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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 9

### 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*

- R Adrian Mary. Fiddler Crab; illus. by Jean Martinez. Holiday House, 1953. 44p. \$2. (Life-Cycle Stories.)

The life story of a sand fiddler crab from the time the egg is laid until the crab reaches maturity. The story is told in easy to read text that individualizes but does not personify the animals. In spite of the series title, this is not quite a "life cycle" since it does not complete the story of the crab's life. Good nature study material and a useful book for youngsters who will be going to the seashore. Can be read by average third grade readers. (Gr. 2-4)

- R Allen, Merritt Parmelee. The Wilderness Way; decorations by Larry Toschik. Longmans, 1954. 246p. \$2.75.

A story of LaSalle's voyages in search of the Mississippi River, as seen through the experiences of young Laurent Delair who traveled with LaSalle as a voyageur in spite of the opposition of his cousin who was one of the most bitter of LaSalle's opponents. The story is told with the vigor and suspense of a good adventure story, and also creates a very real picture of LaSalle with all his strengths and weaknesses. (Gr. 7-9)

- R Anderson, Bertha C. Tinker's Tim and the Witches; illus. by Lloyd Coe. Little, 1953. 147p. \$2.75. (Values: Freedom from fear; Social responsibility.)

A story of 1692 Salem at the time of the witch-hunts. To young Tim Tetlow the terror of the witch-hunts became very real when his grandmother was accused of being a witch. Before she could be brought to trial, a friendly Quaker helped her escape to Worchester, where her daughter and son-in-law lived. Immediately after she left, Tim and his father, a tinker, started out on the father's annual tour of the countryside, doing odd jobs of mending and carpentry work as they went. By the time they had reached Worchester, the hysteria in Salem had died out and it was safe for the grandmother to return home with Tim and his father. A well-told tale of a period in early colonial history that in some ways parallels present day events. (Gr. 5-7)

- R Ardizzone, Edward. Tim in Danger. Oxford, 1953. 48p. \$2.50.

Another story of Tim, Charlotte, and Ginger. This time Ginger runs away to find adventure, and Tim and Charlotte go after him. They all go through storm and shipwreck, and Tim rescues Ginger from a sinking ship before they are safely home again. The plot is much the same as that of the earlier books but it will continue to have appeal for young readers. This book is some-

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what smaller in size ( $7\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$ ) than the earlier ones and the text is printed in large, clear type rather than the script printing of the earlier books. Upper third grade readers could handle the text, but it is best suited to reading aloud.

(K-Gr. 3)

NR Bailey, Bernadien (Freeman). Maureen Marshall, Private Eye. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 247p. \$2.50.

From the title, this would appear to be a career story. It is, however, a teen-age story about a high school senior who becomes suspicious of a stranger who wants to buy her father's farm (which subsequently proves to have valuable oil deposits) and succeeds in exposing the man as a swindler. As side issues there are Maureen's twenty-year-old brother who is recuperating from polio and is having difficulty deciding what his future occupation will be, and Maureen's romance with the school's handsomest and most eligible senior. The minor plots are more interesting, and in some ways, better handled than the major plot which is heavily dependent on coincidence.

(Gr. 7-9)

R Baity, Elizabeth (Chesley). America Before Man. Viking, 1953. 224p. \$4.50.

In her companion volume to Americans Before Columbus the author has traced the geological changes in the earth and the development of life forms from the very earliest single cell forms to the primitive men who first came to this continent. The text is presented in a readable, interesting style; facts are carefully separated from fiction; and the areas where more scientific study needs to be done are clearly pointed out. At the beginning there is a section of Suggested Readings followed by 31 pages of photographs of present day land formations and photographic reproductions of prehistoric animals. The text itself is illustrated with drawings by C. B. Falls. This book will prove valuable both as an introduction to the study of pre-historic times and as a guide for young scientists to fields of exploration that are still open.

(Gr. 8-12)

Ad Ball, Elsie. George Washington, First President; illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Abingdon, 1953. 128p. (Makers of America.) \$1.50.

A simply written, uninspired account of Washington's life from early boyhood to his death. The book adds nothing to the innumerable biographies of Washington that are already in existence. It is about the same level of difficulty as the Foster George Washington (Scribner, 1949), but is not as well written.

(Gr. 4-6)

NR Bechdolt, John Ernest. Footlights for Mary. Dutton, 1953. 181p. \$2.50.

When Mary Donovan joined the stock company at Graniteport, a New England seashore village, it was at once evident that there was a mystery surrounding her background. From the very beginning she won the admiration and respect of

the director and cast; the love of Tom Bradford, a press agent with dreams of some day becoming a stage designer; and the jealousy of Tina Martina, the leading lady whose place she took. In meteoric style Mary rose to stardom and then disclosed herself as being the daughter of a famous actress. Both the characters and the situations are poorly handled and totally unrealistic.

(Gr. 8-10)

R Bendick, Jeanne and Robert. Television Works Like This. New rev. ed. Whittlesey House, 1954. 64p. \$2.25.

Revised edition of a book first published in 1949. A new section, "Color Television," has been added; the final section on future developments has been re-written, and slight revisions have been made throughout the remainder of the book. The illustrations are essentially the same as in the first edition; some slight changes have been made to allow for the additional text on some pages, and the drawing showing the television networks has been completely re-done. This is still the most adequate simplified explanation of television that is available.

(Gr. 6- )

NR Bennett, Anthea. Lady Porks. British Book Centre, 1954. 128p. \$1.75.

The author-illustrator is a ten-year-old English girl. Her story of Lady Porks, a pig, is a take-off on adult foibles and has some interest as a study of a child's reaction to adults and adult ways. As a book for children, the story and illustrations are too obviously the work of a ten-year-old to have much value, although they might have a kind of curiosity appeal for other young would-be authors.

(Gr. 1-2)

NR Bianco, Pamela. The Doll in the Window. Oxford, 1953. 32p. \$2.

Slight, stilted story of a small girl who loses the money she had saved to buy Christmas presents for her five sisters, but whose Christmas is made happy when a small boy buys for her a wooden doll which she had admired in the toy shop window. The doll turns out to be a nest-type toy, with five other, smaller dolls nested inside the first one, so there are enough dolls for each of the sisters to have one. The static, lifeless illustrations and thin story will limit the book's appeal.

(K-Gr. 3)

R Blunden, Godfrey. The Land and People of Australia. Lippincott, 1954. 128p. (Portraits of the Nations Series.) \$2.75.

An interesting account of Australia; its geography, its natural history, and the history of its discovery, exploration, and settlement up through modern times. The writing is somewhat stolid at times, especially at the end where the author is giving brief descriptions of the individual states and territories of Australia. The information in the remainder of the book is, however, sufficiently interesting in itself to compensate for the uninspired writing. Illustrated with sixteen pages of photographs.

(Gr. 7-10)

R Bolton, Mimi Dubois. Merry-Go-Round Family; illus. by Oscar Liebman. Coward-McCann, 1954. 245p. \$2.75. (Values: Family relations.)

An episodic account of the adventures of Marie Turner and her parents during the summer of 1910 when they traveled the Wisconsin fair circuit with a merry-go-round which Mr. Turner had purchased as a source of income while the factory where he normally worked was temporarily closed. The summer brought a full quota of excitement, of good times and bad. By fall the family was quite ready to return to their home in Marshville and settle down to a peaceful winter. An unusual setting for a pleasant piece of period fiction. (Gr. 5-7)

SpC Boyle, Joyce. Susan's Special Summer; illus. by Kathleen Voute. Abingdon, 1954. 96p. \$1.50. (Values: Family relations; Adjustment to new baby.)

A simple, episodic story of the events in the life of six-year-old Susan during one summer when she and her parents moved to a beach cottage in a resort town. This was a special summer for Susan because of the new friends she made and the new experiences she had at the park and at the beach. It was a special summer for all of the family because they were awaiting the birth of another baby. The problem of preparing for a new baby is quite well handled and could give parents suggestions of ways to handle similar situations in their own families. The book is too long for a single reading aloud session, and because each episode is dependent on the ones that went before in order to be fully understood, the book cannot be very easily read in sections. It is more on the level of interest of a five or six year old than of the upper second or third grade youngsters who could handle the text. (K-Gr. 1)

NR Breckwoldt, Ann. Stories for Young and Old. Pageant Press, 1953. 20p. \$2.

