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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VII

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Number 8

### 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 Berry, Erick. The Wavering Flame; Connecticut, 1776. Scribner, 1953. 266p. (The Strength of the Union Series). \$3.  
A story of Connecticut during the early days of the Revolutionary War. Young Jason Reeves came to Lichtfield in 1776 intent on trading his stock of hand carved spoons and bowls and returning to his father's farm in time to help with the fall harvest. Instead he had scarcely arrived in town before he found himself involved with Mr. Bingham, owner of the Lichtfield Lightning, and was soon on his way to becoming an apprentice printer. The story is primarily concerned with the conflicts in opinions in the town, where some people were Rebels, some were Loyalists, and some had difficulty in deciding to cast their lot with either side. The background and plot of the story are interesting but the book is hampered by inexcusably poor writing. (Gr. 7-9)
- NR Bjoland, Esther M. The Story Hour. Standard Educ. Soc., 1953. 192p. \$3.45.  
A collection of favorite verse and stories for children. The selections are generally good ones, but the arrangement of text on the pages

is often confusing and the illustrations are unattractive. The stories are preferable in their original editions, and the poems are available in more attractive collections. (K-Gr. 3)

- Ad Blough, Glenn Orlando. Not Only for Ducks; The Story of Rain; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1954. 48p. \$2.25.

A combination story and nature study book. Young Mike McBlossom lived on a farm but he neither liked nor appreciated rain until one summer when a prolonged drought showed him how valuable rain can be. The effects of rain on city and farm life are well shown although the factual material in the book sometimes stumbles over the slight story. (Gr. 3-5)

- M Bothwell, Jean. The Borrowed Monkey; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Abelard, 1953. 42p. \$2.

Mild little story of a small boy who is spending a winter in New Orleans with his parents, and who finds a small monkey that has become lost from its owner, a sailor. The sailor is about to leave on a six weeks' voyage and he allows Dickon to borrow the monkey for that time. Just before the sailor returns, Dickon receives a letter saying that he may keep the monkey for the sailor has married and his wife does not like pets of that kind. By then, however, Dickon

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and his parents are ready to return to their home in the north, so the boy decides to lend the monkey to the New Orleans zoo until such time as his family may return to New Orleans to live. The alternately green and white pages are neither especially pleasing nor easy on the eyes. (Gr. 3-5)

Ad Brown, Frieda K. Last Hurdle; illus. by Peter Spier. Crowell, 1953. 202p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations)  
A pleasant, not outstanding horse story. Eleven-year-old Kathy Nelson dreamed of owning a horse of her own even though her father kept assuring her that the family budget could not stand the expense. With her own money she bought a scrawny mistreated horse that seemed ready for the glue factory, took care of him through the winter, and by spring had turned him into a sleek, well-cared for jumper. The solutions are somewhat pat, but the characters are realistically portrayed. (Gr. 5-7)

R Brown, Gladys Everets. Tico Bravo, Shark Hunter; with illus. by Scott Maclain. Little, 1954. 132p. \$2.50.

Thirteen-year-old Tico Bravo dreamed of the day when he could go with his father's fishing boat on a shark hunting trip. He dreamed so much, in fact, that his school work and home chores suffered and he almost lost his chance to make the trip. At last, however, he proved himself capable of assuming responsibilities and was allowed to go with his father during spring vacation. A pleasant, not outstanding story of life in a small Costa Rican fishing village. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Brucker, Margaretta. Summer Date. Ariel, 1953. 192p. \$2.75.

An exceedingly distasteful story of one of the most shallow, self-centered girls yet to appear in teen-age fiction. Anne did not want to spend the summer with her grandmother at the resort town of Little Harbor, Michigan. She was ashamed of her grandmother, who ran a truck farm that furnished vegetables for the resort town, and her major concern of the summer was trying to keep the resort guests from knowing that any of her family had ever worked for a living. Even in times of crisis Anne's thoughts were wholly on boys and how she could make an impression on any who might be in her vicinity. The author fails to give any depth or reality to her characters. (Gr. 8-10)

NR Bryant, Bernice Morgan. P's and Q's for Boys and Girls; A Book about Manners; illus. by Ruth Ruhman. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 164p. \$2.50.

