PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library


Three adaptations from some of the earlier, and better, of the Oz stories. These versions, which are designed for very young children, have none of the humor, suspense, or sense of wonder that made the original stories so well liked by older children. Not recommended.

(Pre-school)

Bedford, Annie North. Frosty, the Snow Man: adapted from the song of the same name; pictures by Peter Archer; pictures by Harry McNaught. Simon and Schuster, 1952. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Goldencraft Cloth Binding.

Prose adaptation of the song "Frosty, the Snow Man". Frosty comes alive when the children find a magic hat for him and then he enjoys the winter sports and fun with the children. When warm weather comes, Frosty disappears, but the friendly policeman assures the children that the snowman will re-appear the next time it snows. Very slight.

(Pre-school)


Fourteen-year-old David Cameron, captive of the Chickasaw Indians who had killed his father and uncle, was ransomed by a French Captain, St. Michel, and taken to Fort de Chartres to live with the St. Michel family. At first David's one idea was to escape and return to Virginia with information that would enable the British to capture the Fort. However, after living with the St. Michel family for several months he realized that they regarded him as a son rather than a captive and when the opportunity came for him to return to Virginia he decided to remain with the French family instead. The setting is laid in the same section of the country as the author's Pierre of Kaskaskia, but this is a less satisfactory story than the earlier one. The tone is quite sentimental at times and the first few chapters of the book seem overly-repetitious. The characters are typed and never fully come alive. Not recommended.

(Gr.6-8)

Black, Irma (Simonton). Pudge; A Summertime Mix-up; illus. by Peggy Bacon. Holiday House,

Terry is a ten-year-old boy with adult trouble. His parents nag at him, his older sister teases him, his teacher misunderstands him, and his music teacher scolds him. Then Terry meets a monkey with the ability to talk and make itself invisible and together they retaliate against all of the people who have ever caused Terry trouble. The book has a current interest but has no lasting value. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)

Crawford, Marion. Elizabeth the Queen: The Story of Britain's New Sovereign. Prentice-Hall, 1952. 236p. $2.95

The book begins where the Little Princesses ended and records the events in Elizabeth's life up to the present time. The style is disjointed and repetitive, and the tone is excessively sentimental. Elizabeth does not emerge as a very real or very likeable person. The book has a current interest but has no lasting value. Not recommended. (Gr.7-12)

Decker, Duane Walter. Switch Hitter. Morrow, 1953. 218p. $2.50. | Another story of the Blue Sox, a team made famous in The Big Stretch and other of Decker's baseball stories. The spotlight is focused this time on Russ Woodward, brilliant center fielder and great batman, who almost wrecks
his career and the team by his chip-on-the-shoulder attitude and his refusal to play as a team man rather than as an individual star. The author has given somewhat more space to Moe's personality problems than to descriptions of the games but there is still enough baseball to please most fans. (Gr.7-9)

The story of a young man who goes as a stowaway on the first vessel to Mars. The material is technically accurate and the story avoids the sensational and melodramatic. (Gr.7-9)

Sentimental text and illustrations recount the things a young child sees and does throughout a day. Very slight. (2-4 yrs.)

Brief accounts of some of the major pirates of the past. Contents include the Barbarossa brothers, Sir Francis Drake, Henry Morgan, Misaon and Tew, Captain Kidd, Blackbeard, and a chapter on women pirates. A well-written and accurate telling that does full justice to the subject without resorting to exaggeration or sensationalism. (Gr.5-7)

Interesting nature lore about the mink, the otters, the muskrats, the beavers, and the raccoons living in or near Small Pond. The animals have been individualized but not personified and the information about their activities throughout the four seasons is accurate. According to the dust jacket the book is intended for use in Grades 2-3. It would need to be read aloud to all except the most advanced of third graders for the text is written at the third grade level but is too mild and uneventful to hold the attention of many third grade readers. The rather mediocre prose does not lend itself to reading aloud to younger children. Not recommended. (Gr.1-3)