Two extraordinarily poorly written stories, one about a collie that makes friends with a baby chicken and the other about the experiences of two young women who homestead a land claim in Montana. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Broderick, Jessica Potter. Find the Way Home; illus. by Beth Wilson. Rand McNally, 1953. 30p. (A Book-Elf Book.) 25¢.

Davy wanders too far from his farm home, and then by remembering things he saw on the way finds his way back again. The listeners are encouraged by the text to help Davy find his way home, but the pictures and text are so poorly arranged they do not give the youngsters a fair chance. The idea of encouraging children to become aware of landmarks around them is a good one; the execution of that idea in this instance is too poor to be effective. (Pre-school)

NR Brooks, Walter Rollin. The Collected Poems of Freddy the Pig; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1953. 81p. \$2.50.

Sixty-five poems, presumably written by Freddy

the pig or his friends. Some of the poems are new, but many are taken from the Freddy books. Freddy's verse has never been a strong point of the books, although when taken in the relatively small doses in which it has appeared in the past, it is bearable. Compiled into a collection such as this one, however, it ceases to be even amusing. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Brooks, Walter Rollin. Freddy and the Space Ship; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1953. 262p. \$3.

The twentieth story about Freddy the pig. The title of this one is somewhat misleading for there is very little in the story about the space ship and considerable about Freddy's detective work in ridding the Bean family of some unwelcome relatives. There is little originality to the situations and some of the characters seem to have been dragged in for the sole purpose of padding the story. (Gr. 4-6)

R Brown, Vinson. How To Make a Home Nature Museum; illus. by Don Greame Kelley. Little, 1954. 214p. \$2.50.

Different types of nature collections are described with suggestions as to how to collect specimens; classify specimens; mount and label specimens; collect pictures and photographs; make plaster, rubber and wax molds and models; make drawings, charts, diagrams and paintings; and arrange the museum displays. Included in the appendixes are a bibliography of related books for further information about the different specimens in the museum, sources of supplies, and ideas for exhibits and improvements. (Gr. 6-9)

M Bryan, Dorothy and Marguerite. Michael and Patsy. Dodd, 1953. 64p. \$2.50.

New edition, in one volume, of two stories first published as separates by Doubleday in 1932-1933. The stories are about two Sealyham pups who were friends and neighbors of Tammie in Just Tammie. In the first story Michael has recently arrived from Boston, but Mother decrees that he cannot stay because there is room for only one dog in the house. The children try all sorts of devices so that he will be able to stay—and eventually he does. The second story describes Michael's efforts to get Patsy a ball on the nearby golf course. The stories are not as well written and do not have as much plot structure as the stories in Just Tammie, and these dogs are not as appealing as Tammie. The illustrations are out of date and will be puzzling to young children, as will some of the golf terms used in the second story. (Pre-school)

R Buehr, Walter. Through the Locks; Canals Today and Yesterday. Putnam, 1954. 64p. \$2.25.

A brief introduction to locks and canals, with material on how canals and locks work, a history and description of the Panama Canal, the uses and importance of early American canals, and descriptions of modern American canals and of

some of the great ship canals of the world. There are excellent drawings showing how some of the different kinds of locks operate, and maps showing the routes of some of the canals. The text is written in an interesting and informative style. (Gr. 5-7)

R Burns, William A. A World Full of Homes; pictures by Paula Hutchison. Whittlesey House, 1953. 121p. \$2.50.

An entertainingly written history of housing from earliest to modern times and in various parts of the globe. The author does a good job of explaining how housing styles vary depending on the kinds of materials people have available and the needs that arise from climatic and other conditions of the country. The book will be useful as a companion volume to Eva Knox Evans' People Are Important (Capitol, 1951) and Why We Live Where We Live (Little, 1953) to give young readers a basis for understanding why some people differ from others in the ways in which they live. Included are directions for building models of the different kinds of houses. (Gr. 3-8)

R Burt, Olive (Woolley). Ouray the Arrow; illus. by Harper. Messner, 1953. 184p. \$2.75. (Values: Intercultural understanding; Pacific attitudes.)

A thoughtful, sympathetic account of the efforts of Ourey, an outstanding Ute Indian leader, to help his people to live in friendship with the white men. In spite of all Ourey's efforts to maintain peace and to retain the Indians' hold on their lands in Colorado, the jealousy and treachery of both his own people and the white men who coveted the Utes' territory led to the eventual loss by the Indians of all their lands. Ourey's story is well told and will compare favorably with the Coblenz, Sequoia (Longmans, 1946) and the Wyatt, Cochise, Apache Warrior and Statesman (Whittlesey, 1953) to give readers a better understanding of one of the darker pages of American history. (Gr. 8-12)

NR Campbell, Roy. The Mamba's Precipice. John Day, 1954. 189p. \$2.75.

The story of an English family's summer vacation in their African bush cottage on the coast near Durban. During the summer the three boys, fifteen-year-old Michael, twelve-year-old John, and eleven-year-old Billy, have many exciting adventures while fishing and exploring the neighborhood, climaxed by their help in hunting an escaped murderer, by John's shooting of a marauding tiger, and by Michael's killing the deadly mamba that had made the surrounding countryside unsafe. The plot borders too closely on the sensational and melodramatic, the writing is very poor, and the characters are not well drawn. (Gr. 7-9)

R Carlson, Natalie Savage. Alphonse, That Bearded One; illus. by Nicolas. Harcourt, 1954. 78p. \$2.50.

A delightful tale from French Canadian folklore,

told in the same vein as the stories in The Talking Cat (Harper, 1952), although this is much more uneven writing than that of the earlier book. This is a single story about the bear cub, Alphonse, who was trained by his master, the French trapper Jeannot Vallar, to drill like a soldier. When Jeannot was drafted to fight against the Iroquois, he sent Alphonse in his place, much to the dismay of both the soldiers and the Indians. The humor does not hold up all the way through the story, but where it is at its best it gives a delightful blending of the very subtle and the very obvious. The story will be fun to read aloud at the fourth-sixth grade level, although it would take an advanced fifth grade reader to handle the text alone. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Clark, Electa. Robert Peary, Boy of the North; illus. by Bernard Barton. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans Series.) \$1.75.

A simply written biography of Peary, with the emphasis on his childhood, and with only the last two chapters dealing with the really interesting events of his life. The writing is somewhat less stilted than is usual for the books in this series and occasionally the characters almost seem like real people. (Gr. 3-5)

Ad Colby, Carrol Burleigh. Danger Fighters; Men and Ships of the U.S. Coast Guard. Coward-McCann, 1953. 48p. \$1.

Brief text and photographs explain some of the work done by the U.S. Coast Guard and show the types of boats and air craft used in this service. This is not as detailed an account of the work as the Floherty, Search and Rescue at Sea (Lippincott, 1953), but it will be interesting as an introduction to the subject. Because of the brevity and the use of technical terms, the style is difficult, but younger readers will get enjoyment from the excellent photographs. (Gr. 7-10)

M Collins, Ruth M. Alphonse & Archibald. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 53p. \$2.50.

Alphonse is a French poodle living with his master, young Francoise, in a French settlement during the days when the French and English were struggling for possession of Canada. Archibald is an English mastiff who, together with his young British master, Phineas, is captured by the French. At first Archibald and Phineas are treated as captives, but after Phineas saves the women of the settlement from the Indians and Archibald saves Francoise's life, the two are accepted and are given a home with Alphonse and Francoise. A somewhat forced plot that has moments of humor and suspense but is not well-sustained. The book is written at an upper fourth grade level and the subject matter is best suited to the fourth or fifth grade level. However, the tone of the writing and the format are more suitable for younger children. (Gr. 3-5)

NR Crampton, Gertrude. A Grab Bag of Fun; illus. by Frank Jupio. Aladdin, 1953. 128p. \$2.50.

A hodge-podge of stories, verse, suggested ac-

tivities, and miscellaneous bits of information, all more or less related to holidays. The stories and verse are mediocre; the directions for the activities are not always clear; and some of the activities require marking or coloring in the book. The bits of information are neither very interesting nor very unusual. (Gr. 3-5)

R Cutler, Katherine N. Junior Flower Arranging; photographs by Roche; drawings by Joan Lucas. M. Barrows, 1954. 179p. \$2.95.