An etiquette book for younger children. The coverage is good—manners at home, at school, in public places. The book is intended for the seven to ten year olds but the writing will be

too difficult for most seven and eight year olds. The presentation is very poor, didactic in tone, moralistic, and condescending. (Gr. 3-5)

NR Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). Johnny Jack and His Beginnings; illus. by Kurt Werth. John Day, 1954. 47p. \$2.50.

Five-year-old Johnny Jack lives on a farm. His curiosity about all the farm animals and their beginnings leads to many questions, all of which his mother answers briefly but to his satisfaction. His wonderings lead him naturally to the problem of his own beginnings, and his mother's answer this time is made more meaningful for him by the fact that he soon has a baby sister. Such a fictionalized approach to sex education is not as satisfactory as a straight factual approach for children who are already beginning to ask questions about their beginnings, although some parents could get ideas from the book about how to answer similar questions raised by their own children. If the book is treated simply as a picture book, parents may find that they are creating additional problems by introducing the subject before their children have shown any interest in the matter. For a straight-forward factual approach to sex education the Gruenberg, The Wonderful Story of How You Were Born (Garden City, 1952) or the Selsam books, All About Eggs (W. R. Scott, 1952) and All Kinds of Babies (W. R. Scott, 1953) are excellent for use with very young children. (Pre-school)

R Buntain, Ruth Jaeger. The Birthday Story; pictures by Eloise Wilkin. Holiday House, 1953. 46p. \$2.

Lucy Lee, who has just moved to a new house, finds a birthday present addressed to "Terry" on the sidewalk near her home. She stops at each house on the block to see if anyone knows who Terry is, and makes friends with the children she meets, as they try to guess what is in the package. The story is well written; the children and adults are well characterized in the text, although the children are not very individualized in the drawings. The emphasis on someone else's birthday is a refreshing change. Upper second and third grade readers can handle the text alone. (K-Gr. 3)

NR Clark, Garel. The Cook-A-Meal Cook Book; A Few Basic Meals and Many Variations for Young Cooks; pictures by Leonard Kessler. Young Scott, 1953. 71p. \$2.50.

A cook book intended for use by the 10-to-14-year olds. The selection of recipes is too sophisticated for children and too limited for adults. The variations on the five basic recipes that are used here are almost all casserole dishes, and casseroles and sauces are not high on the priority list of young children. The various sections are of uneven quality. The section on salads is fine for gourmets, but very few

housewives, much less children, are familiar with French endive and how to use it, and it can only be bought in the fancy food stores of large cities. The dessert section does not give a single recipe that will give the child practice in cooking, but deals in prepared foods that can be dressed up or down with ice cream or fruit. The author suggests occasionally serving just fruit, which is a good suggestion. The section on meal planning is also good. Much of the specific information is inaccurate. For instance, a broiler is a chicken usually weighing around 1½ lbs., never between 2-3 lbs. as stated in the book. And the ratio of vinegar to oil in the salad dressing is 1-to-3 or 1-to-4, but never 2-to-3. Here again, children do not usually like a vinegar and oil dressing with garlic, but prefer a mayonnaise dressing. The pages are cluttered and sometimes confusing. (Gr. 5-9)

R Colby, Carroll B. Ships of Our Navy; Carriers, Battleships, Destroyers, and Landing Craft. Coward-McCann, 1953. 48p. \$1.

Brief text and clear photographs describe forty-four Navy craft, chosen from the more than 170 types of ships and boats as the ones that will show the "most important, interesting, or perhaps least known types, to . . . give . . . a new impression of just what our Navy is made up of as far as surface crafts are concerned." The text is quite difficult because of the predominance of technical terms but boys who are interested in the subject will probably manage to read it in spite of the difficulties. (Gr. 5-9)

NR Cooke, David Coxe. While the Crowd Cheers; All-American Sports Stories for All-American Boys. Dutton, 1953. 186p. \$2.50.

A collection of seven stories, each one involving some kind of sport. The stories are poorly written, with trite plots and characterizations and contrived situations. (Gr. 7-9)

M Daly, Robert W. Guns of Yorktown. Dodd, 1953. 181p. \$2.50.

