found around his home, he must go to far away lands and try to make friends with lions and tigers and everything. The result is the same in both books - a dog. Not recommended.

Wood, Gilmore. Johann - the woodcarver; with decorations by Margaret W. Tarrant. Warne, 1949. 47p. \$2.00

A rather delicate story of how the first cuckoo clock came to be made. The story has charm but moves so slowly it will probably not attract many readers. Illustrations are typically Tarrant - all pastel. Insubstantial binding.

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.

Arbuthnot, May Hill. Keeping up with Children and Books, a supplementary bibliography of recent publications 1947-1950. Scott, Foresman, 1950. .25¢

Association for Childhood Education, International
1200 Fifteenth Street Northwest, Washington 5, D.C.
A bibliography of books for children. 1950 edition.
\$1.00

Annotated, graded list.

CARE-UNESCO Children's Book Fund Designed to promote greater understanding among the children of the world, the Children's Book Fund Program provides for the sending of new books to children in Europe and Asia. Available in five separate packages of \$10 each or as a complete bookshelf totaling \$50, the books are prepared for shipment in two kinds of bookshelves - one of picture stories, the other of books for young people who have learned to read English. Book packages will not be sent to individual children, but only to institutions serving children, such as elementary schools, secondary schools, libraries, orphan homes, and children's villages. Donors of \$10 or more may specify the country and the type of institution to which the package will be sent. Sums under \$10 will be pooled by CARE to make up a complete package of books.

Contributions and requests for information should be sent to the Children's Book Fund, 20 Broad Street, New York 5, N. Y., or to any local CARE office.

The Children's Spring Book Festival, sponsored by The New York Herald Tribune will be held May 12th to 19th. This year's poster was designed by Margot Austin and features three "Silly Kittens" (or maybe it is Gabriel Churchkitten and two friends) reading all about cats, dogs and mice. Posters are 12¢ for one or two; 9¢ for three to ten; 6¢ for eleven to ninety-nine. Quantities of 100 or more will be shipped express, collect. Orders should be directed to Carolyn Coggins, N. Y. Herald Tribune, 230 West 41st Street, New York 18, N. Y. Send stamps or money with orders of less than 100.

Criteria for evaluating comic books and An evaluated list of Comic books, August 1950.

Criteria and list compiled by the Committee on Evaluation of Comic Books, Cincinnati, Ohio. Copies in quantity may be procured from the Committee on Evaluation of Comic Books, Lock Box 1486, Cincinnati 1, Ohio, at 3¢ each, providing that no order is for less than 8¢.

Edwards, Newton. "Educational statesmanship faces national and world problems" Elementary School Journal 51: 57-64. O'50.

A thought provoking article that should be read by every person working with children and young people.

Smith, Benjamin Lee. "A superintendent evaluates the library". North Carolina Education 17:18, 37-38. O'50.

Witty, Paul. Helping children read better. Better Living Booklet, Science Research Associates. 40¢
For parents and teachers.

"Children's books of 1949-50" NEA Journal 39:615-16 N'50.

Graded, annotated list selected for the Joint Committee of the NEA and American Library Association by the members of the Department of Work with Children of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Public Library.

Faculty Exchange
1951
Mr. Johnson