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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended.
- Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles

for Children and Young People

- M Anderson, Mildred Napier. A Gift for Merimond; pictures by J. Paget-Fredericks. Oxford, 1953. 85p. \$2.50.

A modern fairy tale of olden times. Prince Merimond, only son of the Sultan and Sultana of a "semi-oriental" country, is given two gifts at the time of his christening—a sunny disposition and the power to have his every wish come true. Naturally this latter ability causes havoc wherever the Prince goes. His mother appeals to the Sibyls who gave the gifts but they decree that the Prince must work out his own salvation. This he does by taking up sculpturing and learning the satisfaction that comes with creative activity as a contrast to having everything accomplished by merely wishing for it. The book has many of the elements of traditional fairy tales, although the ending is rather flat and vague. (Gr.4-6)

- R Baker, Nina (Brown). Pike of Pike's Peak; illus. by Richard Powers. Harcourt, 1953. 140p. \$2.50.
- A rather simply written, very readable biography of Zebulon Pike, the man who first

charted the upper waters of the Mississippi and who discovered Pike's Peak. The book is interesting both for its graphic accounts of Pike's explorations and for its picture of a military man who won fame in his peacetime pursuits. The book is written at about a fifth grade reading level and in a style that will give it appeal to readers in the beginning high school grades. (Gr.5-10)

- R Barr, Jene. Policeman Paul; illus. by Chauncey Maltman. Whitman, 1952. 32p. \$1.

A simply written, semi-fictionalized account of the various kinds of work done by members of the police force. The text is written at a second grade reading level. Useful for units on the community. (Gr.2-3)

- R Bennett, Richard. Little Dermot and the Thirsty Stones, and Other Irish Folk Tales. Coward-McCann, 1953. 92p. \$2.50.

Eight folk tales gathered by the author from Ireland and retold with a freshness and verve that gives them an originality of their own without losing any of the flavor of their Irish background. The stories will be fun to read aloud or to tell in story hours. (Gr.4-6)

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Ad Biemiller, Carl L. The Magic Ball from Mars; illus. by Kathleen Voute. Morrow, 1953. 127p. \$2.50

Pleasantly innocuous science fiction for young readers. Young Johnny Jenks, son of a physicist, meets a man from outer space who arrives on this planet via a flying saucer. The man gives Johnny a small ball made of mars-quartz, a new element, which allows Johnny to communicate with the outer space ships. The ball creates a stir in the Pentagon and Johnny becomes involved with some enemy spies before he returns the ball to the man from outer space. Sheer fantasy but acceptable where this is great need for such material. The book originally appeared in Jack and Jill under the title, "Johnny and the Space-O-Tron." (Gr.4-6)

NR Blackwood, Gladys Rourke. Whistle for Cindy; illus. by the author. Whitman, 1952. 31p. \$1.50.

Slight story of a very self-centered little girl and her dog. Cynthia keeps badgering her inventor father to make something that will be just for her and no one else, so he makes her a whistle to use when her dog, Cindy, doesn't come when called. The book is intended for beginning readers but they will probably consider Cynthia much too young to be interesting. (K-Gr.2)

R Buehr, Walter. Ships and Life Afloat from Galley to Turbine. Scribner, 1953. 116p. \$3.

A detailed account of the development of ships and sailing from earliest times to the present. The style is somewhat slangy but not enough so to affect the usefulness of the book. In addition to the full account of the history of sailing, the book includes brief sections on Piloting and Navigation; Anchors, Guns and Small Boats; and How a Full-Rigged Ship Was Worked. The illustrations are helpful in understanding much of the text. (Gr.8-12)

NR Bunce, William Harvey. Here Comes the School Train!; with illus. by the author and with photographs. Dutton, 1953. 64p. \$2.

A semi-fictionalized account of the school train that operates in the north woods of Canada. There is a slight story about a group of children who attend the school train, but the characters never come alive and the reader is always aware that the author is more intent on describing a real situation than on telling a story. The illustrations are a combination of photographs and black-and-white drawings. The photographs are not all of the same children, which serves further to destroy the illusion that this is a story; the drawings are static and without appeal. The book lacks the appeal and inter-

est of plot and characterization of Acker's The School Train (Abelard, 1953). (Gr.4-6)

R Burton, Hal. The Real Book about Treasure Hunting; illus. by Jean Michener. Garden City, 1953. 190p. \$1.25.

