



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. V

April, 1952

No. 8

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 \$1.75 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

Allen, Merritt Parmelee. Johnny Reb; decorations by Ralph Ray, Jr. Longmans, 1952. 250p. \$2.75. Gr. 7-9.

An exciting account of the Civil War told from the point of view of Ezra Todd, a young boy serving in the Southern army. Ezra had been rescued from his poverty stricken surroundings by Wade Hampton, a wealthy planter, and his service in the Southern army was based on his desire to help Hampton rather than any deep-seated belief in or understanding of the Southern cause. A chance meeting with an uncle who was serving in the Northern army and the grim realities of war itself brought to Ezra a realization that war is not always glorious and gave him a determination to spend the rest of his life in helping to rebuild the country that had been laid waste by the conflict. The hardships and realities of war are vividly portrayed and the characters, except for the Negroes who are mere caricatures rather than real people, are well drawn.

Allison, Robert. The kid who batted 1,000; by Bob Allison and Frank Ernest Hill; illus. by Paul Galdone. Doubleday, 1951. 238p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9.

An amusing story of major league ball and a young rookie who won his way to fame by hitting foul balls. When the Chicks seemed about to spend their second consecutive year in the cellar their owner threatened to fire both the manager and the star pitcher, Pretzels Litzenberg, unless something were done to revive the team. Pretzels, whose pitching arm had gone dead, left on a tour of the country to try to find some new talent. He came back with Dave King, young chicken raising expert; Hobomok,

Dave's friendly rooster, who soon became the team's mascot; and with his own pitching arm restored to its former power. Sparked by Dave's ability to hit fouls and Hobomok's willingness to crow loudly every time a team member hit a home run, the Chick's regained their former prowess and eventually won the league pennant and the World Series. For readers who like their baseball spiced with humor.

Beckman, Joan. The Rowleys of Robin Road; illus. by Mabel Jones Woodbury. Whittlesey House, 1952. 208p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D13)

After the death of their grandmother, with whom they had lived since their own parents died, the four Rowley children (three girls and a boy) moved to an old house near Cascade City which had been in the family for years. The house had not been lived in for years and at first seemed impossible but their own ingenuity plus some help from the neighbors eventually solved their problems and they settled down to real family living. Twenty-year-old Eileen and eighteen-year-old Juliet carried the burden of responsibility for supporting the family and making the house livable. Twelve-year-old Connie was primarily interested in a copper mine which she thought would make the family fortune but which turned out to be a worked-out shaft. Danny contributed all the problems and good intentions of a normal nine-year-old boy. The story has good brother-sister relations and enough suspense to hold the reader's interest.

Bell, Thelma Harrington. Yaller-Eye; illus. by Corydon Bell. Viking, 1951. 88p. \$2.

Yaller-Eye is a cat belonging to Randy Reed, a small boy living in the Carolina mountains. Randy's father dislikes the cat until he is finally persuaded by the new school teacher that Yaller-Eye will help Randy learn kindness and protection of the weak. The characters are not convincing - the school teacher is no more than a caricature - and the story is flat. Not recommended.

Belth, Norton, ed. The World Over story book; an illustrated anthology for Jewish youth. Bloch, 1952. 538p. \$4.50. Gr. 6- ((D65))

A collection of folk tales, short stories, poems, and articles taken from World Over, a magazine published for Jewish

young people. Section I: World Over stories (folk and fairy tales); Section II: World Over album (famous Jews from early to modern times). Section III: In the four corners (true stories of Jews in various countries of the world); and Section IV: World Over notebook (explanations of the origin of the Hebrew alphabet and of the Jewish calendar, festivals, and symbols) will be particularly useful in clearing up some of the misconceptions that non-Jews have about the Jewish culture and religion. The subtitle, "An illustrated anthology for Jewish youth", should not limit the book for it will have as much value for non-Jews as for Jews.

Blalk, Elisa. Jill's Victory; illus. by Edward Shenton. World, 1952. 184p. \$2.50. Gr.6-8. (D92;D134).