After Captain Weldon's capture by the British, seventeen-year-old Dick Weldon ran away from home to take his father's place under de Grasse in the French fleet. Interwoven into the story of the Revolutionary War as it was fought in and near Norfolk and by the French at sea, is the story of Dick's effort to prove his manhood. The story is interesting for the rather unusual slant from which it views the Revolutionary War (i.e., the activities of the French fleet), but it is unfortunately marred by exceedingly uneven writing. (Gr. 8-10)

Ad Daugherty, Sonia (Medviedeva). Ten Brave Women; with drawings by James Daugherty. Lippincott, 1953. 147p. \$2.75. (Values: Service to others)

Brief accounts of the activities of ten women

who have played an important part in shaping American life and history. Included are: Anne Hutchinson, Abigail Adams, Dolly Madison, Narcissa Whitman, Julia Ward Howe, Susan B. Anthony, Dorothea Lynde Dix, Mary Lyon, Ida M. Tarbell, and Eleanor Roosevelt. The style is semi-fictionalized and the emphasis is on the works of the ten women rather than on their complete lives. (Gr. 7-9)

R Dodge, Bertha S. The Story of Nursing; illus. by Barbara Corrigan. Little, 1954. 243p. \$3.

An interesting, very readable, and informative account of the history of the nursing profession and of some of the fields of nursing that are open to girls and women of today, together with brief sketches of some of the outstanding women nurses of the past and present. The account does full justice to the glamor that this profession has for many girls, but it also gives a clear, accurate picture of the difficulties of both the training and the work itself. The book will make an excellent addition to collections of vocational guidance material and will provide girls with a much more salutary introduction to the field than they will get from career fiction on the same subject. (Gr. 8-10)

NR Donavan, Hobart. Desert Stallion; illus. by William Riley. Knopf, 1953. 181p. \$2.50.

The story of Saya, an Arabian boy who saves the life of a wild stallion, tames it, and in turn has his life and the lives of the women and children of his tribe saved by the stallion when it helps rescue them from a gang of slavers. The story is melodramatic and unconvincing. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Dugo, André. Tom's Magic TV. Holt, 1953. 29p. \$2.

While he is watching television with his sister Joan, Tom falls asleep and dreams he is inside the TV set. He joins program after program, with narrow escapes in some and would-be humorous adventures in others. The book is an attempted take-off on some of the current "children's" shows, but it falls flat. (Gr. 3-5)

Ad Fisher, Hugh. The Ballet. Crowell, 1954. 95p. \$2.50.

A brief, interestingly presented review of the ballet, its history, ballet music, choreography, and the dancing itself. The emphasis is almost entirely on British ballet, with one section on Russian ballet. The bibliography at the end contains references to British books on the subject but there is no indication as to which of the titles are also available in this country. This is a book to please balletomanes who know enough about the subject to find this rather specialized treatment of interest. Illustrated with photographs. (Gr. 8-12)