All kinds of treasure—pirates' gold; metals, minerals and gems from the earth; antiques; stamps; coins; etc.—are given brief but entertaining treatment in this guide for treasure seekers. Many of the treasures described are ones which young readers would find within their own powers to attain. Archeologists would be dismayed at the suggestion that youngsters should go digging in Indian mounds without adequate adult supervision, and even more so at the picture of two young boys tackling a mound with shovels. Otherwise the book makes absorbing reading and could serve to guide youngsters into interesting and profitable hobbies. (Gr.5-7)

M Cavanna, Betty. Love, Laurie. Westminster, 1953. 190p. \$2.50.

The shock of her mother's death was doubly great for sixteen-year-old Laurie Kent, for she not only loved her mother deeply but had been completely dependent on her for all decisions. In order to give his daughter a new interest in life, Mr. Kent sold their home and began building a new house in the country. Business required his prolonged absence from home and Laurie was left with the full responsibility of making decisions regarding the building. In spite of herself she became interested in the work and learned to stand on her own feet. The story has, of course, the usual love interest, furnished, in this instance, by Michael Bannon, a wealthy and rather shallow young man, and by Tony Palma, a poor young immigrant with noble ideals and high intellect. Not an outstanding story but less superficial than some of the recent teen-age novels. (Gr.8-10)

NR Clemens, Cyril. Mark Twain for Young People; with an introduction by James Hilton. Whittier Books, 1953. 159p. \$2.95.

A poorly written biography of Mark Twain that fails to do justice to either the man or his books. The tone is too condescending for older readers and the extremely fine print will discourage younger readers. Paine's Boys' Life of Mark Twain (Harper, 1916), Proudfit's River Boy (Messner, 1940) and Twain's own autobiographical writings are much to be preferred. (Gr.7-9)

NR Cosgrove, Margaret. Wonders of the Tree World. Dodd, 1953. 92p. \$2.50.

An introduction to various trees of the world, with something of their peculiarities and their uses. The text is written in a self-consciously breezy style, with an occasional flight into per-

sonification that obscures the information which the author is trying to present. The illustrations are generally adequate for leaf identification, but are of little or no help in identifying tree shapes, bark, flowers, or fruit. In the final section the author describes a "money" tree and preaches a sermon to the effect that the important things in life cannot be bought with money. Cormack's First Book of Trees (Watts, 1951) and McKenney's Trees of the Countryside (Knopf, 1950) are more interestingly written and more useful.

(Gr.4-6)

NR Curren, Polly. The Little Red Caboose that Ran Away; illus. by Peter Burchard. Treasure Books, 1952. 28p. 25¢.

The little red caboose belonged to the Merry Mac train until he decided he was tired of that life and wanted to run away. He tried staying on a mountain top, on a bridge, and in a tunnel, but each time he got into difficulties and each time the Merry Mac rescued him, until he decided to stay with the Merry Mac and not run away again. A hackneyed plot, not well told. The story is halting and self-conscious.

(Pre-school)

NR Disney, Walt. Donald Duck and Santa Claus; told by Annie North Bedford; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio adapted by Al Dempster. Simon and Schuster, 1952. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Golden Craft Cloth Binding.

Donald Duck tries to fool Santa into giving him presents all around the world but Santa outwits him. As in other Donald Duck stories, Donald is the unthinking and greedy little boy who learns his lesson in the end. The tone is discouragingly moralistic throughout.

(Pre-school)

NR Disney, Walt. Peter Pan and Wendy; told by Annie North Bedford; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio adapted by Eyvind Earle. Simon and Schuster, 1952. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Golden Craft Cloth Binding.

A highly condensed retelling of the Peter Pan story. The illustrations are very stereotyped—the Lost Boys are presented as grotesque little dwarfs; Peter Pan is another Superman; Captain Hood is villainy and terror personified. The story is told in a plodding and unimaginative way.