Twelve year old Jill Allen knew nothing about farm life when she went to live with her aunt and uncle while her father was in South America on a job. At first she felt completely left out of things because she had none of the interests or abilities that her cousins had. However, membership in the 4-H Club and a chance to train Victory, a horse she had sometimes ridden in Chicago, helped her to find her place. Good descriptions of the work and meaning of the 4-H Clubs. Fine print.

Bishop, Claire Huchet. Bernard and his dogs; illus. by Maurice Brevannes. Houghton, 1952. 70p. \$2. Gr.7-9.

Second title in a new series of lives of the saints. The life of Bernard and the building of the Hospice of St. Bernard are told in a style that is interesting and readable. The small print and difficult vocabulary make this a book for older readers. Colorful illustrations add to the appeal of the book.

Bowen, Robert Sidney. Pitcher of the year. Lothrop, 1952. 183p. \$2.50.

Harry Clarke had been dogged by hard luck all his life until he had come to believe that nothing good would ever happen to him. When his chance came to leave the minor leagues and join the Blue Sox it looked for a while as if he had lost his jinx. Then the air-liner in which he was flying east crashed. Harry was thrown clear of the wreckage but a blow on the head caused him to lose his memory. During the time that he suffered from amnesia he was accused and later cleared of participation in a bank robbery, worked in a garage, played semi-pro baseball, and was finally restored to the Blue Sox. It was during a crucial game with the Blue Sox that he was hit on the head by a ball and his memory restored. Poor writing and highly improbable characters and situations. Not recommended.

Bowles, Kerwin. The magic painter; the story of Rembrandt; illus. by Mitchell Foster. Stravon, 1951. 31p. (Stravon great artist series). \$1.

Through the well-worn device of a small boy dreaming about a book, the author introduces Rembrandt and discusses some of his paintings. The style is dull and the imposition of colored pictures on part of the text makes difficult reading. The reproductions of Rembrandt's paintings are in black and white and are poorly done. Color illustrations are crude and

unattractive; an unfortunate circumstance for a book in a series that is designed to introduce the child to great artists and great art. Not recommended.

Buck, Margaret Waring. In yards and gardens; written and illus. by Margaret Waring Buck. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1952. 72p. \$3. Gr.4-6. Companion to In woods and fields. In clear, interesting prose and excellent illustrations the author describes the plants, birds, insects, and other animals that are common to yards and gardens whether in the city, small town, or farm. "The book applies especially to the northeastern part of the United States, but nearly everything mentioned will also be found in other parts of the United States and in Canada." The book is well indexed and can be used for reference although its primary use will be for browsing.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. Song of St. Francis; illus. by Valenti Angelo. Crowell, 1952. 71p. \$2.50. Gr.3-5. (D114).

Simply written but effective account of the life of St. Francis of Assisi from his early boyhood through the founding of the Brothers. End-papers contain the words and music for the "Song of St. Francis", written and composed by Mr. Bulla.

Clark, Electa. The seven Q's. Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. 170p. \$2.25.

The family's real name was Quéue but the members usually spelled it simply "Q" to save time and confusion. Mr. and Mrs. Q were both artists and followed a stereotyped pattern of being both absent-minded and eccentric. The five children ranged from fifteen-year-old Mary Buffalo (better known as Buff) to three-year-old Dmity. The story concerns a summer the family spent living in an abandoned schoolhouse in the Indiana dunes. As if the unusual way of living were not enough, the summer was complicated by the presence of a young boy who fell from his motor bike in the Q's front yard and suffered from amnesia as a result of a blow on the head. There was also the crochety but wealthy man who wanted to buy a mural Mr. Q had painted on the back wall of the schoolhouse. Since its removal would put an end to living in the schoolhouse the children set out to find some way to prevent its sale. The story is sometimes amusing but more often confused. Not recommended.

Davis, Lavinia (Riker). Summer is fun; pictures by Hildegard Woodward. Doubleday, 1951. 49p. \$2.50. Gr.3-5. (D116).

The summer on grandfather's farm had been a memorable one for Tippy and Gil. There were lambs and ducks, calves and a pony to feed and play with and the fun of exploring in the nearby wood-lot. It was in the wood-lot that the crowning event of the summer took place when they found the old Indian trace, which proved to be a short cut between grandfather's and the Scott's farm. Now they could pull their friend, Kenny Scott, who was lame, in his express wagon to see the animals. A pleasant story for reading aloud and easy enough for third grade readers to handle alone.