Detailed, informative discussion of the basic principles of flower arranging. The book is divided into three parts. Part I, "Flower Arranging for Juniors," and Part II, "Interesting Things for Juniors To Do" are intended for boys and girls to use by themselves. Part III, "For Seniors Helping Juniors" contains directions for older persons who are planning or judging junior flower shows. The book should be especially useful where there are active Garden Clubs. The illustrations, both photographs and drawings, serve to clarify some of the directions given in the text. (Gr. 4-7)

R Decker, Duane Walter. Mister Shortstop. Morrow, 1954. 185p. \$2.50.

The eighth title in the author's series of stories about the Blue Sox, a mythical major league team. This time the main character is Andy Pearson, known throughout the leagues as "Handy Andy" because he has spent most of his four years as a ball player serving as utility man for various minor league teams. When his chance comes to prove that he has the ability to handle a major league shortstop assignment, he does so in spite of the stiff competition given him by Slick Hammil, a flashy young rookie who is a good shortstop when the pressure is off but who always folds up in the clinch. Good baseball. (Gr. 7-9)

M Dickson, Marguerite (Stockman). Bramble Bush; illus. by Ruth King. Longmans, 1954. 270p. \$3.

Re-issue of a book first published in 1945. Mary Elizabeth Clifford was rebellious at first because she could not go away to college with her friends as she had originally planned. Then, during the year which she thought would be a total loss, she became aware for the first time of just how much the grandmother and uncle with whom she lived were doing for her, and she was able during that year to help a blind girl who lived nearby to adjust to her handicap. Mary Elizabeth will seem quite immature to the more sophisticated high school students of today, but the story of her growing up and her developing awareness of the people around her has values that are sound. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Doane, Pelagie. The Boy Jesus. Oxford, 1953. 54p. \$3.

A too pretty, too sweet account of the life of Jesus from the time of his birth through the

visit to the temple at Jerusalem when he was twelve. The style of writing and the illustrations lack character and dignity. (Gr. 2-4)

R Dow, Emily R. How To Make Doll Clothes; A Book for Daughters, Mothers and Grandmothers. Coward-McCann, 1953. 96p. \$1.95.

Easy to follow instructions for making simple doll clothes, including dresses, underwear, hats, shoes, and coats. Also includes instructions for making masquerade and puppet costumes, plus a list of sewing tricks and fancy stitches. Although some of the sewing is quite simple, there is more in the book for the experienced sewer than for the beginner. (Gr. 5-8)

Ad Dudley, Ruth H. Sea Shells; illus. by Phoebe Erickson. Crowell, 1953. 149p. \$2.

An introductory book on sea shells and shell collecting. The author describes briefly some of the more familiar shells and tells something of the habits of the creatures within the shells. The illustrations are not always helpful in identifying shells, although they do indicate some of the more obvious differences between types. The book will be primarily useful for interesting children in starting their own shell collections. The appendix includes a list of shell clubs in this country and a bibliography of more detailed books on the subject. (Gr. 5-8)

NR Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. Petunia Takes a Trip. Knopf, 1953. 32p. \$2.

Petunia, the goose, decides to make like an airplane and see the world. She exercises to lose enough weight to be able to fly and then takes off. A storm blows her to New York City where she is warmly welcomed, taken on a tour of the city, and finally returned by train to the farm. Very thin story, forced humor. (Pre-school)

M Engelhard, Georgia. Peterli and the Mountain; pictures by Madeleine Gekiere. Lippincott, 1954. 40p. \$2.25.

A story, based on fact, about a cat named Peterli who lived in Zermatt and who one day climbed the Matterhorn. The writing is uneven, but there is enough interest to the subject to give it appeal for young children. The illustrations capture the spirit of the text perfectly and are, in many ways, the best part of the book. The book is best suited for reading aloud to third and fourth grade children since the text is too long and slow moving to hold the interest of the very young child and is too difficult for independent reading. (Gr. 3-4)

R Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. The First Book of Electricity; pictures by Robin King. Watts, 1953. 69p. \$1.75.

A simplified explanation of electricity; what is known of its composition, how it is generated, and how it is used by mankind. Simple, and safe, experiments showing how to make an electromagnet, how to prove the presence of electricity,

and how to generate static electricity accompany each section. The book is indexed, but not all of the pages are numbered. (Gr. 5-7)

R Epstein, Samuel and Williams, Beryl. The Real Book about Submarines; illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Garden City Books, 1954. 222p. \$1.50.

A fairly detailed description of various kinds of submarines, plus something of the history of their development and the uses to which they are put. There are anecdotes about specific submarines and some speculations about the types and uses of submarines of the future. The material is interestingly presented in a readable style. (Gr. 7-9)

R Evans, Eva Knox. Why We Live Where We Live; illus. by Ursula Koering. Little 1953. 151p. \$3. (Environmental concepts.)

A simply written discussion of some of the reasons, including geological, social, and economic factors, why Americans live where they do. The last chapter stresses the fact that all Americans have a contribution to make no matter where they live or what their reasons for settling in those particular spots. Useful for social studies. (Gr. 3-8)

Ad Fenton, Carroll Lane. Prehistoric World; Stories of Animal Life in Past Ages; with drawings by the author; color plates by James E. Allen. John Day, 1954. 128p. \$2.75.

A simplified explanation of the beginnings of the animal world, starting with the earliest forms of animal life and tracing some of the forms to modern times. The material is interestingly presented, although the constant shifting in the first part of the book from present to past tense is sometimes confusing. The illustrations are generally good. (Gr. 5-8)

Ad Forester, Cecil Scott. The Barbary Pirates; illus. by Charles J. Mazoujian. Random House, 1953. 187p. (A Landmark Book.) \$1.50.

A once-over-lightly treatment of the operations of the Barbary Pirates in the early eighteenth century, and of the efforts of the U. S. Navy to put a stop to those activities. There is interesting material about some of the men who became famous during this time, or who served their apprenticeships under the leaders of this period. The subject will have interest for many readers, although any who are familiar with Forester's Hornblower stories will find his exceedingly pedestrian style here a disappointment. (Gr. 7-9)

R Franklin, George Cory. Bravo the Bummer; illus. by L. D. Cram. Houghton, 1954. 121p. \$2.

The story of a big horn ram of the Rocky Mountain country whose mother was killed while he was still a very young lamb and who survived by

bumming milk from other ewes until he was old enough to take care of himself. Because he had to fend for himself from such an early age, Bravo became much more alert and smarter than the other rams of his same age, and when the leader of the flock was killed several seasons later, Bravo became the undisputed leader. A well written story that will appeal to readers wanting books about wild animals living in their natural habitats. (Gr. 6-8)

M Gartner, John. Ace Pitcher; A Rock Taylor Baseball Story. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 215p. \$2.50.

A second story about Rock Taylor, young athletic coach at Center City High School. This time Rock is having his troubles with the baseball team whose star pitcher is solely concerned with personal glory, and with one of the men in town who claims to be an authority on baseball and wants to take over the job of coaching the team. Once again Rock, through his ability as a coach and his understanding of boys, builds a championship team. Somewhat routine but an acceptable sports story. (Gr. 7-9)

M Gault, William Campbell. Mr. Fullback; Dutton, 1953. 187p. \$2.50. (Values: Value building.)

A college football story in which the main issue is the "football college" versus the college in which football is just one more extra-curricular activity and scholarship is the main concern. Johnny Holland and Gus Carmichael decide on Marlowe (the scholastically-centered college) from the beginning; their friend, Scooter, starts at Northern (a "football college") but later changes to Marlowe. The author's point is a good one, but he sometimes becomes too intent on proving it so that he forgets he is also telling a story. In spite of all the talk of Marlowe's being a well-rounded school, football and an occasional study session are the only activities of the school that are ever pictured. On the few occasions when the author does forget his purpose, the characters come alive and the story moves with vigor and humor. (Gr. 7-9)

R Geary, Clifford N. Ticonderoga; A Picture Story. McKay, 1953. 48p. \$2.75.

A brief, but vivid account of the history of Fort Ticonderoga from colonial days to the present time. In recounting the various changes that took place as the French, British, and Americans in turn gained control of the fort, the author has managed to give a dramatic picture of this country's struggle for freedom. The illustrations add color and life to the book. (Gr. 4-7)

NR Gordon, Patricia. The Heir to Christmas; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Viking, 1953. 55p. \$2.