(Pre-school)

R Du Soe, Robert C. Your Orders, Sir; decorations by Arthur Harper. Longmans, 1953. 184p. \$2.50.

Young Jonithan Amery, hero of The Boatswain's Boy, is back for more adventures at sea, this time during the War of 1812. It was Jonithan's task to take a merchant vessel through

the Chesapeake Bay blockade, after which his responsibilities presumably were over until he arrived in New Orleans where he was to report to Commodore Patterson. However, the combination of a mad captain, an insubordinate crew, and a selfish, thoughtless young woman who owned the ship and planned to turn it and its cargo of guns and powder over to Lafitte, gave Jonithan a more dangerously exciting voyage than he had anticipated. An excellent sea story told with vigor and suspense.

(Gr.6-8)

Ad Eames, Genevieve Torrey. The Good Luck Colt; illus. by Paul Brown. Messner, 1953. 191p. \$2.50.

A pleasant but by no means outstanding horse story. The formula used is an old one. A boy raises an orphan colt which everyone thinks is no good. He almost loses it but eventually succeeds in proving its worth. The subject—harness racing—and the well-handled father-son conflict give the book its value and appeal.

(Gr.5-7)

NR Eaton, Jeannette. Lee, the Gallant General; illus. by Harry Daugherty. Morrow, 1953. 72p. \$2.

A brief biography of Lee that fails to bring the man or his times to life for the reader. Lee's early life is passed over quite sketchily, but even the fuller treatment given the war years does not succeed in making him seem real. The vigorous, action-filled drawings do much more than the text to give the book interest and appeal. Commager's America's Robert E. Lee (Houghton, 1951) is only slightly more difficult and is a more complete account of Lee's life.

(Gr.4-6)

R Edelman, Lily. Japan in Story and Pictures; foreword by Roma Gans; illus. with photographs. Harcourt, 1953. 56p. \$2.25.

A brief, simply written and very readable introduction to Japan that will give the young reader a glimpse of how the Japanese live in both rural and urban communities. Some of the social and economic problems facing the Japanese people are suggested through the effects these problems have on family life in Japan. Simple activities are suggested that will enable young readers to come to a feeling of better understanding of the country and its people. The text is supplemented by excellent, well-chosen photographs.

(Gr.4-6)

Ad Fenner, Phyllis Reid. Fun! Fun! Fun! Stories of Fantasy and Farce, Mischief and Mirth, Whimsy and Nonsense; illus. by Joseph J. Zabinski. Watts, 1953. 283p. \$2.50.

A collection of 20 stories; 14 of them selections from longer works, 4 of them reprinted from magazines, and 2 of them originally published as books and reprinted here in their entirety.

The selections are from Anything Can Happen; Cheaper by the Dozen; The Varmint; Ol' Paul, Mighty Logger; J. Martin's Munchausen for Children; Treasure Seekers; Dere Mable; Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch; Love Conquers All; O'Henry's Whirligigs; Half Pint Jinni; and Boys Own Arithmetic. The two complete books are: Grahame's Reluctant Dragon, and Stong's Censored, the Goat. There is a wide range of reading difficulty level. Libraries needing a large number of short story collections will find this one acceptable although not outstanding.

(Gr.5-12)

Ad Fenner, Phyllis Reid, comp. Stories of the Sea; illus. by Kurt Werth. Knopf, 1953. 178p. \$3.

Twelve stories of the sea; two originally published in Boys' Life and the other ten, excerpts from longer books. The selections are less satisfactory than the full-length books from which they are taken, and the two magazine stories are rather mediocre. Libraries needing large numbers of sea stories will find the collection acceptable but by no means outstanding. The excerpts are taken from Rieseberg, I Dive for Treasure; Meador, Whaler 'Round the Horn; Beach, Submarine!; Floherly, Sons of the Hurricane; Nordhoff and Hall, Mutiny on the Bounty; Nordhoff, Pearl Lagoon; Sperry, Call it Courage; Heyerdahl, Kon-Tiki; Swenson, The South Sea Shilling; and Sperry, All Sails Set. (Gr.7-9)

R Finney, Gertrude E. (Bridgemen). Muskets along the Chickahominy; decorations by Arthur Harper. Longmans, 1953. 242p. \$3.