Dickson, Marguerite (Stookman). Only child; illus. by Genia. Longmans, 1952. 247p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D37;D19;D107).

Gwen Flint had been an only child for sixteen years and she found the adjustment difficult when her two cousins, seventeen-year-old Philippa and thirteen-year-old Rosamond, came to live with the Flints. Gwen and Rozzie became friends at once but Flip was more difficult to know and to like. The year was made more difficult when Gwen's father injured his back and the family moved to the house in Maine that Flip and Rozzie had inherited from their grandmother. It was there that Gwen found her first real interest in life (remodeling the Flint family home) and that she began to understand the real meaning of family living and sharing. Good picture of family adjustments.

Disston, Harry. Riding rhymes for young riders; illus. by Paul Brown. Wheelwright, 1951. 67p. \$2.75.

Uneven rhymes about horses and riding. Many of the verses will have little meaning to any readers except those who have a good background in the terminology of horses and horsemanship. Excellent illustrations by Paul Brown. The book could have some value for the home libraries of ardent horse fans but is not for general library purchase.

Eberle, Irmengarde. Big family of peoples; preface by Ethel J. Alpenfels. Crowell, 1952. 243p. \$3. Gr.7-12. (D59).

An interesting and informative account of how races began, of how they have spread over the world, and the mixing of peoples that have taken place during the centuries. The book has some weaknesses: coverage is not even (there is nothing about Russia or the Pacific Islands); the author credits Hans Christian Andersen with having written the German fairy tales; where there are controversial theories of racial beginnings or migrations no indication is given that the theory presented here is only one of several. Although these are weaknesses that should be noted by persons using the book they are not important enough to invalidate the book as a whole. This is one of the few books available that gives a real feeling of the oneness, the true brotherhood, of mankind and as such it will have value for classroom and general library use.

Frazier, Neta Lohnes. My love is a gypsy. Longmans, 1952. 183p. \$2.50.

Linden Bradley's summer got off to a bad start when she had to turn down a chance to make a trip with two of her best liked teachers in order to help keep house for her younger brother and sister while Mr. and Mrs. Bradley were in South America. To make matters worse Linden lost the check her father sent her for the family's summer expenses and she was forced to open the fruit stand on the farm they had rented in order to earn enough to live on. The summer turned out to be not so bad when friends and neighbors pitched in to help with the stand and when Skee, Linden's boy friend, helped her to find "new horizons". The setting is interesting but the characters fail to live up to its possibilities. Linden and

Skee seem much too immature for high school students and the other characters are types rather than real people. A mystery concerning Linden's Aunt Kezzy and her blighted romance is dragged in but adds little to the story. Not recommended.

Gates, Doris. Little Vic; illus. by Kate Seredy. Viking, 1951. 160p. \$2.50. Gr.5-7. (D59).

Pony Rivers, orphaned son of a jockey and stable boy at the Spring Valley Farm in Kentucky, gave his heart and faith to Little Vic, son of the Derby winner, Victory, from the day the colt was born. His belief in the colt kept him following Little Vic from owner to owner until finally he had his chance to prove the colt's ability. Not until Pony reaches the ranch in Texas where Little Vic finally reached his greatness does the reader become aware that the boy is a Negro. Not an original plot but the delineation of character is superior and the story interest will be great.

Glass, Dudley. The songs of Peter Rabbit; based on The tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter; words and music by Dudley Glass. Warne, 1951. 31p. \$2.50. K-Gr.2.

Fourteen songs based on Beatrix Potter's Tale of Peter Rabbit. The music is too difficult for very young children to sing but the accompaniments are simple, the tunes are pleasing, and both will be easy for an adult who has had some music training. The best use for the book will be by adults for story hours.

Graham, Alberta (Powell). Great bands of America. Nelson, 1951. 185p. \$2. Gr.7-9.