- R Fitch, Florence Mary. A Book about God; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Lothrop, 1953. 23p. \$2. (Values; Security)  
A book designed to develop first concepts of God through phenomena of nature such as sun, rain, wind, day, night, etc. The quietly poetic quality of the writing and the beautiful illustrations will give the young child a feeling of security as well as some understanding of the wonders of the world around him. The text and illustrations are completely non-sectarian.  
(Pre-school)
- R Floherty, John Joseph. Deep Down Under. Lippincott, 1953. 146p. \$2.85.  
All phases of diving—deep-sea and shallow water—are presented through stories of some of the men who have made diving their life work. There is information given on the training needed for different kinds of jobs, some history of the development of various types of diving equipment, and stories of brave and daring deeds by deep sea divers. An informative book and as exciting as an adventure story.  
(Gr. 7-9)
- M Fox, Genevieve May. Bonnie, Island Girl; illus. by Mary Morton Weisfeld. Little, 1954. 242p. \$2.75.  
Bonnie Jean Andrews had lived all her life on Bayberry Island until her fourteenth year when she first went to the mainland to live while attending high school. The story of her adjustments to wider horizons makes a pleasant but in no way outstanding story. The author has attempted to include too many experiences in the course of Bonnie Jean's growing up, with the result that the story seems crowded and there is little depth to the experiences. The situation is much the same as that of Robinson's Bright Island (Random House, 1937) but neither the characters nor the incidents in this story are as well handled as those of the Robinson book.  
(Gr. 7-9)
- NR Friskey, Margaret (Richards). Trip for Tommy; pictures by Jean Edgerton. Children's Press, 1953. 26p. \$2.80.  
Slight story of a small boy who imagines what he would do during the winter if he were a bear, a stork, a horse, a cow, a seal, a lamb, a donkey, a goat, a robin, a Monarch butterfly, a salmon, or a reindeer. At the end of the story his father takes him far south to visit his grandmother. The story is evidently intended to show how some animals stay in one place all year and how some migrate from one place to another, but it is so disjointed that the point is completely lost. Schlein's Go With the Sun (W. R. Scott, 1952) is a more successful presentation of the same idea.  
(Gr. 1-3)
- SpR Gordon, Patricia. The Oldest Secret; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Viking, 1953. 128p. \$2.50.  
A fantasy of magic and enchantment woven around the sunken forest on Fire Island, Long Island Sound. Young Hugh is dreaming over his physical science textbook in school one day when he discovers some fragments of ancient handwriting between the lines of print. There are enough of the fragments for him to piece together a story of adventure in a magic forest. His interest is aroused to the point where he goes looking for other allusions to the same, or similar, forests and finds them throughout English literature. Then one day his chance comes to visit the sunken forest on an island known to the fishermen as "Back of Beyond." There he makes friends with Puck, has an audience with the mighty Pan, and sees many legendary beasts and people. Because of its many allusions to writers of the past and to characters from mythology, legend, fiction, and poetry, the book's appeal will be limited to those readers with a wide background of reading.  
(Gr. 5-7)
- Ad Grover, Eulalie Osgood. Benjamin Franklin; The Story of Poor Richard; illus. by Edwin L. Schmidt. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 267p. \$2.75.  
A well-rounded, but not overly inspired biography of Franklin. The author deals equally with all phases of his life and work but never quite brings him to life. The Eaton, That Lively Man, Ben Franklin (Morrow, 1949) is more readable, and succeeds in picturing Franklin as a very real person. The writing here is rather careless and is weakened by the excessive use of expressions such as "enthused."  
(Gr. 7-9)
- M Hahn, Emily. Mary, Queen of Scots; illus. by Walter Buehr. Random House, 1953. 184p. (A World Landmark Book) \$1.50.  
A superficial, reasonably objective biography of Mary, Queen of Scots. Although the author makes clear her sympathy for the unfortunate queen, she does not in any way minimize Mary's weaknesses. Both the people and the events in which they participated are too sketchily handled to give the young reader a very clear picture of the period.  
(Gr. 7-9)
- NR Herron, Edward A. The Big Country; A Story of Alaska; illus. by W. L. Mars. Aladdin, 1953. 190p. (American Heritage Series) \$1.75.  
A story of Alaska in the 1920's. Lon Cope's father was fired as head of the Alaska-Northern gold mine near Juneau, and the mine was closed down without his being given a chance to prove his belief that there was a profitable way to mine the gold. Later Jess Cope died on the Seward Peninsula, and Lon took up the task of clearing his father's name and reclaiming the Alaska-Northern mine. The characterizations are not well drawn and the plot tends toward the sensational. There is some good material on the problems involved in opening and settling a country such as Alaska but it is lost in the poor writing.  
(Gr. 6-8)

R Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Earthworms; illus. by Nils Hogner. Crowell, 1953. 51p. \$2.

A simply written, interestingly presented discussion of the earthworm, its physical features and its usefulness to mankind through its soil making activities. There are experiments to show how earthworms live, and a section on how to raise earthworms to sell. An excellent book for nature study collections. (Gr. 3-5)

M Howard, Elizabeth. A Star To Follow. Morrow, 1954. 222p. \$2.75.

After their older sister's marriage, Ellen Stacey and her younger sister Nettie left their aunt's home where they had lived while attending school and went to Arizona where their father was stationed at an army post. Nettie's only concern was for beaus, and there were plenty of those at the post. Ellen had her heart set on studying medicine but her parents were horrified at the idea. Eventually she persuaded her father to let her read medicine with the post doctor, and by the time her father was transferred to another post, she had even won his permission to attend a medical college. During this time she had fallen in love with a young enlisted man, and the book ends on her promise to join him on his Arizona ranch when her medical training is completed. The book gives an interesting picture of life on a western army post in 1875. It is much slower paced than some of the author's earlier books and the characters are too typed to have much reality. (Gr. 8-10)

M Hutton, Clarke. A Picture History of France. Watts, 1952. 62p. \$3.