A book of verses for young children. Some of the poems have been reprinted from The Coffeepot Page and Inside a Little House (both o.p.), and others appear here for the first time. The poems have a nice lilt and touches of humor that make them fun to read aloud. (Gr.1-4)

A cut-and-dried story of a magnificent horse who is made an outlaw by poor treatment and then is redeemed by the loving care of a young boy. Pancho, the horse, goes through the usual run of adventures in which he is stolen from the boy who tamed him and is later recovered in a tearfully suspenseful moment. The author writes more convincingly of animals than of people but this time even his animals are too personified to be realistic. A disappointing book when compared with the author's Monte, Wild Animals of the Five Rivers Country, and other animal stories. Not recommended. (Gr.6-8)

Ten-year-old Arana dreamed of someday owning a horse that could be used to carry the loads of mats which his father made for sale in the nearby market city. True, few of the Indians in his small Central Guatemalan village owned even an ox but Arana did not let that fact discourage him. He set out to capture it. In the course of his journeying after the danta he stumbled onto an ancient passage built through the mountains by the Indians centuries before. His grandfather later explained the meaning of the passageway and pledged him to keep the secret for the future well-being of his people. In the end Arana was able to swap his danta to an American in return for the horse his family so badly needed. A sympathetic portrayal of modern life among the Indians of Guatemala. (Gr.5-7)

A poetry anthology in which the essence of each of the seasons has been distilled from the writings of the great poets of all ages. The selections have been made on the basis of what has appeal for children in poetry rather than what has been written specifically for orals. By eliminating the pauses for author-title identification between the poems, the compiler has created for the reader the
full effect of each season without distracting interruptions. An index to first lines gives the sources of the selections for those who want to read further. A beautifully illustrated refreshingly different poetry anthology and an excellent book for developing an awareness of seasons and of nature for readers of all ages. (Gr.4-7)


A well-organized, detailed account of what is presently known in the field of space travel and what are the problems still unsolved. The author is optimistic about the future possibilities of space travel but he does not in any way over-simplify the difficulties that must be overcome. The material is presented in a lively style that will interest readers of a wide age range. (Gr.6-8)


Johnny's father was running for the State Legislature so Gail and his friends try to deliver handbills and posters, Johnny became so interested in the campaign that he began making campaign speeches (his father was too bashful to get up in public), and even went so far as to reorganize his father's campaign plans. Johnny's father emerges as a spineless person who is incapable of running his own campaign, and Johnny's feats in his father's behalf are much too successful to be realistic. (Gr.3-5)


When the Andrews twins, Bob and Nancy, wished on their birthday cake, the Catnip Man, who was a guest at their party, also made a wish. It was not his birthday but this was the first birthday party he had ever attended and he did not know that Bob and Nancy were the only ones who were supposed to make wishes. Bob wished to become a chef and learn how to bake cakes; Nancy wished to have a chance to be a flower girl at a wedding; and the Catnip Man wished to have a home where he could have something to eat besides fried fish, which was all he knew how to cook. In due time all three wishes came true for the Catnip Man married Mrs. Butterfield, owner of the local bakery, Bob baked their wedding cake, and Nancy was their flower girl. A rather slight story but easy enough for third grade readers to handle alone. The illustrations add greatly to the humor and appeal of the book. A cookie, a cake, and a chocolate frosting recipe are given on the end-papers. These are not repeated in the text. (Gr.3-5)


A rather eulogistic biography of Queen Elizabeth II that adds little to the wealth of material that has already been written about her. The chief value and attraction of the book lies in the numerous photographs which are well-selected and clearly reproduced. An ephemeral piece that will fill a present need but has little lasting value. (Gr.5-7)


Brief, uninspired versions of twenty-one of the better known stories from the Old and New Testaments. The writing lacks literary quality and the stories are too sketchily told to have much meaning for children. There are some inaccuracies in both text and illustrations. (Pre-school)


A brisk, detailed account of the Battle of Gettysburg. The author pays full tribute to the bravery of the men who fought on both sides, and at the same time does full justice to the grim wastefulness of war. Ends with Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." (Gr.7-9)

Keeler, Katherine (Southwick). *In the Country*; illus. by Abelard, 1953. 40p. $2.