The bearded young Andrew Foster who entered James Towne as an indentured servant would never have been recognized as the same Andrew Foster Shields who, with his father and mother, had been driven from the colony by Governor Berkeley after Andrew's father had dared to oppose the tyrannical governor. Andrew was fortunate in being bonded to the Constants, a friendly and freedom loving family who encouraged him to join with Bacon's men in the rebellion which eventually freed James Towne of Berkeley's rule and restored the Shields' land to Andrew. The treatment is similar to Faulkner's Rebel Drums (Doubleday, 1950) but the emphasis on Andrew's romance with Livvy Constant will give this book more appeal for girls than the Faulkner book has. (Gr.7-9)

NR Foster, Harold R. Prince Valiant Fights Attila the Hun. Hastings, 1952. 128p. \$2.75.

Sequel to Prince Valiant in the Days of King Arthur. As in the earlier book, Prince Val is strictly the comic strip hero who wins against all odds. The reader gets no sense of

either historical or geographical perspective. The illustrations are of the comic strip type. (Gr.5-7)

R Franklin, George Cory. Sheba, a Grizzly Bear; illus. by L. D. Cram. Ariel, 1953. 176p. \$2.50.

In a style similar to his Monte and Tricky the author again tells an appealing story of a wild animal of the Rocky Mountain region. This time his story is about Sheba, a grizzly bear that grew up on a ranch and never quite gave up her friendship with the people there even though she did return to the wilds to live. Sheba's story is told with humor and with a warmth and affection for the animals and the country in which they life. (Gr.5-9)

R Gottlieb, William P. Photography with Basic Cameras; illus. with photographs by William P. Gottlieb; drawings by Michael Germakian. Knopf, 1953. 44p. (A Family Activity Book). \$1.50.

An introduction to photography for the beginner, presented in a clear, concise manner with step-by-step instructions and graphic illustrations. Instructions are geared to a basic camera, which the authors suggest is the only kind for an amateur to try to use. Contents include how a camera works; loading a camera; how to gauge and use light, both daylight and artificial; taking action and still short; choosing a subject; use of color. Although the book is designed for young children, it is by no means limited to their use either in content or in style of writing. (Gr.5-)

NR Gringhuis, Dirk. Here Comes the Bookmobile. Whitman, 1952. 47p. \$2.

Contrived story of a small boy who spends one day with his librarian aunt on her bookmobile rounds. The book gives an accurate picture of a typical day in the life of a bookmobile librarian, but has little to recommend it as a story. (Gr.3-5)

NR Hill, Margaret. Goal in the Sky; with frontispiece by Manning de V. Lee. Little, 1953. 212p. \$2.75.

A career novel about the work of an airline hostess. When Beth Dean finds that she must leave college at the end of her sophomore year, she begins looking for some kind of work that will support her and perhaps contribute to her family's finances. She has no special aptitudes but becomes interested in the work of an airline hostess after listening to one of her classmates who is planning to go into that kind of work. The account of Beth's testing and training is detailed to the point where the book ceases to be a story, although there is the usual romance included. (Gr.8-10)

Ad Hogan, Robert J. Howl at the Moon; illus. by Frank Nicholas. Houghton, 1953. 202p. \$2.50.

The story of a pioneer family who moved from their Ohio farm to the plains country of the West and tried farming an abandoned homestead. Fortune Shane was afraid to let his son, Obie, keep Tip, Obie's pet dog, or any of Tip's pups because dogs were supposed to attract wolves. Obie hid one of the pups and eventually succeeded in proving to his father that the dog was more protection than a menace. Not outstanding but an acceptable dog story.

(Gr.6-8)

M Hogner, Nils. Dynamite, the Wild Stallion. Aladdin, 1953. 47p. \$2.