A quick skimming of the history of France from primitive man to modern times. The superficial treatment often presupposes a knowledge of individual people and events that are briefly mentioned without being fully identified. The illustrations are colorful and striking. On many pages the printing of color over the text makes the print almost impossible to read. (Gr. 5-7)

Ad Jones, Mary Alice. Stories of the Christ Child; illus. by Eleanor Corwin. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25

Not, as the title seems to indicate, a collection of stories, but a single, brief version of the story of Jesus' birth and the flight into Egypt. Sweetly sentimental illustrations. (Pre-school)

M Kingman, Lee. Kathy and the Mysterious Statue; illus. by Jean MacDonald Porter. Doubleday, 1953. 250p. \$2.75.

A family-mystery story. After their mother's death, the four Collins children moved with their father from New York City to Barmouth, Maine where he had lived as a child. It was quite a change for the children, and one they were not at all sure they liked. The only place they could find to live was an old fishing house which was picturesque to look at but proved al-

most too much for fifteen-year-old Kathy's housekeeping abilities. The story of their problems of adjustment is much better told than the slight mystery involving some sketches for a sculpture contest that had been stolen from Mr. Collins. In the process of recovering the sketches the family found a regular house in which to live and all was well after that.

(Gr. 5-7)

M Knight, Ruth Adams (Yingling). Top of the Mountain. Doubleday, 1953. 222p. \$2.75. (Values: World concepts)

Young Jordan Scott's plans for a year's study at the University of Lausanne were disrupted by eye trouble that was not serious but would prevent him from doing any steady reading for a year. He decided to stay in Europe, visiting various resorts with a wealthy friend. However, before he could join the friend a fortunate accident brought about his acquaintance with Asper Arni, a Swiss boy about his own age. Through Asper, Jordan met other Swiss young people, visited the children's village at Pestalozzi, and began doing some serious thinking about his decision to make a career of promoting international understanding. The story has some good scenes from Swiss life, and some of Jordan's theories of international understanding are well stated. The story moves jerkily, however, and is too dependent on fortuitous circumstances to be quite realistic. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Lane, Frederick A. The Magnificent Mariner; An Early Story of John Paul Jones; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series) \$1.75.

A highly fictionalized account of one brief period in the life of John Paul Jones when he first began to serve in the U.S. Navy. The action centers primarily around the adventures of young David Blake who fought in Jones's ship, the Alfred, and Jones becomes a rather minor character in the story. The book is moderately interesting as a sea story, but is marred by uneven writing, and is of little value as historical fiction because of the scanty treatment given to Jones. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Langdale, Hazel Louise (Raybold). Treasure Beyond Red Mesa; illus. by George Avison. Dutton, 1953. 192p. \$2.75.

A highly improbable story of a search for uranium in the New Mexican mesa country. Three boys from Connecticut, the New Mexican cousin of one of the boys, and an Indian friend of the cousin meet at Albuquerque during summer vacation to go prospecting for uranium. The project is hampered by the villainous step-father of the cousin who is determined to find the ore for himself even if it means murdering the five boys to do so. Naturally the villain is foiled and the boys find the ore. Melodramatic plot and unreal characterizations. (Gr. 7-9)

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Holly in the Snow. Morrow, 1954. 125p. \$2.25.

A simply told story of a small girl who visits her grandparents' New England farm during the Christmas holidays. While there she makes friends with the animals on the farm and with another small girl who lives in the nearby village. For three days during her visit, the farm is snowed in by a blizzard, but it clears in time for Christmas and in time for Holly to make good use of her new sled before she must return home to New York City. The text can be handled with ease by third grade readers and will not prove too difficult for advanced second grade readers. (Gr. 2-4)

R Leach, Maria. The Soup Stone; The Magic of Familiar Things; decorations by Mamie Harmon. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 160p. \$2.75.