Familiar animals, both wild and domestic, that are likely to be found in the country are described in brief, rhythmic prose. There is little unity to the text, and the condescending tone and self-conscious humor lessen the effectiveness of the material. Not recommended. (KGr.2)


Biography of Cecile Chaminade, famous woman composer. Despite a tendency to eulogize Chaminade and her work more than they deserve, the author shows some instances of real insight into the character and personality of her subject. The effect, however, is too often lost in the combination of poor writing and poor editing. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


A new edition of a book first published in 1943. The slight changes which have been made in the text are more a tightening of the writing than an alteration in the story itself. A somewhat larger type has been used in the new edition. The story of fourteen-year-old Kinross McKenzie's part in the Battle of King's Mountain makes an excellent addition to historical fiction of the Revolutionary days. (Gr.7-9)


A mother leads her children through a series of sensory experiences with things that are cold, sharp, soft, hot, hard, wet, and sticky. The illustrations do not always match the text and are sometimes confusing. For example, the little boy is told to stay away from the hot radiator, but the little girl is shown clinging to the side of an ironing board just where the hot iron is resting. Very slight. Not recommended. (Pre-school)
Latham, Phillip. *Five Against Venus;* jacket design by Virgil Finlay; endpaper design by Alex Schomburg. Winston, 1952. 214p. $2.00. (Winston Science Fiction Series). For science fiction enthusiasts and for nature study classes that are interested in the structure and operation of birds’ wings. The clear and easily assimilated explanations are made even more understandable by the graphic drawings. (Gr. 6-8)


A slightly misleading title since the “dear little deer” appears only in the last five pages of text (less than half of the total text). The major portion of the book concerns two small Swedish children who feed the small animals near their home during the winter months and watch them in their natural surroundings during the spring and summer. The text is printed in large, black type but without sufficient leading to make it very legible for young readers. The reading level is third grade and the tone is too condescending to appeal to many third graders. Not recommended. (Gr. 5-7)


Revised edition of a book first published in 1918. The style is somewhat disjointed and the animals never quite become individualized. Bun was born in the South but was captured while still a small rabbit and was brought to the North to live. There he escaped and lived for a while as a wild rabbit until his life was endangered by a beagle and he returned to the farm for asylum. Mediocre writing. Not recommended. (Gr. 4-6)

Levington, Margaret (Carver). *The Story of Florence Nightingale;* illus. by Corinne Boyd Dillon. Grosset, 1952. 180p. $1.50. (Signature Books). Fictionalized biography of Florence Nightingale. Treatment is sentimental rather than realistic, with the result that the subject emerges as a totally different kind of person from that pictured in either the Nolan, *Florence Nightingale* (Messner, 1946) or the Woodham-Smith, *Lonely Crusader* (Whittlesey House, 1951). The insubstantial Miss Nightingale encountered both at home and in her work are glossed over and she is pictured as a far more amiable character than other works indicate. Illustrations are very poor. Not recommended. (Gr. 5-7)

Levin, Yehuda Harry. *Miriam Comes Home: A Story of Our Israel Cousins;* illus. by Ruth Levin. Page, 1953. 165p. $2.50. A story of Israel and of a group of refugee children who are brought there after the war, Miriam, one of the children, cannot settle down happily until she has found her older brother who had escaped from a German concentration camp during the war to try to get to Israel. The writer of the book overshares the story and the book’s only value will be as a picture of life in a cooperative village in Israel. As such it is adequate. (Gr. 5-7)

Lewellen, John Byron. *Birds and Planes: How They Fly;* illus. by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1953. 134p. $2. By describing the differences and similarities between the wings of birds and of airplanes, the author shows how they both operate according to the same basic principles of flight and of air currents. Some history of flying is introduced in the explanations of how early experiments in flying sometimes worked in spite of man’s lack of knowledge of air currents or failed to work because of that same lack. The book will have a dual purpose— for aviation enthusiasts and for nature study classes that are interested in the structure and operation of birds’ wings. The clear and easily assimilated explanations are made even more understandable by the graphic drawings. (Gr. 5-8)

Kohl, Marguerite and Young, Frederica. *Games for Children;* with illus. by Phillip Mziler. Wyn, 1953. 184p. $2.50.