A slight, sentimental story of a young boy who inherits from his great-aunt a box of old toys that had once belonged to some of his ancestors when they were children. When the boy puts the

toys under the Christmas tree, the ancestors return, as children, to play with him on Christmas afternoon. The story is intended to give to children a feeling of family continuity and solidarity, but the ideas are too subtly presented and too mature to have much meaning for the young child. (Gr. 3-5)

NR Gorham, Michael. The Real Book of Great American Journeys; illus. by Deane Cate. Garden City Books, 1953. 188p. \$1.25.

Short accounts of some famous treks in American history. Included are the Pilgrims' journey from England to Holland to this country; La-Salle's trip down the Mississippi; the Whitman's journey to Oregon; the Mormon trek to Utah; and Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad activities. The style is very dull and, because the events are in no way tied together, the book seems quite disjointed. Full accounts of these same events are available in other, better written books. (Gr. 6-8)

Ad Gossett, Margaret. The First Book of Boats; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, 1953. 45p. \$1.75.

As young Joe visits his various relatives and friends, he learns all about the kind of boat each one owns or operates. The types range from a rowboat to a houseboat. Interspersed is information about various types of boats throughout the ages and around the world. The information is interesting but is rather sketchy and poorly organized. The reading difficulty range is great and the text is actually harder than the format or style would indicate. The tone of the writing will limit the book's use to young readers. (Gr. 4-6)

R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Bears! illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner, 1954. 93p. \$2.25.

Grizzly bears, Polar bears, brown bears, black bears are described in simple, easy-to-read text and clear illustrations. The text reads almost like a story as it tells how mother bears train their young and how the entire family gets its food. The bears are in no way personified either in the text or the illustrations. The text is written at an easy third grade reading level. (Gr. 2-4)

NR Grumbine, E. Evalyn. Patsy's Mexican Adventure. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 245p. \$2.50.

A contrived story that is designed to combine information about market surveying, Mexico and the Mexicans with a love story. Patsy Hall and her assistant, Debby Dodge, are sent to Mexico to make a market survey for one of the large food accounts handled by Patsy's company, the Robert's Advertising Agency. Information about survey techniques is interspersed with long digressions on Mexican history and detailed descriptions of Mexican villages and other points of interest. At the beginning, once in the middle,

and again at the end there are brief pauses to take care of Patsy's romance with Andy Milton. Conversations are stilted, the characterizations are thin, and the book is too heavily burdened with information to be interesting as a story. (Gr. 7-9)

R Haig-Brown, Roderick Langmere Haig. Mounted Police Patrol. Morrow, 1954. 248p. \$2.75. (Values: Growing up; Civic responsibility; Value building.)

Fifteen-year-old Dave Sloane had lived all his life in the Toronto slums where he had learned to distrust anyone in any way connected with the law. Then after the death of his parents he was sent to a small town on the western plains of Canada to live with his aunt and her husband, a member of the Mounted Police. For some time Dave had difficulty adjusting to the idea that any good could come from a policeman, but his uncle did not push him, and in time his own intelligence showed him the value of his uncle's work. An interesting picture of the work of the Mounted Police and a good story of a boy's growing up. (Gr. 7-9)

M Hall, Marjory. Star Island. Funk & Wagnalls, 1953. 279p. \$2.75.

Eighteen-year-old Carolyn is the socially retarded member of her family, and has long since given up trying to compete with her two glamorous sisters, nineteen-year-old Liz and seventeen-year-old Marta. Then comes a summer when she talks herself into going as a counselor to a small, newly established girls' camp in the Adirondacks. There under the pressure of new responsibilities, she blossoms forth, wins herself a boy friend (from the nearby boys' camp) and returns home a much happier and better adjusted girl. The episodes at camp are quite good and are much more realistically handled than are Carolyn's relationships with her family, either at the beginning or the end of the story. (Gr. 8-10)

M Hayes, John F. A Land Divided; illus. by Fred J. Finley. Westminster, 1954. 207p. \$2.50.

A story of the French Acadian settlement in Nova Scotia in 1755. Fourteen-year-old Michael Harvey's mother was an Acadian and his father was a Captain in the British army at Fort Annapolis. Their's was not the only family torn by divided loyalties, for many of the British soldiers had married Acadian women. When the time came that the British moved the French out of Nova Scotia, these women were allowed to decide whether to stay with their husbands or go with their French relatives. Michael's mother was one who chose to stay. The story of the struggle between the British and the French makes an unusual and exciting story, but it is marred by poor writing and excessive length. The book could be used as background reading in schools where "Evangeline" is still required reading. (Gr. 7-9)

Ad Hood, Peter. How the Earth Is Made. Oxford, 1954. 64p. (Oxford Visual Series.) \$2.50.

An introduction to geology, with examples chosen largely from places in and around the British Isles. For the reader who has some knowledge of the subject, the contrast between British earth and rock formations and those of this country will be of interest. For the beginner, the fact that few of the places mentioned in the text are well known may be discouraging. The format makes the book look more difficult than it actually is. (Gr. 7-12)

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. Daddy's Birthday Cakes; illus. by Ruth Thompson van Tellingen. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25¢.

While mother is making a cake for daddy's birthday, Linda makes him one of clay. Very slight and pointless since Linda does not even have to watch mother bake her cake in order to know how to shape the clay one and how to arrange the candles on it. (Pre-school)

SpC Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. A Suitcase with a Surprise; illus. by Ruth van Tellingen. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25¢.

Very slight story of a small boy who decides on a rainy day that he wants to take a train ride. His mother encourages him to play make-believe train with some chairs, and even packs his suitcase for him, with a surprise in it. The surprise turns out to be his hand puppet which he has not played with for some time. There is very little story to hold a child's attention, but the book might be used by parents to give them suggestions for coping with rainy day doldrums. (Pre-school)

NR Johnson, Enid. Cross-Country Bus Ride; illus. by Louis Zansky. Messner, 1953. 62p. (Everyday Adventure Stories.) \$1.60.

A contrived, dull, and very unrealistic picture of a family—father, mother, and the eight-year-old twins, Ned and Nancy—who travel by bus from their home near Chicago to Yellowstone Park and back. They emerge at each end of the line as fresh and rested as when they began, and are scarcely back at home before they begin planning a trip to California for the next summer's vacation. The book reads more like a book-length advertisement for the Greyhound line than a children's story. Hurd's Old Silversides (Lothrop, 1951) is a much better presentation of the same subject. (Gr. 2-4)

NR Joyce, Jewel. The Blue Dragon; illus. by Al Kilgore. Pageant Press, 1953. 114p. \$2.50.

An unsuccessful attempt at fantasy. The story concerns a blue dragon painted on a meat platter who loses his blue color and goes back to his own

land to find it. The boy and girl whose mother owns the set of dishes go after the dragon to help him find his color and return to the plate so that the set will be in perfect condition. They have many strange adventures among dwarfs, wooden men, and stone men, and finally find the sorcerer (a young boy) who stole the dragon's color. All ends well but the whole is too forced to be convincing. (Gr. 4-6)

R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Theodore Roosevelt, Fighting Patriot; frontispiece and pencil drawings by Florence F. Bjorklund. Wilcox and Follett, 1953. 222p. \$3.50.

A vigorous, well-written biography of Theodore Roosevelt that does full justice to the man's dynamic personality and many-sided life. The author is obviously in sympathy with Roosevelt but she does indicate that there were controversial issues in his life. A distinguished biography that combines accurate details with a style that reads as easily as fiction, and which many boys will find as exciting reading as any adventure story. (Gr. 5- )

NR Justus, May. Peter Pocket and His Pickle Pup; illus. by Jean Tamburine. Holt, 1953. 141p. \$2.50.

A story of the Tennessee mountains and of a nine-year-old boy and his grandmother who live there. The style is episodic and each episode is built around a special day in Peter Pocket's year. The tone is excessively sentimental and Pollyanna-ish and there is little of the flavor of mountain dialect or living. (Gr. 4-6)

R Kahl, Virginia. Away Went Wolfgang. Scribner, 1954. 32p. \$2.