Brief, often humorous, accounts of the ways in which many customs and beliefs, superstitions and prejudices throughout the world came into being. The contents include such things as the soup stone, the importance and personalities of pots and pans, the remarkable resemblance between a teen-ager of the past and one of the present day, the value of eating carrots, the snipe hunt, and why a lady sits next to a knight at table. Throughout the book the author shows the close relationship between "magic" and "science" in a way that will broaden the young reader's understanding of why some people act and believe as they do. The book could be used for history of science units, in the social studies for developing intergroup and international understandings, and just for the fun of it. (Gr. 7-12)

R Leeming, Joseph. comp. Riddles, Riddles, Riddles; illus. by Shane Miller. Watts, 1953. 244p. (Terrific Triple Title Series) \$2.50.

Hundreds of riddles, conundrums, anagrams, charades, and enigmas to delight readers, young and old. The answers are given with the riddles so that the reader may have the fun of the answers at once rather than having to puzzle them out or hunt for them in the back of the book. The collection should be highly popular with young readers who will recognize some old favorites and find some that are new. (Gr. 4- )

M Lundy, Jo Evalin. The Challengers; Oregon in the 1840's; illus. by Frank Nicholas. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series) \$1.75.

A story of Oregon Territory in 1842 when the American settlers in the region were trying to break the power of the Hudson's Bay Company. The story is primarily concerned with the affairs of Keetow, a young Indian girl who is trying to run away from the Whitman Mission where she has lived for most of her life, and with Tackett Brandt who lives with his father and baby sister on one of the homesteads. The

paths of the two young people cross frequently, sometimes pleasantly, occasionally otherwise. The title has little meaning in terms of the plot although it does apply to some of the side issues that are introduced. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Lunsford, Alvira. Pat's Adventures in Health; illus. by Dave Lyons. Pageant Press, 1953. 71p. \$2.50.

A series of episodes about a small boy and his brownie friend; each episode designed to teach a lesson in health. Too contrived and didactic. (Gr. 3-5)

NR McGuire, Frances. Arizona Hide-Out; illus. by Frank J. Murch. Dutton, 1953. 128p. \$2.50.

An implausible story of two young boys who go to Phoenix for a prolonged visit with their aunt, and start off the visit by thwarting the efforts of two foreign agents to acquire the rights to a uranium mine owned by the aunt and her father-in-law. The characters, and especially the law enforcement officers, talk like characters out of nineteenth century dime novels. (Gr. 7-9)

R MacMillan, Miriam (Look). Kudla and His Polar Bear; illus. by Cleveland Woodward. Dodd, 1953. 96p. \$2.75.

An interesting story of the Eskimos of north Greenland which follows but is not necessarily a sequel to Etuk the Eskimo Hunter. This time the main character is Kudla, Etuk's younger brother, and the story is primarily concerned with Kudla's capture of a polar bear cub which he keeps as a pet until it is old enough to return to its life in the wilds. There are good family relations in the story, and it shows a sympathetic liking for and understanding of the Eskimos. (Gr. 4-6)

M Marino, Dorothy. Little Angela and Her Puppy. Lippincott, 1954. 40p. \$2.

Angela lived in a New York City apartment where she had no one with whom to play and no real place to play, since she was too small to be on the streets alone. One day her father took her with him to his open-air vegetable market and while she was there he surprised her by buying a puppy for her. After that she had someone to play with and was no longer lonesome. The solution may well prove a more satisfactory one to adults than to children who will probably feel that a puppy is small compensation for the company of the other children who, for one reason or another, would not or could not stay and play with Angela and her dog. (Pre-school)

NR Meek, Sterner St. Paul. Omar, a State Police Dog. Knopf, 1953. 240p. \$3.

A patterned story of the Pennsylvania State Police. As in all of Meek's stories the main characters are a man and his animal friend, this time a shepherd dog. Omar and his owner solve a number of major crimes in a highly

melodramatic sequence of events. The writing is quite poor and the characterizations thin. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Millikin, Virginia Greene. Let's Go Home; illus. by Sylvia Saks. Lothrop, 1953. 220p. \$2.50.