A typical ranch, cowboy, wild horse story for young readers. Shorty finds a wild colt while he is out riding the range with his older brother. Two years later the colt, now a full grown stallion, is captured with his band of mares. One of the cowboys tries to ride Dynamite, as he is later named by the cowboys, using spurs and a heavy quirt. That method fails, but Shorty succeeds in taming the wild horse through gentle treatment and kindness. The book has a picture-book format but is written at a beginning fifth grade reading level.

(Gr.5-7)

R Jackson, Jacqueline. Julie's Secret Sloth; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1953. 186p. \$2.75.

It was not really Julie's fault that she came home from a visit to her aunt and uncle in a neighboring city the proud owner of a giant two-toed sloth. The fates seemed to conspire to make it possible for Julie to acquire the sloth, but no one told her how she could convince her father, who was opposed to all pets, to let her keep it. The troubles that result from Julie's attempt to prevent her father from finding out about the sloth, and then, later, to persuade him to let her keep it make hilarious reading. Some of the humor is adult but there is also much that will appeal to young readers.

(Gr.5-7)

SpC Jones, Elizabeth B. Round about Me; Devotional Thoughts for Little Folks. Warner Press, 1953. 48p. \$1.50.

Brief devotionals in verse and prose for use with very young children. The use of the first person singular pronoun in many of the prose sections may prove confusing for the young child who would have difficulty understanding that the pronoun is supposed to refer to the child in the accompanying picture. The book could be used for home devotionals but will have little value otherwise.

(3-6 yrs.)

R Jupo, Frank. Nothing To Wear but Clothes. Aladdin, 1953. 48p. \$2.

Some of the hows and whys of clothing from cave man to modern times. Shows the effect of climate and of social and economic conditions on clothing and clothing styles throughout the years. The cartoon-like illustrations are graphic and amusing. A brief but entertaining introduction to the subject.

(Gr.3-5)

NR Kean, Edward. Howdy Doody and the Princess; pictures by Art Seiden, Simon and Schuster, 1952. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Golden Craft Cloth Binding.

Howdy Doody and his friends, Princess Summerfall Winterspring and Dilly Dally, meet a traveling medicine man, Doc Lemon, who steals the Princess's magic necklace. Our heroes trace Doc Lemon to the next town where he is putting on a magic show with the necklace. They manage to recover the necklace and when the Doc can no longer do magic tricks the audience turns against him. A strained, implausible story which is contrived to show that "it still pays to be honest." Illustrations are stilted and expressionless.

(Pre-school)

M Klaperman, Libby M. Adam and the First Sabbath; pictures by Lillian Port. Behrman House, 1953. 39p. \$1.

Re-telling of the story of the Creation, with an added explanation of why many people sleep and rest on the Sabbath. According to this version, Adam was too frightened to sleep the first night because he thought the darkness would last forever. However, as soon as he understood about day and night he was no longer afraid, so he rested on the Sabbath to catch up on the sleep he had lost the night before. The designation of Saturday as the Sabbath would prove confusing to some children. Very slight.

(K-Gr.3)

NR Konkle, Janet. The Christmas Kitten; color sketches by Katherine Evans. Childrens Press, 1953. 32p. \$1.50.

A somewhat sentimental story of a kitten who comes into a house on Christmas Eve and is found among the toys and adopted by the children. The story is written in blank verse style but the way in which the lines are divided makes reading slow and halting. Illustrated with photographs and red, green, and black designs. The designs are not in harmony with the photographs, which are excellent, and as a result the book has a disjointed appearance.

(Pre-school)

NR Lackey, Eunice. Lucky Blacky; illus. and designed by Winifred Greene. Watts, 1953. 118p. \$2.50.

Rather stilted fantasy about a black kitten who is adopted by Miss Lucy White and who helps reform the neighborhood. The story is too long for beginning readers and too slight to have much appeal for older readers.

(Gr.3-5)

NR Lantz, Walter. Woody Woodpecker Joins the Circus; pictures by the Walter Lantz Studio; adapted by Riley Thomson; story by Annie North Bedford. Simon and Schuster, 1952. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Goldenraft Cloth Binding.