An excellent guide for parents who are faced with the problem of selecting games for children’s parties. The games are grouped by age levels—4-6, 7-9, 10-12; with introductory sections to each group explaining the play needs of youngsters at the different age levels. Each section ends with suggestions for birthday parties. The games include active and quiet indoor games and active games to play outdoors. Charts at the beginning and end will help the adult in selecting the right game for use at the right time with the right age level. The book is intended for adult use rather than for children to use by themselves, although most of the ten to twelve-year-olds would find the directions easy to read and to follow. (K-Gr. 7)
Jobs are scarce in New York so they move on to Bridgewater where Nena's father and sister both find jobs in a box factory. Nena has always been exceedingly shy, but in Bridgewater she makes friends at school and at church and soon loses her shyness. A pleasant story, although obviously written for a purpose. (Gr.4-6)


A story of Miss Pickerell, the little old lady who inadvertently went to Mars. This time she is peacefully attempting to take her cow to a cirous veterinarian, and her nephews to an atomic exhibit. On the way she becomes involved with a red-headed sheriff with the measles, an atomic scientist with radioactive flies for testing a new fly spray, and a load of uranium ore that is being used as ballast on a river boat. Although the story will not have the appeal for science fiction fans which Miss Pickerell Goes to Mars had, it will be enjoyed for its humor. (Gr.4-6)


A collection of stories and prayers that have grown out of the Marshalls' family worship services. The following review was written for the Center by a Sunday School teacher who has also had training in library work with children: "The general tone of this book is a little too sweet and sentimental really to appeal to me; and I was hoping for a little more originality. However, I do not like to think that part of the work is so bad enough actually to condemn it, and it could be very useful in a Sunday School. In the primary department in which I sometimes work I am sure that the superintendent would find it very handy for the short illustrative stories and poems - the stories are short enough to hold the attention of small children and they each make a point, which is what is usually wanted. The one story which seems unsuitable to me is that of the baby raccoons. It is touching to think of the poor little things trying so hard to obey even though it means starving to death - and one can say that in their blind animal way they are displaying an obedience and loyalty which human beings often lack - but the author concludes with 'Human children, you see, are not the only ones who have to learn to obey. Obedience is something God requires of everyone of us' - which doesn't seem a very appropriate sentiment here where a purely for its short illustrative stories and poems. Although the stories are almost too short to take up much of the time of the usual class period, families who have any sort of devotional period together would find this book helpful, too, I think. One drawback is that the book doesn't really have much material in it and would be rather quickly exhausted by a teacher or parent." (4-6 yrs.)


Biography of Dan Beard, leader of the Boy Scout movement in this country. Since Beard drew on many of his childhood experiences for his later work in planning and carrying out his program with the Scouts, the details of his early days are interesting and meaningful. The last chapter is unnecessarily confusing in that new characters are introduced who have no bearing on the part that has gone before. (Gr.3-5)


A combination of fact and legend in the story of the origin of the U. S. flag, with the legend far outweighing the facts. The writing is quite uninspired and the reader is left with the impression that about the only thing George Washington had on his mind during the first years of the war was the fact that the country had no official flag. The information that is included about the usage of flags that were in existence during the Revolutionary Period, the confusion that resulted from the use of flags resembling the English flag, and proper flag etiquette is all very interesting but could have been presented in a more compact form. It gives the impression of having been added for no other reason than that the Betsy Ross legend is not long enough to justify a full length book. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)


A story of the days when whaling was at its height. As seventeen-year-old Ephraim Wheeler was returning from delivering a letter to his uncle on the New Bedford waterfront, he was dognapped and taken aboard a whaler that sailed the next morning. Although Eph had lived all his life on a farm, he soon learned the ways of the ship and even gained a slight liking for seafaring life. The2iking was not strong enough, however, to keep him at sea once he had the opportunity to return home. Many of the characters in the book are remarkably capable of coming forth with encyclopedic like descriptions of the ship, its equipment, and the methods of catching whales and extracting whale oil. The result is an adventure story in which action and detailed information far outweigh reality of characterization. (Gr.7-9)

Mears, Helen. The First Book of Japan; pictures by Kathleen Elgin. Watts, 1953. 69p. $1.75. (Do2).