Amusing picture-story book about a small village in Austria where everyone, even the dogs, had a job to do. Everyone, that is, except Wolfgang, a large dog who was not very smart and was much too exuberant. After many disastrous attempts to be useful, he and the old lady who lived with him discovered that if he dragged the milk cart three times over the cobble stones around the church the milk in the cans would be churned into excellent butter. This pleased the women of the town because now they did not have to do their own churning, it pleased the old lady because she was really very fond of Wolfgang, and it pleased Wolfgang because now he could be as exuberant as he pleased and still hold a job. Colorful and humorous illustrations. (K-Gr. 1)

M Kroll, Harry Harrison. The Long Quest; The Story of John Wesley. Westminster, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

A highly fictionalized account of the life of John Wesley during his student days at Oxford and up to the time when he broke with the Episcopal Church and began the preaching which has since become the basis of Methodist theology. The writing is uneven and the author gives no sources for his facts and interpretations. (Gr. 8-10)

- R La Farge, Oliver. The Mother Ditch; illus. by Karl Larsson. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. 50p. \$2.25.

A colorful, interestingly written description of the irrigation ditch that supplies the town of Cerro, New Mexico, with the water necessary for farming in that semi-arid country. The need for irrigation is first described, then an account of the irrigation practices of the early Indians and Spaniards is given. In the last part of the book the author introduces the Romero family and shows how the ditch helps them and what happens when the mother ditch dries up during a drought. The rhythmic prose makes pleasant reading, and the subject should be of especial interest for farm units or units on conservation. The illustrations capture the feeling of bright sunlight and soft pastel colors of this section of the country. (Gr. 4-8)

- M Latham, Jean Lee. The Story of Eli Whitney; Invention and Progress in the Young Nation; illus. by Fritz Kredel. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series.) \$1.75.

The life of Eli Whitney with considerable attention given to his invention of the cotton gin and the troubles he had trying to gain recognition as its inventor. Whitney's invention and successful operation of a system for machine-made, interchangeable musket parts is discussed, although its great importance in the development of American industry (an importance that is in many ways greater, if less spectacular, than that of the cotton gin) is not very clearly indicated. Whitney himself is too glamorized and sentimentalized to seem completely real. (Gr. 6-8)

- R Leeming, Joseph. The Real Book of Games; illus. by Ida Scheib. Garden City Books, 1953. 190p. \$1.25.

A good collection of games of all kinds—ice-breakers, active indoor games, quiet indoor games, boisterous games, racing games, games for two, stunts, and outdoor games. The directions are clear and easy to follow. Some of the games are old favorites, and some will be new to many children. (Gr. 4-8)

- R Lenski, Lois. Project Boy. Lippincott, 1954. 128p. (Roundabout America Series.) \$2.

Fourth title in the Roundabout America Series. This time the story is laid in a veteran's housing project. Young Teddy Parker and his family are interested in fixing up their house and yard, but they get very little help or encouragement from their neighbors in the project. The other boys steal the pickets from the fence, the neighbors complain about Teddy's pumpkin vines, and Mrs. Parker has troubles with the other women over the use of the laundry facilities. In spite of all this, they have fun in their home and with their neighbors. The book gives a quite realistic pic-

ture of the difficulties of life in such a situation and should help youngsters understand some of the problems which their own and other families face in these days of inadequate housing. (Gr. 2-4)

- NR Longstreth, Joseph. Tiger Tizzy; designed and illus. by William D. Hayes. Abelard, 1954. 42p. \$2.

An exceedingly dull, over-long story of a tiger who sits and cries all day for no known reason until the lion explains to him that the only thing the matter with him is that he is in a tizzy. The suggested cure is for him to get interested in other people, so he gives a party for the animals and his troubles are cured. Neither the idea back of the story nor the manner in which it is handled are child-like enough to give the book much meaning for youngsters. (K-Gr. 2)

- NR McCready, Thomas L. Biggity Bantam; illus. by Tasha Tudor. Ariel, 1954. 49p. \$2.50.

A mundane story of a bantam rooster who got his name by always causing trouble, either by fighting other roosters, by digging up flower beds, or by disrupting an afternoon outdoor party. The story is plotless, just a series of episodes, and is written in a plodding, uninspired style. Tasha Tudor's illustrations are pleasant but fail to give the book the vigor which the text lacks. The story is too difficult for young readers to handle alone and is not particularly suited to reading aloud. (K-Gr. 2)

- NR MacDonald, Golden. Little Frightened Tiger; by Golden MacDonald and Leonard Weisgard. Doubleday, 1953. 38p. \$2.50.

Little Tiger is afraid of everything around him, including his own shadow. His parents take him on a walk through the jungle and show him that everything that lives is afraid of something else. Some of the examples are quite coy, as for example, the stork is said to fear babies. The story is dull and the illustrations are not especially appealing. Williams, Timid Timothy (Young Scott, 1944) used the same theme and is a much better handling. (Pre-school)

- NR Macdonald, Zillah Katherine. A Tugboat Toots for Terry; illus. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Adventure Stories.) \$1.60.

A contrived story of a young boy who spends a day on one of his uncle's tugboats. He saves the boat from a near collision during a fog and helps recapture a monkey that had escaped from another tugboat earlier. The story has less reality and less appeal than Agle's Three Boys and a Tugboat (Scribner, 1953) and is more obviously written for a purpose. The illustrations are out of proportion and ugly. (Gr. 4-6)

NR McGee, Dorothy Horton. The Boarding School Mystery. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 249p. \$2.50.

An unhappy blending of boarding school life and Communist sabotage. Joan Sawyer is a newcomer at Laureata, a boarding school in Aiken, South Carolina, and she has difficulties adjusting to the new life and to the new girls of the school. Her life is further complicated by worry over her father's business which is being jeopardized by the activities of enemy saboteurs who tamper with the bomb sights which Mr. Sawyer's company manufactures. Coincidentally enough the saboteurs are operating in and around Laureata; one is even a teacher in the history department. Joan, of course, stumbles onto their secret hide-out and helps bring them to justice. A confused, melodramatic plot, unconvincing characters, and questionable values. (Gr. 7-9)

R McNeer, May Yonge. The Mexican Story; with lithographs by Lynd Ward. Ariel, 1953. 96p. \$3.95. (Values: International understanding.)

A beautifully written and beautifully illustrated history of Mexico, with an emphasis on some of the people who have played a major part in developing that history. The main part of the book is devoted to past history, with the last three chapters dealing with modern times and modern people. In these chapters the author emphasizes the place that art holds in Mexican lives and discusses in detail the work of Orozco. (Gr. 7-9)

M Mauzey, Merritt. Cotton-Farm Boy; intro. by Luise Putcamp. Schuman, 1953. 79p. \$2.50.

Scenes from the author's childhood, told through a stilted, contrived text and stone lithograph prints. There is little continuity to the text, whose sole purpose is to explain the illustrations, which are scenes from the Texas cotton country. Through the illustrations the artist gives something of the history of the country and the ways in which cotton is grown and harvested. The book might be used as an informational book on cotton and cotton growing, but would have little appeal as a story. Art classes might find the prints of interest. (Gr. 7-9)

R Milhous, Katherine. Appolonia's Valentine. Scribner, 1954. 32p. \$2.

Appolonia and her brother Dan live in the Pennsylvania Dutch country where they attend a one-room school. Apple is clumsy with her hands in all things except painting, so while the other children do cut-out valentines, she paints one, using the traditional designs that she sees around her home. The story makes a nice one to use for Valentine's Day, and the designs of the valentines could be used by art classes throughout the year. The text is easy enough for third grade readers to handle alone. (Gr. 2-4)

NR Morris, Toni. Oldie, the Engine that Won. Pageant Press, 1953. 35p. \$2.

An exceedingly stilted, dull, labored story of an old mine engine that had been retired from active service, and of a young Indian boy who brings it back to life. The boy, Red Bird, is sulking because his tribe will not make him a chief, so he builds a fire in the old engine's firebox, runs it up the street to the railroad tracks, and then starts a wild ride to the mine and back. On the way back the two race a modern streamliner—and win. After that, Red Bird is rewarded by being made mayor of the town and the engine settles back to a peaceful old age. Comic book style. (Gr. 3-5)

R Morrison, Lillian, comp. Black Within and Red Without; A Book of Riddles; illus. by Jo Spier. Crowell, 1953. 120p. \$2.