Woody Woodpecker, trying to earn admission to the circus, unwittingly becomes a circus performer. Written in involved sentences, with dull-colored, distorted pictures, it is an unappealing book. (Pre-school)

R Lathrop, West. River Circus; illus. by Dick Dodge. Random House, 1953. 252p. \$2.75

A Mississippi River showboat in 1854 provides the unusual setting for an exciting adventure story of a boy and his dog. After his father's death, young Rush Taylor left his home in Eau Claire to escape from his step-uncle who was trying to gain control of the timberland belonging to Rush. The boy and his dog, Shal, headed for the Mississippi River where they both found work — Shal as one of the performers with the circus boat and Rush as assistant to the animal trainer. The two have some harrowing adventures together when the circus boat breaks away from its tug during a severe storm, but everything comes right in the end. Interesting characterizations and setting. (Gr.7-9)

R Lee, Rector Lawrence. Song of the Honda; The Story of a Boy Who Chased Bandits and Made Music in the Mountains of Peru; illus. by Frank Nicholas. Little, 1953. 156p. \$2.50. (Values: Intercultural understanding).

Tomo, a twelve-year-old Peruvian boy, had two great ambitions—to become expert in the use of the honda, a kind of sling, and to learn to play a flute. The story of his adventures as he cares for his goats; takes part in the family and village festivities; tangles with Black Dan, a local bandit; and finally achieves both of his ambitions makes exciting reading. The presentation is rather disjointed, but not enough so to prevent the reader from following the main thread of the plot. (Gr.7-9)

R Lobdell, Helen. Golden Conquest; illus by Seymour Fleishman. Houghton, 1953. 277p. \$2.75.

An absorbing story of Cortez's conquest of Mexico as seen through the eyes of fifteen-year-old Juan Christophe who started out as a serving boy to Cortez and rose to a position of responsibility during the campaign. Juan entered the expedition fired with the "dream" of bringing the Christian religion to savage people. However, his friendship with the young Aztec prince, Cacama, shows him that these people are not all the savages he had been led to expect, and the brutal massacre of hundreds of unarmed Aztec

men by the Spaniards puts the entire venture in a new light. In the end Juan elects to remain in Mexico and help repair some of the damage done by the Spaniards. Interesting historical fiction. (Gr.8-12)

R Lyon, Jessica. Bright Gold. Macrae, 1953. 208p. \$2.50. (Values: Preparation for marriage; Self-appraisal.)

A fairly mature story of young married life and some of its problems. Penelope Hazlett and Craig Armstrong had lived in the same block since they both were small children and their marriage was based on years of mutual liking and understanding as well as a very genuine love. Even so there were problems of adjustment that they had to face; problems which could have wrecked their marriage but which they successfully resolved. Not great writing, but a realistic treatment of problems which many young people face. Extremely fine print. (Gr.8-12)

M Molloy, Anne Stearns (Baker). The Monkey's Fist; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Houghton, 1953. 227p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Tim Sheridan and seventeen-year-old Danny Noonan lived next to each other on two old barges tied up to the Jersey shore of the Hudson River. Danny lived with his grandmother; Tim's family included his father and mother, a baby sister, and twin brothers. The two boys were not near enough the same age to be friends although their paths did cross when they both became involved with a gang of dock thieves. The story has an exceptionally interesting background—New York Harbor, the docks, and the tugs—but it is structurally weak in plot development and some of the situations are rather improbable. (Gr.6-8)

NR Neurath, Marie. The Wonder World of Birds. Lothrop, 1953. 36p. \$1.50.

A conglomeration of strange and unusual facts about a few birds, not many of them familiar species. The book is not suitable for use in bird identification and is too fragmentary to have any value as a reference tool. (Gr.5-7)

NR Nevins, Albert J. The Adventures of Pancho of Peru; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 246p. \$2.75.

Pancho is an Ayamara Indian living in the mountains of Peru. He makes friends with Carlos, a rich white boy, helps Carlos find a lost treasure trove of silver bars, and saves Carlos' life several times. As a reward Pancho is promised a chance to have a college education and a teacher is sent to his home village. The story elements are lost in the mass of detail about Peruvian history and the present social conditions of the Indians. Dull. (Gr.7-9)

R Norton, Mary. The Borrowers; illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, 1953. 180p. \$2.50.