A glimpse into Japanese social and family affairs as seen through the daily lives of two young Japanese children. Some history is introduced and the changes that have taken place since the war are indicated. A satisfactory introduction to the country that should
help young readers develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the Japanese people. Semi-fictionalized. (Gr.4-6)

O'Rourke, Frank. The Heavenly World Series, and Other Baseball Stories. Barnes, 1952. 192p. $2.50. Nine stories of big league baseball told with a vigor and skill that make good reading for sports fans. Some of the stories have been reprinted from Collier's, The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Saturday Evening Post. The authors have never been published before. The stories are well-written, with good plot and character development. (Gr.9-12)

Palmer, Nena. The Black Girl. Morrow, 1953. 246p. $2.50. Petra, a high school senior with an inferiority complex, succeeds in overcoming her shyness and unattractive looks enough to win the friendship of the leading students in her class at Millville High. Occasionally the author manages to draw a penetrating picture of the emotions and reactions of teen-agers, especially of those who have not made adequate social adjustments. However, most of the time the characters are atypical in their reactions. The reader is never given any understanding of why Petra is so shy and so lacking in social poise; the situation in which Bill invites Petra to the most important dance of the year is completely contrary to normal adolescent actions; and the last scene in which Petra is acclaimed by the class as their friend for life descends to the maudlin. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Peller, Jackie, illus. The Treasure Book of Favorite Nursery Tales; illus. by Jackie Peller and Jean Tarbourn. Treasure Books, 1953. 28p. 25¢. Contains two stories and a poem: The Three Bears, The Teeny Tiny Woman, and The Three Little Kittens. The versions are adequate but in no way outstanding. (Pre-school)

Pinelli, Ralph A. Mr. Umm; as told to Joe King. Westminster, 1953. 184p. $2.50. Same Pinelli's story of his life in organized baseball. The emphasis is almost entirely on Pinelli's hot temper and the troubles it caused him. In spite of the fact that Pinelli constantly deplores his temper, the reader is given the impression that he is really rather proud of it. Mediocre writing. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Raphael, Ralph B. Water, Water Everywhere; pictures by Art Selden. Wonder Books, 1953. 21p. 25¢. Rhymed text telling where water is to be found and how it is used. The illustrations are uneven; some are quite good and others are confusing and misleading. Could be used to develop beginning nature concepts. (K-Gr.1)

Renick, Marion (Lewis). The Heart for Baseball; illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner's, 1953. 234p. $2.25. When Scooter Jones failed to make any of the first Little League teams organized in his home town, he gathered together enough of the other boys who for one reason or another, were ineligible for the teams and they formed their own team. The going was rough at first when their lack of a proper place to play caused them to tangle with the local police. Eventually interest in their plight was aroused to the point where other business men in town became concerned and by the time the season opened, Allentown could boast four Leagues of four teams each. Scooter and his friends had as a coach, Oscar, one time player for the Three-Eye League and now the driver of a laundry truck. Under his guidance the team improved until it won the city championship for that year. The subject is interesting but the book would have been improved by some cutting. As it stands, the excessive length, solid-type pages, and many digressions may well prove too discouraging for most fourth or fifth grade readers. (Gr.4-5)