Accounts of the foundings of some of the great American bands and of some of the men who were primarily responsible for their greatness. Includes military bands, concert bands, municipal bands, industrial bands, the Salvation Army Band, circus bands, college and university bands, and high school bands. Because there is very little material on the subject of bands and their leaders, this book will be useful in libraries that have a special need for such material. However, the uneven writing and uninteresting style will keep it from being a book for general library use.

W
Haviland, Virginia. William Penn, founder and friend; illus. by Peter Burchard. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1952. 128p. \$1.50. (Makers of America). Gr.3-5.

A dignified, pleasantly written biography of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania and one of the early exponents of religious freedom in this country. The book is simply written, with a maturity of style that will make it enjoyable for elementary grade readers and also acceptable as remedial material for the upper grades.

Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Tan, a wild dog. Morrow, 1951. 191p. \$2.

Trite story of a dog, born in the wilds but captured while still a puppy and changed to a devoted pet. Tan's domestication is much too easy and too swift to be realistic. Poorly drawn characters. Not recommended.

Hogan, Inez. We are a family. Dutton, 1952. 93p. \$2.75.

Various animal families are described in an effort to give human children a feeling of family security. The animals are so highly personified that they lose all reality. The text is written in a mixture of rhymed and unrhymed prose that is difficult to read aloud or silently. Not recommended.

Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Odd pets; photographs by Lilo Hess. Crowell, 1951. 166p. \$3. Gr.4-6.

Unusual, but not necessarily uncommon, animals that children might meet in their own back yards or that might be sent to them as pets are described in clear, easy text and photographs. The author indicates which of the animals make acceptable house pets (hamsters, horned "toads", newts, etc.), which should be left in their natural habitats (birds, alligators, mud puppies, etc.), and which are dangerous to handle and should be left strictly alone (snakes, grown snapping turtles, etc.). One chapter describes collectors' equipment, cages, and aquariums. One or two of the photographs are not clear but most of them are exceptionally good. Useful for nature study in classroom, home, or camp.

Hunter, Edith (Fisher). The family finds out; preface by Sophia Lyon Fahs; illus. by Charlotte Ware. Beacon Press, 1951. 150p. \$2.50. K-Gr.2.

Ellen was three years old the day she and Stevie, her baby brother, and their mother and father moved to the new house. The next two years of her life are told through simple stories built around nature walks at different seasons, fun and squabbles with her friends, family picnics, and all the everyday activities of a small town family. The stories are somewhat stilted and contrived. Illustrations are of the poster variety. A teacher's manual accompanies the book and explains how the stories can be used to enrich the child's religious experiences. The primary usefulness of the book will be in Sunday School situations and although the book is published by a Unitarian Press the material will be useful for other denominations as well.

Huntington, Harriet E. Aircraft U. S. A. Doubleday, 1951. 52p. \$2.50. Gr.5-9.

Forty-nine types of American military planes presented through brief descriptive text, photographs, and spotter silhouettes. The accurate, up-to-date information and attractive presentation make this an interesting book for browsing from the second grade up but the book's value as a reference tool is considerably lessened by the lack of clarity in many of the photographs.

Jackson, Gaary Paul. Clown at second base. Crowell, 1952. 250p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

The first time Bucky Bushard tried to make good in major league baseball the attempt was ruined because of his habit of clowning. His second chance came because the Detroit Tigers were desperate for a second baseman and Bucky was a star at that position. Again Bucky had

trouble but by this time he had learned to use his humor to relax the team and to control it when it might prove costly. Good baseball.

Keith, Harold. A pair of captains; illus. by M. J. Woodbury. Crowell, 1951. 160p. \$2.50.

Routine basketball story with a well-worn plot. When Eddie O'Brien comes to Prescott High he proves himself adept at sports and a leader in class activities. At first he is welcomed by the student body but when he tries to take over the captaincy of the basketball team - a post that is being well handled by Bee Smith - he almost ruins the team and brings about his own downfall. Characters are too typed to be realistic. Not recommended.

LaRue, Mabel G. Tiny Toosey's birthday; pictures by Mary Stevens. Houghton, 1952. 128p. \$2. Gr.1-2. (D37).