Delightful fantasy about the Borrowers, tiny people who live in old houses where there are not too many or too active human beings, and who manage by "borrowing" the things they need from the people in whose house they live. The story concerns one particular family (Pod, Homily, and their daughter, Arrietty), who lived in an old English country house during the days of Victoria, and who made friends with a young boy who came to visit in the house. The fantasy is well sustained throughout the book and the reader is left with the feeling that it could have happened after all. (Gr.4-6)

NR Olcott, Virginia. Adventures in Italy; The Story of Beppo and Lucia; illus. by Constance Whittemore. Grosset, 1953. 162p. (The World's Children Series). \$1.25.

Re-issue of a book first published in 1934 under the title Beppo and Lucia (Silver, Burdett). The account of the activities of eight-year-old Lucia and nine-year-old Beppo is too filled with history and with descriptions of famous buildings to have much interest as a story, and the fictionalized style keeps it from being satisfactory as an informational book. The illustrations are those of the earlier edition and are now outdated. The reading level is about fifth grade but few ten-year-olds will want to read about children who are as young as Beppo and Lucia. The crowded pages, small type, and difficult style will discourage younger readers. (Gr.4-6)

NR Olcott, Virginia. Adventures in Norway; The Story of Olaf and Ane; illus. by Constance Whittemore. Grosset, 1953. 168p. (The World's Children Series). \$1.25.

Slow moving, uninspired story of two young children living in Norway. Except for the deletion of references to the Queen, and the substitution of black-and-white reproductions of the colored illustrations in the earlier edition, this is essentially the same as the book published by Silver, Burdett in 1938 under the title Olaf and Ane. The new edition has larger margins but the type size and style are the same. There is not enough action to give the book much appeal as a story. The information about Norway is too slight for the book to be useful for geography units. (Gr.4-6)

NR Pease, Howard. Captain of the Araby; The Story of a Voyage. Doubleday, 1953. 247p. \$2.75.

Another story of Tod Moran, Captain Jarvis, and the crew of the tramp steamer, Araby. This time they are involved in a plot to steal an original Gauguin painting from a native shrine on

one of the Tahitian islands. The plot has many of the same elements of the other Moran books but the story is less well written than some of the earlier tales. At times the story becomes quite confused, the plot is overly dependent on coincidence, and the tone becomes much too preachy in spots. (Gr.7-9)

R Price, Christine. The Dragon and the Book. Longmans, 1953. 196p. \$2.75.

A story of England during the days of Alfred the Great, and of a young novice monk named Wilfrid who, in his own way, does as much to save the Saxons from the marauding Danes as do Alfred's fighting men. Woven into the story of the struggle between the Saxons and the Danes is the story of Alfred's Psalter, an illuminated book which Wilfrid helps make at the Edengarth monastery and which he first loses to the Danes and later recovers. The book makes absorbing reading both as historical fiction and as an adventure story. (Gr.7-9)

NR Smith, Robert. Little League Catcher. Barnes, 1953. 156p. (A Barnes Junior Sports Novel). \$2.

Ten-year-old Billy, to whom baseball was infinitely more important than school work, looked forward with delight to a summer of nothing but Little League ball. Then his report card came, with an arithmetic condition, and Billy's father decreed no more baseball until the condition was worked off. With the help of the Little League coach Billy learned arithmetic by figuring baseball percentages and managed to get into—and win—the final and most crucial game of the season. The story is about two-thirds arithmetic book and one-third baseball. (Gr.5-7)

NR Steiner, Charlotte. Pete's Puppets. Doubleday, 1952. 33p. \$1.25.