A delightful collection of riddles, each one selected because it has "some feeling of myth or mystery, or some catchy quality of rhyme or rhythm." Most of the riddles are taken from written sources, and they represent the folklore of many countries, and many regions within this country. The book is attractively made, with small illustrations to emphasize the point of many of the riddles. The riddles themselves are fun to read aloud and can be enjoyed as much for their rhyme and rhythm as for the humor and surprise of their answers. The answers are given at the end of each riddle. (Gr. 3- )

R Mudra, Marie. David Farragut, Sea Fighter; decorations by Douglas Gorsline. Messner, 1953. 177p. \$2.75.

A full, well-rounded biography of Farragut that does justice to his exploits in the Navy and also makes him seem a very real person. The writing flows smoothly and with a vigor that should give the book appeal for boys who like sea stories as well as for those who want true biography. There is an index at the end; also a chronology and a bibliography. (Gr. 7-10)

R Nash, Ogden, ed. The Moon Is Shining Bright as Day; An Anthology of Good-Humored Verse. Lippincott, 1953. 177p. \$3.

An excellent anthology of poems that are fun, although not always funny. There are many old favorites, and some new ones not generally found in anthologies. The range of appeal is wide, and boys and girls both will find poems to suit their own tastes and humor. The open page layout, clear type, and humorous drawings give the book an inviting look that should encourage all young readers to dip into it, even those who think they do not like poetry. (Gr. 4- )

M Neuberger, Richard Lewis. Royal Canadian Mounted Police; illus. by Lee J. Ames. Random House, 1953. 182p. (A World Landmark Book.) \$1.50.

A moderately interesting account of the origin

and history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The material would be more interesting if only the author had been able to leave himself out of it. The Block, Real Book about the Mounties (Watts, 1952) is a better treatment of the same subject simply because it is more objective. Mr. Neuberger seems far more interested in Mr. Neuberger than he is in the Mounties. (Gr. 7-9)

Ad Norton, Andre, ed. Space Pioneers. World, 1954. 294p. \$2.75.

A collection of nine space stories taken from science fiction magazines. None of the stories is of great literary quality, but all are acceptable. The authors include: Eric Frank Russell, H. B. Fyfe, Raymond Z. Gallun, K. Houston Brunner, James Schmitz, Fritz Leiber, Raymond F. Jones, and Jerome Bixby. The stories are divided into two sections: The Explorers and The Settlers. (Gr. 7-9)

R Otto, Margaret G. Cocoa; illus. by Peter Spier. Holt, 1953. 90p. \$2.

Eight-year-old Peter had the outfit of a cowboy but he lacked a cowpony. He rode his father's plow horse, Mollie, sometimes but she was too slow to satisfy him. When Mollie's colt was born Peter's father gave it to the boy, who promptly named it Cocoa and began dreaming of the day when it would be a fully trained cowpony. Peter often became discouraged when he thought how long it would be before he could begin riding his horse, but then he was given the chance to take care of the pony belonging to a boy who was going out of the country for a year, and that made life perfect for Peter. The story is pleasantly written and good second grade readers should be able to handle it with little difficulty. (Gr. 2-4)

NR Palazzo, Tony. Mister Whistle's Secret. Viking, 1953. 52p. \$2.50.

Mr. Whistle owns a toy shop and among the toys is a magic clock that sets him to whistling and starts a doll to dancing every time it is wound. The story of how Mr. Whistle discovers the magic power of the clock is very thin. The illustrations are too cartoonish. (K-Gr. 2)

M Payne, Joan Balfour. The Piebald Princess. Ariel, 1954. 80p. \$2.75.

A tale of fantasy set in one of the Massachusetts cranberry bogs in the early days of this country. Molly Pippin, somewhat ineffectual witch, lives happily in the bog with her animal friends. Their life is pleasantly uneventful until the day when the Piebald Princess appears on the scene. She claims to be a Siamese cat from the court of the King of Siam, and she soon has everyone waiting on her hand and foot. Such service becomes tiresome for all except Molly, and it almost costs her all of her friends. In time the Princess is proved to be a fraud (she is really a piebald cat who has dyed her hair to resemble the coloring of a Siamese), but by then the people of the bog

are so used to her they agree to let her continue with her masquerade. The story is uneven, with some moments of excellent fantasy and humor, but with many forced and contrived situations. (Gr. 4-6)

R Person, Tom. Trouble on the Trace; A Story of the Natchez Trace in the Year 1801; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Ariel, 1954. 185p. \$2.95.

The Natchez Trace in 1801 was not a safe place to be. Even more dangerous than the wild animals and hostile Indians, were the renegade white men who robbed and killed at will. However, when Jim Taylor failed to come back to Tennessee after a trip to New Orleans, his family decided to brave the dangers of the Trace and try to find him. And so it was that Mrs. Taylor, sixteen-year-old Thad, Thad's younger sister Maida, and their slave boy Tippto, made the long trip from Tennessee to Natchez. The story of their adventures on the way and their final rescue of Jim Taylor from the robber band that held him captive makes a story filled with suspense and excitement. (Gr. 7-9)

R Pinkerton, Robert E. The First Overland Mail; illus. by Paul Lantz. Random House, 1953. 185p. (A Landmark Book.) \$1.50.

An absorbing account of the work of John Butterfield in establishing the first successful mail service from Missouri to California. Details of the political intrigue involved in awarding the government contracts; the difficulties of planning the route, building the stations, and providing supplies, men and equipment; and the dangers to passengers, agents, and drivers that resulted from poor roads, too fast driving, and hostile Indians are vividly presented. The writing is uneven in spots but not enough to affect the interest which the subject will have. (Gr. 5-7)

R Pough, Frederick H. All about Volcanoes and Earthquakes; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Random House, 1953. 150p. \$1.95.

An interestingly written, informative account of the causes and results of volcanoes and earthquakes. There are vivid descriptions of some of the more spectacular eruptions, details of how different kinds of volcanoes are formed, something of the work of seismologists, and a discussion of how the dangers of volcanoes and earthquakes can be avoided or minimized. The drawings add to the understanding of the text. Fifth grade readers will have little difficulty with the text, and the completely objective treatment of the material will give the book appeal for older readers as well. (Gr. 5-10)

NR Reid, Alexander. The Young Traveler in France; illus. with photographs and map sketches by Henry C. Pitz. Dutton, 1953. 224p. \$3.

Three American children travel through France

with their parents, staying in Paris and in the southern part of the country with relatives of their mother. There is no plot to the story and the bits of information about the country are so brief and so scattered that the book has no value as a source of information about France. In editing the book for American readers not all of the English expressions have been Americanized and the results are sometimes awkward and sometimes confusing. (Gr. 6-8)

R Reyher, Ferdinand. David Farragut, Sailor. Lippincott, 1953. 238p. \$3.

A biography of Farragut that takes him from his birth through his first command at the age of thirteen. This is a well-written and detailed account that will be read more for its description of life on a Navy vessel, and especially of the life of a Midshipman, than as a biography. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Richard, James Robert. Quarterback All-American. Lothrop, 1953. 183p. \$2.50.

A poorly written, contrived story of a college senior who thinks he has killed a man during a football game, runs away to New York where he gets a job with a construction company, suffers from amnesia as a result of a tangle with a taxi cab, and ends up playing pro-football where he regains his memory and discovers that he did not kill the man after all. An implausible story and not even good as a sports story since it is more concerned with the mental turmoil of the main character than with descriptions of the game. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Rogers, Franke. The Robin Family Keeps Christmas. Lothrop, 1953. 64p. \$2.

Slight story of a robin family who came to this country from England and made their home in an abandoned tea kettle in Pennsylvania. Mr. Robin set off at once to explore the new country and almost forgot to start back in time to be home for Christmas. With the help of various animals he finally made it. Children with any intellectual curiosity at all will undoubtedly wonder why it is that although all of the birds in the story are personified, only the robins are unable to fly. The story is further marred by an unnecessary use of slang. (K-Gr. 2)

R Schneider, Herman, and Nina. More Power to You: A Short History of Power from the Windmill to the Atom; illus. by Bill Ballantine. Young Scott, 1953. 128p. \$2.50.

A simply written, very readable introduction to various kinds of power: wind; water; steam; gasoline and diesel engines; electricity; and jets, rockets, solar engines and atomic power. In each instance the authors begin with a history of the use of that particular kind of power and bring it up to modern times. Simple experiments help to explain some of the basic principles involved. (Gr. 4-9)

M Scott, Sally. Bobby and His Band; pictures by Beth Krush. Harcourt, 1954. 48p. \$2.