Anything can happen - and does - when Mrs. Toosey, a slightly more than scatterbrained woman, takes the six young Tooseys to the city on a shopping expedition. The occasion is Tiny's birthday and the main purpose of the expedition is to buy him a birthday present. The book is designed as a supplementary reader for the primary grades and can be handled by beginning readers. In spite of the unfortunate title, the story has more humor and excitement than is usual in books written with a controlled vocabulary. The episode in which the family tries to get across the street is too drawn out and becomes almost boring but the other episodes are amusing. Children especially enjoy the fact that they can guess the solutions to some of the problems before the Tooseys solve them. Good family relations - especially in the manner in which the older children take care of the younger ones.

Lenski, Lois. We live in the South; written and illus. by Lois Lenski. Lippincott, 1952. 128p. (Roundabout America series). \$2. Gr.3-5.

Four short stories about life in different parts of the Southeast. Areas include the Piney Woods, the Gulf of Mexico, an orange grove in Florida, and a Negro community in Georgia. The stories are simply told but have the same warmth of family relations and understanding of how people live that have made Miss Lenski's other regional stories well liked. Contents: "Piney Woods Girl"; "The Quiet One" (a small Negro girl with heart trouble); "A Real Fisherman"; and "Big Old Alligator".

Leonard, Burgess. Rookie southpaw. Lippincott, 1951. 218p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

Clem Gompers had no intention of going into major league baseball when he finished high school but was forced to do so when his mother and young brother needed immediate medical care. He accepted a 50,000 dollar bonus from the Silver Sox and then set about proving that he was worth it. This was not easy since he was faced at once with the difficult task of adjusting to Triple A ball and the prejudice the older players felt toward him as a bonus player. Clem meets his problems in a manner that is mature and realistic. Good baseball.

Lewis, Alethia (Lightner). A true fairy tale; illus. by Gloria Bultman. Christopher Publishing House, 1952. 107p. \$2.

Life of George Washington Carver told in the form of a fairy tale. Carver's real life was unusual and inspiring enough that it does not need an artificial framework such as this to make it interesting. Poorly illustrated. Not recommended.

McGuire, Frances. The secret of Barnegat Light; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Dutton, 1952. 128p. \$2.50.

Mediocre mystery with stereotyped plot and characters. The wealthiest man on the island is robbed and blame is placed on the islanders who finally prove it was the man's butler who committed the crime. Unattractive illustrations. Not recommended.

Martin, Marcia. How the clown got his smile; illus. by John Hull. Wonder Books, 1951. 26p. (Wonder books). \$.25.

Very slight story of a clown who entertained children by looking sad and going through all sorts of mishaps until one day a small girl begins to feel sorry for him and he changes his sad face to a happy one to get her to stop crying and ruining the show. Trite story and poor writing. Not recommended.

Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Young Mr. Meeker and his exciting journey to Oregon; illus. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. 168p. \$2. Gr.3-5.

Young Mr. Meeker was only one month old when he and his parents started for Oregon by wagon train. The story of their trek from Eddyville, Iowa to the Columbia River is told in an interesting manner and easy style. The author's tendency to be slightly condescending and the fact that the story is centered around the baby will keep the book from being useful with older readers but it can be handled by third and fourth graders with ease and should have interest for them. Illustrations are unattractive and not always accurate.

Mathiesen, Egon. The blue-eyed pussy; story and pictures by Egon Mathiesen; trans. from the Danish by Karen Rye. Doubleday, 1951. 111p. \$2. K-Gr.2.

The blue-eyed pussy is a Siamese cat who sets out to find the Land of Many Mice and on the way proves to five sneering yellow-eyed cats that blue eyes are as good as yellow. The amusing story and pictures are divided into chapters but the text is brief and of picture book style. Excellent for reading aloud to pre-school and primary grades.

Meador, Stephen Warren. Bulldozer; illus. by Edwin Schmidt. Harcourt, 1951. 239p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D86).

A fishing trip to celebrate his friend Ducky's release from the army proved a lucky trip for Bill Crane when he found and salvaged a Caterpillar D 2 tractor and bulldozer blade. With the machine he took on small earth-moving jobs and gradually widened his scope and added to his equipment until he had the beginnings of a good contracting business. A well-written, interesting story that should appeal to boys

who are mechanically inclined and give some of them ideas about career possibilities.