Highly improbable story of three children, orphans, who run away from home after the death of their mother to avoid being separated. They go to the Colorado mountains to a house that sixteen-year-old Betty had inherited from her great-uncle Ezra. (Eleven-year-old David and four-year-old Midge are Betty's half-brother and sister.) Betty's great-aunt Zippy follows them and is lured into staying when she meets an old flame of her younger days and finally marries him. Excessively confused writing, loaded with sentimentality. The illustrations do not always match the text. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Moore, Lillian and Adelson, Leone. The Terrible Mr. Twitmeyer; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Random House, 1952. 62p. \$2.

Mr. Twitmeyer was a timid dog catcher who was afraid that if people knew he really loved dogs he would lose his job. When his secret finally came out, he did lose his job as dog catcher but gained another as dog trainer. The implication that no one who likes dogs or is kind to them can be a dog catcher will do little to give young children an understanding of the very real service which these men perform both for stray dogs and for the people of a community. (Gr. 3-5)

Ad Mulcahy, Lucille. Dark Arrow; illus. by Herbert Danska. Coward-McCann, 1953. 209p. \$2.50.

The story of twelve-year-old Younger Brother, a Tewa Indian boy, and of his efforts to prove himself a man and win a new name. The author has obviously done much research on her subject but she unfortunately lets her wealth of information about the Tewa Indians get in the way of her story. Libraries needing additional material on the early Indians will find this book accurate in its presentation, but its appeal as a story will not be great. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Panzer, Pauline. Magic in Her Voice. Messner, 1953. 184p. \$2.50.

A career story about a shy, awkward girl who gets a job selling newspaper advertising because of her beautiful speaking voice. As she becomes absorbed in her job she becomes less shy, begins to assert her independence by moving into her own apartment, learns to use make-up, and ends by catching for herself a young F.B.I. agent whom she meets through her work. The descriptions of the work are interesting, but the story is so poorly written and the characters are so poorly drawn that the book has little value for fiction or vocational guidance collections. (Gr. 7-9)

R Parker, Bertha Morris. The Golden Treasury of Natural History. Simon and Schuster, 1952. 216p. \$5.

Brief glimpses of the world of natural history. There is information on prehistoric animals, rocks, animals of modern times, plants of all types, and the sun, stars, and planets. Enough is given on each subject to satisfy the casual reader and to whet the interest of many youngsters to go on to more detailed works on the different subjects. Excellent colored maps, charts, and illustrations. (Gr. 3-8)

R Reynolds, Barbara (Leonard). Hamlet and Brownswiggle; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Scribner, 1954. 203p. \$2.50. (Values: Responsibility)

Hamlet and Brownswiggle are hamsters, and the pets of fifth-grader Ricky Stern. Ricky had great difficulty remembering the things he was supposed to do, when or even that he was supposed to do them. Then he had a chance to have a hamster as a pet when he could prove that he had learned to accept responsibility. This he did, and so he got his hamsters. The story has the same humor of characters and situations, the warmth of family relations, and the interest of an unusual pet that were found in the author's Pepper. (Gr. 4-6)

R Ross, Frank Xavier. Space Ships and Space Travel. Lothrop, 1954. 166p. \$2.75.

Another addition to the ever increasing collection of material on space and space travel. The author traces the historical development of man's interest in space and his experiments in reaching the upper levels of the earth's atmosphere; tells what has been done up to the present time to make space travel possible; and indicates some of the problems that are still to be solved. The information is accurate and the style is readable and interesting. (Gr. 7-12)

NR Rowntree, Lester. Ronnie and Don; illus. by Don Perceval. Viking, 1953. 160p. \$2.50.

In this sequel to Ronnie, the two boys, Ronnie and Don Thompson, are spending a month at Palito Jake's mining camp in the Mojave Desert, so that Don can recover from the effects of a winter's illness. At the camp the boys explore the countryside, make friends with a young Mexican boy who lives nearby, and help the boy find his twin brother who has been missing for several weeks. The story moves slowly, the plot is too contrived, and the characters have no depth. (Gr. 5-7)

R Sorensen, Virginia. Curious Missie; illus. by Marilyn Miller. Harcourt, 1953. 208p. \$2.75. (Values: Cooperation; Civic responsibility)