A slight but somewhat amusing story of young Bobby who sets out to imitate his older brother who has a new clarinet and has become a member of the school band. Bobby resurrects a toy horn that he had received one Christmas and goes marching down the sidewalk tooting on it. One by one the younger children in the neighborhood join him with an assortment of instruments—a drum, a dinner bell, a tin pan and spoon, and a pair of pan lids for cymbals. They meet a friendly man who joins them with his pocket comb and paper, and they serenade his family and friends. The people give the band members cookies and even take up a collection—seventeen cents worth—which the children spend for candy. When Bobby goes home that night his brother tells him condescendingly that it will be a long time before he will be old enough to play in a band, but Bobby just smiles and makes no comment. The book is too difficult for first and second grade readers to handle alone and will have limited appeal for older youngsters because of the extreme youth of the main character. (Gr. 3-4)

NR Seckar, Alvena. Trapped in the Old Mine; illus. by Jules Gotlieb. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Science Stories.) \$1.60.

An exceedingly didactic, contrived story of a young boy living in a coal mining town and his quick thinking which saves the life of his cousin who has fallen down the shaft of an abandoned mine. Pete, the cousin, is not only knocked unconscious by the fall but is suffering from the lack of oxygen in the shaft. Andy gets the fire company to turn its hose down the shaft so that the water pressure will carry enough oxygen down to keep Pete alive until he can be hauled out. Andy talks like a textbook on health and hygiene most of the time, and the other characters are equally unrealistic. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Sherman, Jane. The Real Book of Amazing Scientific Facts; illus. by Ida Schieb. Garden City Books, 1953. 192p. \$1.25.

A hodge-podge of odds and ends of information about a wide variety of subjects. There is little organization to the book, although it is indexed, and the bits of information about each subject are too sketchy to be of any real value. (Gr. 5-7)

Ad Shoemaker, Robert Hilles. Famous Football Players. Crowell, 1953. 214p. \$2.75.

Brief sketches of nineteen famous football players, with the emphasis on the games in which they made their most outstanding plays. Included are: Sammy Baugh; Tom Harmon; Red Grange; Jim Thorpe; Otto Graham; Dick Kazmaier; the Four Horsemen; Bob Waterfield; Blanchard, Davis, and Hein; Huston and Hirsch; Doak Walker; and Camp and Booth. The style is that of a newspaper sports page, or a sports record book. Both the writing and the coverage are very uneven. Libraries needing large amounts of materials on

football players will find the book useful.  
(Gr. 9-12)

Ad Smith, Elva Sophronia, comp. Adventure Calls; True Stories and Some That Might Have Been True; jacket by Kurt Werth. Lothrop, 1953. 281p. \$3. (Values: Courage.)

A collection of twenty-one tales of adventure, from the past and the present, most of them true and most of them excerpts from longer works. The collection begins with an interview with Tenzing Norkey made just before he joined the British expedition on its successful climb to the summit of Mt. Everest. The stories which follow are grouped according to adventures: In the West, At Sea, In the Air, and Here and There. The selections are well chosen and should have appeal for any readers who are satisfied with excerpts rather than the full length books.  
(Gr. 8-10)

Ad Sperry, Armstrong. John Paul Jones; Fighting Sailor. Random House, 1953. 180p. (A Landmark Book.) \$1.50.

A slightly fictionalized biography of John Paul Jones that concentrates on the events of his life from the time when he joined the U. S. Navy through the account of his capture of the Serapis. The first two chapters deal briefly with his early years and the final chapter sums up his later years. The account is adequate although this is by no means the same high quality of writing that has made Sperry's sea stories so popular.  
(Gr. 6-8)

NR Stevens, William Oliver. Famous Humanitarians. Dodd, Mead, 1953. 131p. \$2.75. Brief accounts of the work of twenty famous humanitarians. Included are: Saint Vincent de Paul, Edward Jenner, Walter Reed, Samuel Gridley Howe, Helen Adams Keller, Dorothea Lynde Dix, William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louis Braille, Florence Nightingale, Jean Henri Dunant, Clara Harlowe Barton, William Booth, Evangeline Cory Booth, Joseph Damien de Veuster, Ira Dutton, Jacob August Riis, Jane Addams, Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, and Albert Schweitzer. The writing is uneven; the format dull and unappealing. Juvenile encyclopedias give just as much and just as interesting accounts of most of these people. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Stevenson, Augusta. Zeb Pike, Boy Traveler; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans Series.) \$1.75.

A stilted biography of Zeb Pike with the emphasis on his early youth, and with the really interesting part of his life summed up in the final three chapters. The Baker, Pike of Pike's Peak (Harcourt, 1953) is only slightly more difficult and is infinitely better written.  
(Gr. 4-6)

NR Stoutenburg, Adrien. The Silver Trap. Westminster, 1954. 205p. \$2.50.

A contrived mystery involving the north woods, a foreign spy, and a uranium mine. Jeff Clausen and his brother, Ernie, were on their way to their family's camp in the northern Minnesota woods when Jeff was ambushed and robbed of his snowshoes, boots, mittens, and pack. Soon after that the two boys met a young girl who was looking for her grandfather, who had apparently also been stolen. The three joined forces and helped round up the kidnapping robber and his partner, both of whom turned out to be enemy agents who were after a uranium mine in Canada. The plot is melodramatic and the characters are wholly unrealistic.  
(Gr. 7-9)

NR Stovall, Charles. Hi, Everyone! Introducing Birds and Animals with Verse and Photographs. Pageant Press, 1953. 53p. \$2.

A collection of very mediocre verse, some of it no more than doggerel, about various kinds of birds and wild animals. Each verse is accompanied by a photograph of the animal. (Gr. 3-5)

Ad Streatfeild, Noel. The First Book of the Ballet; pictures by Moses Soyer. Watts, 1953. 93p. \$1.75.

An introduction to ballet for young readers. The information is presented in a semi-fictionalized manner through the experiences of nine-year-old Anne who decides she wants to become a ballet dancer upon seeing her first ballet. In spite of the obviously contrived story there is enough information about choosing a school, some of the basic steps and exercises that must be learned, and some of the history of the ballet to give the book appeal for young ballet enthusiasts.  
(Gr. 4-6)

R Syme, Ronald. John Smith of Virginia; illus. by William Stobbs. Morrow, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

A vigorous, interestingly written biography of John Smith, from his boyhood to his death. The author has drawn, with a sure hand, the picture of Smith with all his qualities of great leadership and also with those qualities which made men hate and envy him. The result is not always a pretty picture of either Smith or the men who first settled Jamestown but it is a very realistic one.  
(Gr. 6-8)

R Toba Sojo. The Animal Frolic. Putnam, 1954. 48p. \$2.75.

An excellent reproduction, in picture book form, of the twelfth century Japanese Scroll of Animals, traditionally attributed to Toba Sojo, and considered one of Japan's great art treasures. No story is inscribed on the original scroll and no attempt has been made here to provide a story, the simple text merely serving to point up for the child some of the action and humor which he

will find in the pictures, and to serve as a transition from one scene to the next. The pictures themselves, which have a remarkably modern appeal, tell the story of the games and activities of the animals during their annual picnic-frolic. Young children will delight in the humor and action of the pictures, and art classes will find the book valuable for its faithful reproduction of the entire scroll. (All ages)

M Tresselt, Alvin. Follow the Road; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, 1953. 26p. \$2. A picture book intended to show the un-endingness of roads. A small boy starts traveling down the road in front of his house to see where it goes. He meets a friend and stops to play, but the road goes on. It passes through woods, through farm land, through a small town, and through a large city until it becomes a super-highway. Soon it becomes a country road again and at the end it is back in front of the little boy's house. The idea that roads circle and come back to where they began is not a particularly accurate one to give young children, and the personification of the road in the text makes the idea even more difficult for the young child to grasp. The illustrations are not Duvoisin's best work. (Pre-school)

NR Tudor, Tasha. Edgar Allan Crow. Oxford 1953. 27p. \$1.75. Very slight, inconsequential story of a crow named Edgar Allan that was stolen from its nest while still a baby. As he grew up he noticed that all of the people in his new family had some work to do and it bothered him that every time he tried to help he just caused trouble. Then one day he was digging cutworms in the garden and was praised mightily for his efforts. Thereafter that was his regular job and he was happy. (Pre-school)

M Tufts, Anne. The Super's Daughter; illus. by Edward J. Smith. Holt, 1953. 216p. \$2.50. The Novak family were D.P.'s from Czechoslovakia, and seventeen-year-old Meri still found it hard sometimes to remember that conditions were not the same in this country as they had been in Europe during the war years. Her father was superintendent of an apartment building and, while answering the phone and running errands for the tenants, Meri wove all kinds of fantastic tales about who they were and what kinds of undercover activities they might be engaged in. Shortly after moving to the new building, Meri entered the nearby high school where she was delighted to find opportunities to follow her interest in art. Through her ability to sketch life-like images of people, Meri was able to help the New York police force capture a dangerous criminal, and as a reward she was given a scholarship to an art school. The life of a building superintend-

ent's family is interestingly portrayed, but Meri is not very realistic in her mystery solving. (Gr. 7-9)

Ad Wagoner, Jean (Brown). The Shepherd Lad; A Story of David of Bethlehem; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 168p. \$2.