Pete, the only boy in an all-girl class, usually got along well, but when the girls decided to have a doll show he did not know what to bring. He decided on hand puppets and the text describes how he made them. The puppets were a great success and Pete even appeared on a television program with them. The story seems contrived to interest children in hand puppets and to show them how puppets are made. In this it succeeds quite well—having directions that are sufficient to get children started in making puppets but not so detailed that individual initiative and imagination will be stifled. As a story the book is less successful. It is quite slow moving, the characters do not come alive, and the situation is improbable. Some of the skills depicted—such as lettering on a box—are beyond the capabilities of the group for whom the book is intended. (2-5yrs.)

- R Sutton, Felix. The Big Book of Dogs; illus. by Percy Leason. Grosset, 1952. 28p. (Big Treasure Books). \$1.

Brief text and excellent illustrations show the various breeds of dogs. One double-page spread illustrates the anatomy of a dog, and there are also sections on "Choosing Your Dog" and "How To Train Your Puppy." The latter section is on the back end-papers. The book is designed as a picture book for young children but it could also be used with older readers.

(K-Gr.6)

- NR Talbot, Godfrey and Thomas, Wynford Vaughan. Royalty Annual. Bentley, 1953. 128p. \$2.95.

A sentimental, rather dull, discussion of the British Royal Family, its background, where and how it lives, and the personalities of the various members of the family. The book was written before the Coronation and before the death of Queen Mary. The illustrations are adequate but not outstanding photographs. There have been numerous well-written, well-illustrated books on the Royal Family that will have a more lasting value than this one: Johnston, Elizabeth Enters (Scribner's, 1953); Trease, The Seven Queens of England (Vanguard, 1953); Wibberley, The Coronation Story (Ariel, 1953). (Gr.7-9)

- NR Tanous, Helen and Henry. What if? pictures by J. P. Miller. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 85¢ Golden-craft Cloth Binding.

A whimsical guessing book which seems to be designed to help children fit animals and things into their proper roles. The pictures and text are confusing, however, and only after several readings does the purpose of the book become clear. (Pre-school)

- M Thayer, Jane. The Popcorn Dragon; pictures by Jay Hyde Barnum. Morrow, 1953. 48p. \$2.

Dexter, a baby dragon, was inclined to be a showoff until the other animals refused to play with him. Then he won them back when he began using his hot breath to pop corn. A mildly amusing story. (K-Gr.1)

- R Wriston, Hildreth T. Show Lamb; illus. by Peter Burchard. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1953. 191p. \$2.50. (Values: Father-son relations.)

Eleven-year-old Chad Warner wanted a lamb of his own to care for and to groom for

the annual Tunbridge Fair. His father thought he was too young for such a responsibility. Chad went ahead and picked out a lamb from the flock, gave it extra care and attention, but never let his father know what he was doing. At the fair Chad's lamb won first place and Chad won his father's commendation for his ability as a sheep man. A mildly pleasant story of life on a Vermont sheep farm in 1850. (Gr.6-8)

- R Zim, Herbert Spencer. Parrakeets; Illus. by Larry Kettelkamp. Morrow, 1953. 64p. \$2.

Simple, easy text and clear, detailed drawings show something of the history, the care, the training, and the breeding of parrakeets. The book will be useful for nature study classes, for collections on the care of pets, and for general library use. Primer size type. (Gr.4-6)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials

"Annual Rating of Comic Magazines"; by the Cincinnati Committee on the Evaluation of Comic Books. Parents' Magazine 28:54, 55, 101-5 O'53.

Carlsen, G. Robert. "To Sail Beyond the Sunset" English Journal 52:297-302, 330 S'53. Adventure in modern fiction for boys.

Jinnette, Isabelle. Pamphlets for Children's Library Collections: A Selected List of Free and Inexpensive Materials Recommended for Acquisition. Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1953. 19p. 15¢.

Lewin, Herbert S. "Facts and Fears about the Comics" Nation's Schools 52:46-48, July, 1953.

Smith, Lillian. The Unreluctant Years; A Critical Approach to Children's Literature. American Library Association, 1953. \$4.50.

A discussion of types of literature which are available for children, with some criteria for selecting the best from each type. In this instance the term "children's literature" refers to imaginative writings. Although one chapter is devoted to informational books for children, its emphasis is on quality of writing rather than subject interest or treatment.