Morgan, Alfred Powell. A first electrical book for boys; illus. by the author. Scribner's, 1951. 263p. \$3. Gr.5- (D24).

Revision of the 1935 book which discusses electricity in non-technical terms and shows its practical uses in the world today. The information is presented accurately, clearly, and in an interesting style. Although the book has not been completely revised, the new inventions and discoveries in the field of electricity since the original book was published have been incorporated in the text of this new edition; these include, the dial telephone, automatic circuit breaker, Desk-fax, photoflash lamps, and fluorescent lamps. A completely new chapter on radio, television, radar, and electronics has been added. Some of the illustrative sketches have been revised, but unfortunately all photographs are the same as the 1935 edition. One fault of the old edition which still remains in this revision is the unhandy placement of text and accompanying illustrations. At times the illustrations are presented several pages ahead of the text describing the picture.

Mother Goose and other poems; illus. by Katherine Evans and Margaret Bauer. Childrens Press, 1951. 30p. (A big silver star book). \$2.40.

A collection of fourteen Mother Goose rhymes and eleven poems from Stevenson, Lear, Field, Rosseti and other well known poets. The selections are well chosen but the illustrations are unattractive and the contents too slight for the high price of the reinforced cloth-bound edition. Not recommended.

Nevin, Evelyn C. Captive of the Delawares; illus. by Fred Sanchez. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1952. 127p. \$1.50. Gr.3-5.

The story of a young Pennsylvania Quaker girl who was captured by the Delaware Indians and eventually adopted into their tribe. Based on actual historical records and told in a pleasant, easy-to-read style the story gives a good and sympathetic picture of Indian life during the time of the Revolutionary War.

Newberry, Clare (Turlay). Lambert's bargain; with drawings by the author. Harper, 1952. 31p. \$1.50. K-Gr.2.

Re-issue in a slightly larger format of a book first published in 1941 but out of stock since the war. Lambert's little sister, Ivy, wanted a red purse for her birthday but what she got was a laughing hyena named Henry. Lambert was not happy either because he had been persuaded by the pet shop man to take Henry against his better judgment. No one was happy, except Henry, until Uncle Jasper came along and decided Henry was just what he needed to "comfort him in his declining years." Sheer nonsense that is fun to read aloud.

Norman, Charles. Hunch, Munch and Crunch; more about the Jonquills; pictures by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, 1952. 46p. \$2.

More doings of the Jonquil family. This time Mr. and Mrs. Jonquil are reminiscing about

their childhood days. Mr. Jonquill grew up in New York City and Mrs. Jonquill grew up on an Iowa farm. Sandwiched between the stories by Mr. and Mrs. Jonquill are accounts of Jane and her father's visit to Central Park, a promenade up Fifth Avenue, a trip through the zoo, and a picnic on the park grounds. This is where Hunoh, Munch and Crunch (squirrels) come in. Like the earlier Jonquill books, the humor in this one is quite adult and sophisticated in tone. The Preface to Parents which describes in detail Mr. Jonquill's transformation from a "self-centered youth" to a starry-eyed father adds nothing to the book. Not recommended.

Peattie, Roderick Elia. The city; by Rod and Lisa Peattie; illus. by Bunji Tagawa. Sohuman, 1952. 108p. (Man and his world series). \$2.50. Gr.6-8.

An interesting and unusual approach to the development of cities from ancient to modern times. The authors begin with an ancient city in the Near East and show how the accident of surplus food and a desire for freedom led to its development. They then show how the medieval cities of Europe, the factory cities of England, and the modern, industrial cities of the United States are simply refinements and expansions of these basic human desires and needs. The final section which describes in text and illustrations what happens to a private home in the city when conditions in the neighborhood change is particularly good. Although the book presents only one of the many theories of how cities developed, the presentation is good and the book will have value for social studies classes in junior and senior high schools.

Ratzesberger, Anna. Wild animals; illus. by J. L. Vlasaty. Rand McNally, 1952. 32p. (A book-elf book). \$.25. Gr.2-4.