Robinson, Thomas Pendleton. Lost Dog Jerry; illus. by Morgan Dennis. Viking, 1952. 190p. $2.50. Another cross-country trek by a dog. This time the dog is a Saint Bernard that was shipped by accident from his home in Massachusetts to Kansas City with a load of calves. Jerry, the dog, was not brilliant but his friendly ways won him friends and help on the long trip back to his home farm. Pedestrian writing. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Ross, Frank Xavier. Flying Windmills: The Story of the Helicopter. Lothrop, 1953. 192p. $2.75. An interesting but ponderous history of the development of the helicopter. The pages are packed solid with type and the photographs are too poorly reproduced to have informational or interest value. In spite of these limitations, the book has detailed information on a subject that is of current interest for many readers, and it will be useful where there is sufficient motivation to overcome the slow style. (Gr.9-12)

Rutley, Cecily M. The Bee, The Wasp, and the Dragonfly; pictures by B. Butler. Warne, 1952. 52p. 75¢. (Tales of the Wild Folk). The Butterfly, The Ant, and The Grasshopper; pictures by B. Butler. Warne, 1952. 52p. 75¢. (Tales of the Wild Folk). The Kingfisher, The Thrush, and The Skylark; pictures by Joyce Davies. Warne, 1952. 52p. 75¢. (Tales of the Wild Folk). The Wren, The Blue Tit, and The Woodpecker; pictures by Joan Wanklyn. Warne, 1952. 52p. 75¢. (Tales of the Wild Folk). Four titles in a new series of nature study books. Each book contains three stories; one about each of the animals named in the title. The stories are highly personified and thus lose their value as nature study material. In the story of the bee the main character is referred to throughout as "he" despite the fact that it is a worker and all worker honey bees are female. Not recommended. (Gr.2-4)

St. John, Philip. Rocket Jockey; jacket and endpaper designs by Alex Schomburg. Winston, 1952. 207p. (Winston Science Fiction)
Science fiction involving an interplanetary race comparable to the Indianapolis Memorial Day Classic for cars. Seventeen-year-old Jerry Blaine takes over when his older brother is incapacitated and, in spite of an incredibly long series of disasters, succeeds in winning the race. Jerry is too much the ideal hero to seem real as a character and the story is overburdened with the pseudo-scientific. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Schneider, Herman and Schneider, Nina. Science Fun with Milk Cartons; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1953. 159p. $2.50.

A book of simple model building in which milk cartons are used as the basic construction material. Directions are given for building various types of bridges, wheeled vehicles, boats, vertical transportation, and wind and water wheels. Some basic scientific principles are explained in the process of constructing and using the models. The tone of the writing is made condescending and written down than is usual for these authors, but it is offset by the easy-to-follow directions and clear, diagramatic illustrations that will make model building a pleasure. Excellent for club and hobby groups as well as for youngsters to use alone. (Gr.6-8)


In a style similar to that of Earle's Robins in the Garden (Morrow, 1953), the author describes the life of a downy woodpecker through an entire year, with details of how he builds a nest, what he eats, and how he raises his young. The book is easy to read and will make an excellent addition to nature study collections. (Gr.3-5)


Biography of Raphael Semmes, a Southern naval hero during the Civil War. Semmes is not a particularly well-known figure and this account of his childhood and early youth will not give young readers much of an idea of who he was or why he is important. As a biography the content is inadequate; as a story the writing is too stilted and the characters too wooden. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Stevenson, Elmo N. Pets, Wild and Western; with photographs by the author and others. Scribner's, 1953. 103p. $2.50.

Brief accounts of the author's experiences with various wild animals that he has kept as pets. The animals included are: a western badger, a Great Basin coyote, a black-billed magpie, a yellow-haired porcupine, a cedar waxwing, a western fence lizard or swift, a prairie falcon, two black-footed gray squirrels, a coast steller jay, a Swainson's hawk, a western mourning dove, a golden-mantled ground squirrel, and a California evening grosbeak. Although the author encourages young readers to keep wild animals as pets, he cautions them as to conditions under which such pets should be kept and gives explicit instructions for their care. (Gr.7-9)

Stott, Carl E. and Baldwin, W. W. At Bat with the Little League; with a foreword by Paul Skerry; illustrations. Macrae, 1962. 271p. $2.95.