A very uninspired biography of David of Bethlehem from the time he was six until he was proclaimed King of Israel. The emphasis is on his life as a shepherd boy in the hills near Bethlehem, although full treatment is also given to the Goliath incident. David seldom emerges as a very real person. The illustrations are quite unattractive. (Gr. 4-6)

M Walsh, Richard J. Adventures and Discoveries of Marco Polo; illus. by Cyrus Leroy Baldrige. Random House, 1953. 183p. (A World Landmark Book.) \$1.50. A moderately interesting account of Marco Polo's life in China between 1271 and 1295. Too much is telescoped into too small a space for the reader to get a very clear picture of the times, of Polo's position in China, or of the value of his writings for his own and later generations. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Wear, Ted. Brownie Makes the Headlines; illus. by Louis Ravielli. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Adventure Stories.) \$1.60. Brownie is a dog who gets lost soon after her pups are born. Her owner, Tommy, goes to the local newspaper office to place an ad, and the reporter there decides this will make a good front-page human interest story instead. While the story is being written and set up, Tommy goes over the plant and sees just how a newspaper operates. That night Brownie is found, proving once again the power of the press. The situation is one that is probable only in a small town, although this fact is not made clear in the book. Too contrived a piece of writing to be a good story, and totally unsatisfactory as an informational book. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Weeks, Jack, The Hard Way. Barnes, 1953. 192p. \$2.50. A highly sentimental story of a boy who grew up in the New York slums and was given a chance to become a baseball player through the efforts of a parish priest and a farmer who had once tried to become a big league player. The story is supposed to be based on real facts and it reads more like a case history than a story. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Welles, Louise M. and Schuyler, Anne. The King's Secret; illus. by Anne Schuyler. Vantage Press, 1953. 103p. \$2.75. A poorly written fantasy of knights and princesses

in the days of chivalry. A king's son is kidnapped and the princess' favorite suitor goes out to find him and return him to his home. As a side theme the king has prepared three colored balls and decreed that the man who guesses correctly the meaning of each will win the hand of the princess. As is to be expected, the knight who finds the boy also guesses the three meanings. The authors have borrowed lavishly from fairy tales and tales of chivalry, but any appeal these elements might have had are lost in the dull, plodding style of writing. The illustrations are unbelievably distorted and ugly. (Gr. 4-6)

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters on a River Trip; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City Books, 1953. 184p. 95¢.

Another event in the lives of the Hollister family. This time they are intent on rescuing a young boy from the clutches of a mean and miserly guardian and of locating the boy's long lost grandfather. As usual their efforts are hampered by the activities of the young juvenile delinquent, Joey, who is still bent on committing mayhem. (Gr. 5-7)

M White, Robb. Midshipman Lee of the Naval Academy. Random House, 1954. 216p. \$2.75.

A story of life at Annapolis told through flash-backs as Courtney Lee, a student at the Academy, lies in the hospital and thinks back over his two years of life in the school. He is in the hospital as a result of injuries received when the plane in which he was riding during a training flight crash-landed, and only his bravery saved his life and that of the pilot. Lee had always considered himself a coward, but during his review of his two years at Annapolis he realizes that he has what it takes to make a good Navy man. The picture of life in Annapolis is well done, but the book falls short as a story. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Mystery of the Black Diamonds; with decorations by John Gretzer. Westminster, 1954. 222p. \$2.50.

A routine mystery involving a ghost town in Colorado and a lost uranium mine. The Wetheral family went to Colorado so that Mr. Wetheral could get some local color for his next whodunit. During the process the children took over and helped to find a lost mine (uranium, of course), and the government's ten thousand dollar reward for the find enabled their father to settle down and work on the serious novel he had long wanted to write. A very average story in both plot and characterizations. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Wilson, Anthony C. Norman and Henry Investigate; illus. by Kurt Werth. Crowell, 1954. 176p. \$2.

Another story of Norman and Henry Bones, the

boy-wonder detectives of England. The book contains two complete stories. In the first, Norman and Henry help the local police round up a gang of robbers who work under the direction of an extremely clever and audacious leader. In the second, they become involved with a man who is engaged in smuggling undesirable aliens into England. As usual the boys acquit themselves with honor and with a sagacity far beyond their years. The relationship between the boys and the Inspector is so unrealistic as to be ludicrous. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Woolley, Catherine. The Animal Train and Other Stories; illus. by Robb Beebe. Morrow, 1953. 127p. \$2.50.

Twelve extremely slight stories about personified animals and things and about the everyday affairs of very young children. The book is written at about the third grade reading level, but the tone is so babyish, it is doubtful that any third graders could be persuaded to read it. The stories could be read aloud to pre-school children but they have little substance or point to hold the interest of the listeners. (Pre-school)

R Yates, Raymond Francis. How To Improve Your Model Railroad; drawings and diagrams by the author. Harper, 1953. 109p. \$2.

Interestingly written guide book for model railroad fans who want to improve their lay-outs. The directions are clear and easy to follow. Contents include: model factories, water towers, bridges, culverts, telegraph and power lines, coal pockets, etc. The book is particularly helpful in that it shows how to use scrap materials that are easily obtained and not expensive. There is considerable incidental railroad lore included. (Gr. 6- )

M Young, Ben T. Rock River Ranger; illus. by Nils Hogner. Abelard, 1953. 157p. \$2.50.

An adequate, not outstanding, story of the Rock Island, Illinois, settlement of the 1830's. Young Joel McCord, his mother and sister came to the settlement because of the mother's health. Joel hoped to become a gunsmith as his father had been, but at first he had to be contented with working for the American Fur Company as a kind of general handyman. He had a part in the Black Hawk Indian wars and eventually won for himself the job of gunsmithing which he wanted. (Gr. 7-9)

R Young, Scott, Boy on Defense; drawings by James Ponter. Little, 1953. 246p. \$2.75.

Sequel to Scrubs on Skates. This time the story centers around Bill Spunaska, the young Polish refugee who was just learning to play hockey in the first book. He is now an important member of the team and is facing the problem of trying to find enough time to play hockey and at the

same time earn some money to help his family. He gets a part time job, which helps temporarily, and by the end of the hockey season has been offered a place on a pro-hockey team, which he accepts even though it means giving up college for at least a year or so. The descriptions of the hockey games are quite good, and the characterizations are reasonably well drawn.

(Gr. 7-9)

R Zim, Herbert Spencer and Smith, Hobert M. Reptiles and Amphibians; A Guide to Familiar American Species; illus. by James Gordon Irving. Simon & Schuster, 1953. 159p. (Golden Nature Guide.) \$1.

A handy pocket guide for use in identifying American reptiles and amphibians. Many superstitions concerning some of these animals are exploded. The emphasis is on study of the surroundings,

although the authors do indicate which species make good pets. (Gr. 5- )

M Zim, Herbert Spencer. Things Around the House; illus. by Raymond Perlman. Morrow, 1954. 32p. \$1.75.

Another in the "What's Inside?" series. This time the author takes household equipment such as the doorbell, the electric light, the stove, the refrigerator, the furnace, and the toilet and explains through text and illustrations how each works. The combination of large print, small print, and diagramatic illustrations is even more confusing here than in the previous books. Much of the same material is contained in the Schneider, Let's Look Inside Your House ( W. R. Scott, 1948) in a much better format. (Gr. 3-5)