Sixteen wild animals described in brief text and full page colored illustrations. Contents included are: leopard, panda, hippopotamus, giraffe, elephant, tiger, deer, polar bear, rhinoceros, kangaroo, bison, zebra, sea lion, lion, brown bear, and monkey. Text is somewhat confusing in spots because of the use of the name of the animal both as a proper noun and as a general term.

Reese, John. Big mutt; illus. by Rod Ruth. Westminster, 1952. 190p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

The big mutt had lived in New York City all his life until the day his owners abandoned him on the edge of the North Dakota Badlands during a blizzard. Forced to find his own food, the mutt turned to the easiest method he could find - killing sheep. He did not kill willfully as did the wolves who had moved into the neighborhood and he realized that what he was doing was wrong when the men from the ranches began shooting at him. Only one person took the big mutt's side. Dwight Jerome, young son of a sheep rancher, had seen the dog with its owners and realized that the dog was killing sheep from necessity and not because he was a real killer. Dwight had a long and bitter fight with the men of the neighborhood but he finally won his point and was given an opportunity to show what the dog could do when cared for and trained. The author has drawn a vivid and realistic picture of the Dakota Badlands

and the effect of a severe winter on life in that region.

Riedman, Sarah R. Water for people; illus. by Bunji Tagawa. Sohuman, 1952. 151p. \$2.50. (Man and his world series). Gr.6-8.

Interesting and readable account of the part water has played in the history of the world. Contents include the origin of water; where water is found; how water affects the body; the work that water can do; water's effect on the earth's surface; water and weather; how water is obtained and used in the country; how water is obtained and used in the city; and the future use of water. Simple experiments are given at the end of each chapter. These would be more effective at the beginning of the chapter since much of the text's discussion is based on the results of the experiments.

Schneider, Herman. You among the stars; by Herman and Nina Schneider; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Young Scott, 1951. 56p. \$2.25. Gr.2-4.

An astronomy book for very young children that presents the universe in terms that are on the child's level of understanding. Using the device of an address on a letter, the authors begin with the child's street, town, and state and then add the country, the earth, the solar system, the milky way, and the universe, explaining each one as it is introduced. The excellent illustrations add to the effectiveness of the text. Board bindings.

Shurtleff, Bertrand Leslie. Escape from the icecap; a tale of Huskie and Spareribs; illus. by Diana Thorne. Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. 283p. \$2.50.

Huskie and Spareribs and their owners, Sedgewick and Trueman, leave their mine in Alaska to go to the edge of the Far North ice pan and attempt the rescue of two army fliers who have crashed there. The rescue turns out to be more difficult than had been anticipated when the problems of combating the cold, caring for two wounded men, and traveling over the floating ice pack are complicated by the attempts of Russian jets to locate and bomb them. The ice pack carries them to the coast of Siberia where one of the men dies and the three who are left are saved by two Russians who are revolting against the Communist regime. Both characters and situations are highly improbable and unrealistic, and there seems little value in giving young people books that have no other function than to further misunderstanding and fear of Russia. Not recommended.

Stapp, Arthur D. Captive of the mountains. Morrow, 1952. 187p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

After Chris Martin's friend, Jim, had been killed in a mountain accident, Chris set about trying to think of ways to make such accidents less disastrous. He and two other friends set out on a trip to the Olympic National Park in Washington to test the effectiveness of some orange smoke flares and rockets as SOS signals and found themselves in a serious situation when a flyer misunderstood their signals, tried to land and then could not get his plane in the air again. They proved the effectiveness

of the signals and rescued the plane but only after some tense and dramatic moments. Well-written adventure story that has suspense and action.

Steele, William O. The golden root; illus. by Fritz Kredel. Aladdin, 1951. 76p. \$1.75. Gr.3-5.

Pleasant story of a family living in the mountains of Tennessee during the days following the Revolutionary War. The Menefees were barely able to make a living on their small farm and could not save enough to pay for the trip to Kentucky where they had relatives who could help them. Seven-year-old Ginnie was especially excited the day the family had a visit from a wandering naturalist for this was the first person outside her own family she had ever seen. On the advice of the naturalist the children began gathering ginseng roots to sell and although father scoffed at them at first it was through their efforts that a way was found for the family to move to Kentucky. A warm family story and a good picture of the period.