A fictionalized account of the way in which Little League baseball teams have their beginnings, together with descriptions of games both at home and during the Little League World Series. At times the book seems to be aimed at the reader of Little League age, and again it is obviously speaking to adults who are considering sponsoring a Little League team. The resulting confusion in style keeps the book from being completely satisfactory for either age reader. Mr. Stott's references to his own popularity and winning personality are unnecessary and in poor taste. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)


Eighteenth title in the "Lands and Peoples" series. The coverage is too brief to give more than a superficial glance at the high spots of the historical development; geographical features; and present-day social, political, and economic problems of the country. A satisfactory book to use as a springboard for a discussion of one of the world's current tension spots. (Gr.8-12)

Tor, Regina. Getting To Know Korea. Coward-McCann, 1953. 48p. $2.25. (D62).

A very brief but interesting introduction to Korea designed to give young children a picture of some of the customs and habits of everyday life of the Korean people. Except for a short statement in the chronological table at the end, no mention is made of the present Korean conflict or of its effect on the lives of the Korean people. (Gr.3-5)


Brief accounts of the seven women who have ruled England, told against a background of English history. The material is accurate as to detail, although somewhat colored by the author's obvious prejudice in favor of all things English, and is written with the same smooth flow and entertaining style that mark
Mr. Trease's historical novels. The result is a book that will be read for its current interest, but that should also have a continuing appeal after the Coronation of Elizabeth II has itself become history. (Gr.7-12)


Brief sketches of the lives and works of twenty-six well-known painters, from Da Vinci to Sargent. This book is short, artfully written and in real giving a feeling for each man and his work. Unfortunately there are no illustrations and the detailed analyses of some of the works will be meaningless unless the reader has books of reproductions at hand. (Gr.7-9)

Van Riper, Guernsey. Knute Rockne, Young Athlete; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. 192p. (The Childhood of Famous Americans Vol. 31.) Fictionalized biography of Knute Rockne beginning with his childhood days in Norway and taking up his career as player and coach at Notre Dame in the last two chapters. Sports fans may find interest in the account of the influence that sports of all kinds and football in particular had on Rockne's early life. (Gr.4-6)


A story of the early days of the American colonies and of the first colonists to move from Plymouth to the Connecticut valley. Young Zeke goes with his cousin, Judith, and her father, who has been asked to come to the new colony as its schoolmaster. Zeke plans to help his uncle and cousin get started and then clear enough land for his own family to come out the following year. On the way to the new town, Zeke makes friends with a young Mohegan Indian boy, Fisher-Cat, and through that friendship is able to rescue Judy from a tribe of hostile Indians and to cement friendship between the Mohegans and the white settlers. A well-told story of a period in American history that has seldom been treated in children's books. (Gr.5-7)

Wellman, Manly Wade. The Last Mammoth; decorations by Lee Amos. Holiday House, 1953. 222p. $2.50.

In 1755 young Sam Ward left his North Carolina home to go to a Cherokee village in the west and help its inhabitants fight against a monster that was terrorizing the country. After many adventures he succeeded, with the help of a young Cherokee boy, in killing the mammoth. Although scientists agree that there could possibly have been one or two pre-historic mammoths still living when the first white men came to this country, there is no real basis for the incident as told here. The story is melodramatic and poorly written. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


The physical structure of a clam, a starfish, an earthworm, a grasshopper, a fish, a frog, and a dog are described through a combination of large and small type and diagrammatic illustrations. The information about each specific animal is briefly related to some of the other animals of the same general class so that the reader can get some idea of the physical make-up of the animals of a general type as well as of these specific animals. The book is written at about the third grade reading level and most third graders should be able to handle the entire text if they do not become too discouraged by the necessity for making constant readjustments in their eye movements as they go from a page of extra large type to a page of small type and double columns. (Gr.3-5)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials


Colby, Jean Poindexter. The Children's Book Field: designed and illus. by Greta Franzen. Fallegrini, 1952. 246p. $3.50.


Junior Booklist of the Secondary Education Board, Milton 86, Massachusetts. Ap'53. 35p


Senior Booklist of the Secondary Education Board, Milton 86, Massachusetts. Ap'53. 35p

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