A pleasant, albeit contrived story of eight-year-old Missie Topping whose excessive curiosity about everything around her played an impor-

tant part in persuading the Board of Commissioners to allocate enough money for a county bookmobile. Missie lived in a rural section of Alabama where there was no public library service outside of a few of the larger towns, and where the schools were inadequately supplied with books of any kind. When the idea of a county bookmobile was first proposed, Missie was chosen to represent the school children and to present their request to the Board of Commissioners for approval of the idea. Later she helped again when it became necessary to prove to the Commissioners that the bookmobile was as vital to the well-being of the people of the county as were new roads and bridges. The effect of Missie on the Commissioners and the effects of the books on the people of the county seem somewhat exaggerated, but the characters are very real people and there is a warmth to the writing that will give the book appeal. (Gr. 4-6)

Ad Street, Philip. Between the Tides; illus. with photographs by the author. Philosophical Library, 1953. 175p. \$4.75.

An interestingly written survey of animal and plant life on the shores of England. The author discusses shore weeds, shell animals of all kinds, worms, fishes of the shore, and some plants and animals that are not actually shore plants or animals but that are commonly found washed up on the shore after storms or high tides. Illustrated with excellent photographs and line drawings. Because the book is limited to plants and animals that are common to England its use may not be very wide in this country. (Gr. 7-9)

M Thomas, Joan Gale. A Is for Angel; A Book of the Alphabet in Pictures and Rhyme. Protestant ed. Lothrop, 1953. 55p. \$1.

A semi-religious ABC book. Most of the letters are represented by words and verses with a religious connotation, i.e., A for Angel, B for Bethlehem, C for Carols, etc. Some of the verses seem to have little or no relationship to the remainder of the book: as R for Rain; S for Stars and Sleep, Z for Zest; or X which has no word but is used to represent a cross-mark for mistakes on a spelling paper or a kiss in a letter. The verses which accompany each letter and picture are very average. (K-Gr. 2)

NR Villiers, Alan John. Pilot Pete; illus. by H. T. Cauldwell. Scribner, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.

The story of a porpoise who won fame by piloting a whaler and its chaser-ships into safe harbor in the stormy South Pacific. Pete and his animal friends are too highly personified to be realistic. The author's attempts at humor are forced and more irritating than funny. The text is much too difficult for the young readers for whom it is obviously intended; it is too long for reading aloud; and older readers who might be able to handle it by themselves will object to

the babyish tone.

(Gr. 6-8)

NR Wilkie, Katherine E. Will Clark, Boy in Buckskins; illus. by Harry Lees. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans Series) \$1.75.

A fictionalized story of the childhood days of William Clark. The patterned, stilted writing will serve only to give the young reader a distorted picture of the truly colorful figure who led the Lewis and Clark expedition. Stories of the expedition are much more interesting than such a slight, poorly written biography and make more worthwhile reading. (Gr. 4-6)

### *Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials*

Beuschlein, Muriel. "Free Subscriptions as Teaching Aids" Chicago Schools Journal 35:106-112 Ja-F'54 (An annotated list of free magazines, pamphlets, leaflets, and bulletins.)

Feingold, S. Norman. How To Choose That Career: Civilian and Military; A Guide for Parents, Teachers and Students; illus. by C. Robert Perrin. Bellman Publishing Company, 1954. \$1. (Contains a list of books, pamphlets, magazines, and films useful in vocational guidance.)

Four Feet and a Tail: Animal Stories for Elementary Grades and Junior High School; Prepared by The Children's Book Committee of the Madison Public Schools, Madison, Wisconsin, 1953. (Annotated and graded)

Henne, Frances. "School Libraries and the Social Order" School Activities and the Library 1954 issue. (A condensation of the article from Library Trends, Vol. I, No. 3. The reprint is available, without charge, from the American Library Association, 50 East Huron, Chicago 11, Illinois.)

Jinnette, Isabella. Pamphlets for Children's Library Collection. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, July, 1953. 15¢. (A selected list of free and inexpensive materials recommended for acquisition.)

Kehoe, Ray E. "Inexpensive Books for the Social Studies Library" Social Education 18:7-9 Ja'54.

"Resources for Studying Police Services" Curriculum and Materials 8:8 Ja-F'54. (Published by the Board of Education, City of New York.)

Schmitz, Helen C., comp. "A Selected List of Career Material" Illinois Libraries 35:434-441 D'53.