Strong, Joanna. A treasury of the world's great heroines; by Joanna Strong and Tom B. Leonard; illus. by Hubert Whatley. Hart, 1951. 190p. \$2.50.

Brief episodes from the lives of thirty famous women. The writing is pedestrian and there are several inaccuracies in the material. Not recommended.

Thomas, Eleanor. Becky's boarding house; a Brownie Scout story; illus. by Gertrude Howe. Scribner's, 1952. 119p. \$2. Gr.3-5.

When Deborah Douglas moved with her family from the coast to the middle west she was not at all certain she was going to like her new home. However after she became acquainted with the local Brownie troupe, many of whom lived in the same apartment house as Deborah's family, she discovered that the middle west had much to offer that was as nice as the coast. The story continues the adventures of the Brownies in Becky and Tatters with more doings of Becky and her animal boarding house. Not important but adequate for readers who want Brownie Scout stories.

Vaughan, Josephine Budd. The land and people of Japan; illus. from photographs. Lippincott, 1952. 128p. (Portraits of the nations series). \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D62).

A very readable description of Japan that will give young readers an understanding of her history, geography, ways of thinking and living, religious beliefs, and current situation. Excellent photographs.

Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). Beany and the beckoning road. Crowell, 1952. 243p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

The fourth story in the chronicles of the Malone family. This time Beany sets out to help Johnny deliver Martie (their small nephew) to his mother in California and to forget Norbett Rhodes who, she thinks, has been two-timing her. As usual with the Malones the trip that should have been simple becomes complicated when they agree to deliver a horse and take on two "paying guests". By

now the characters in these stories have settled pretty much into types and the only new interest here is in the unusual setting and the problems that arise when three teen-agers, one adult, and a small boy start driving across country.

Wibberley, Leonard. The king's beard; illus. by Christine Price. Ariel, 1952. \$2.75. Gr.7-9.

A fast-paced, exciting account of Drake's raid on Cadiz and a sixteen-year-old boy's rescue of his father from the Spanish fort of Matagorda. The story is told by John Forrester who, with his friend Roger Lindsay, helps thwart the Spanish plan to build an armada and destroy the English fleet. Although told in the first person the story moves swiftly and has enough suspense and action to hold the reader's interest throughout.

Woolley, Catherine. The little car that wanted a garage; illus. by Edward Meshekoff. Wonder Books, 1952. 24p. (Wonder books). \$2.50.

Dull story of a very old car that longed for a garage instead of the used car lot where it lived but could not seem to behave properly to convince anyone to buy it. On the fifth trial it finds the right owner and every one is happy. Not recommended.

Wyler, Rose. Planet earth; illus. by John Sand. Schuman, 1952. 156p. (Man and his world series). \$2.50. Gr.6-8.

Beginning with the place of the earth in the solar system, the author compares the earth with other planets and shows how life as we know it is possible on the earth only. The last half of the book is concerned with the geography of the earth, its effect on man's history, and conservation practices that need to be followed if man is to continue to live happily and effectively here. A useful book for both astronomy and conservation classes.

Instructional Materials. Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials

Blanco, Sam S. "Instructional materials for the physical sciences" The Science Teacher 19: 63-66, Mr'52.

Discussion and list of motion pictures useful in teaching the physical sciences.

Harrington, Mildred Priscilla, ed. The South-west in children's books; a bibliography. Louisiana State University Press, 1952. 124p. \$2.50.

A selective bibliography compiled by a committee from the Young People's Section of the Southwestern Library Association. Arrangement is alphabetical by state with the titles under each state arranged by author. Annotations and grade levels are given for each title. The index is arranged by author, title, and subject in one alphabetical list with the abbreviation for the state or states under which titles are listed indicated. Out of print materials are included and are marked c.p. in both the main listing and the index. Materials published through the spring of 1951 are included.

Miss Lee Hooy
H M M II
Faculty Exchange