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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VIII

December, 1954

Number 4

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 Aldis, Dorothy (Keeley). Jane's Father; illus. by Mary Stevens. Putnam, 1954. 126p. \$2.50.

A new edition, with completely new page layout, and new illustrations, of a title first published in 1929. Although Jane and her mother would often sigh over some of Jane's father's foibles, such as eggs-in-a-mess or the way his head wobbled when he read the newspaper, they really preferred to keep him as he was. Young children will find Jane's father delightfully funny, as are also Jane and the hired man, William. The stories (each chapter is a complete episode) will be fun for families to read aloud or for independent reading. Mary Stevens' illustrations capture the real humor and sparkle of the stories perfectly. (Gr.3-5)

- SpR Ames, Evelyn. My Brother Bird; pictures by William Pène du Bois. Dodd, 1954. 126p. \$2.75.

A moving, sensitively written account of a family, endowed with a deep love and understanding of the animal world, who adopt an abandoned baby pigeon and raise him as a member of the family. Smoky is given the privilege of his independence, but he chooses life with the family instead. The writing has a depth and perception

that will appeal to mature readers, although the book could be read aloud in family groups where the age range was wide. (Gr.6-)

- M Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin. Finnegan II; His Nine Lives; illus. by Kate Seredy. Viking, 1953. 96p. \$2.50.

Finnegan II was a city bred alley cat who lived four of his nine lives in the city before he was sent to the country to live with Grandmother Brown on her New Hampshire farm. There he lived out his remaining five lives and then founded the old saying by continuing strong after his ninth life had been spent. The story moves slowly with many adult over-tones, and the ending is disappointingly flat and anti-climactic. Finnegan is so highly personified he ceases to seem like a cat. (Gr.4-6)

- NR Barr, Cathrine. The Runaway Chimps. Oxford, 1954. 30p. \$1.75.

Four chimps escape from the zoo, steal some clothes from a department store, and wander through town disguised as people until they read in the newspaper that their keeper has been jailed for allowing them to escape. They then give themselves up and are content thereafter to remain in their cage. A pointless, dull story with unattractive illustrations. Written at a middle third grade reading level. (Pre-school)

- M Barr, Jene. Baker Bill; illus. by Chauncey

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago Library, Children's Book Center. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this BULLETIN are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$2.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Maltman, Whitman, 1953. 32p. \$1.25. A day in a modern bakery is described in simple text and illustrations. The style is less difficult than that of the *Colonius At the Bakery* (Melmont, 1954), but it is also less interestingly presented. Some of the equipment is not as up-to-date as that pictured in the *Colonius* book, and the whole process of baking is not made as clear. There is too much jumping back and forth from the kitchen part of the bakery to the store part, and many of the story elements could well have been omitted. The illustrations do not always match the text, as when the wedding cake is described as being all white but is pictured in many colors. (Gr.2-3)

R Bate, Norman. Who Built the Bridge?

Scribner's, 1954. 45p. \$2.50.

When the Old Bridge over "Big Sleepy," a river that hated bridges, felt it could no longer withstand the pressure of spring floods, it suggested to the people that they get the machines to build a new bridge. This was done, and Old Bridge was strengthened and kept for pedestrian use. The book follows the same general pattern as that of *Who Built the Highway?* in having the machines themselves tell how they do their work. The illustrations are lighter in color than those of the earlier book and are more pleasing and easier for young children to understand. The slight personification of the bridge and the machines is skillfully handled in such a way that the informational value of the book is not lost. The text is written at an upper third grade reading level so the book will need to be read aloud to young children. (K-Gr.2)

M Beim, Jerrold. Mister Boss; illus. by Tracy Sugarman. Morrow, 1954. 46p. \$2.

A very obvious story of a small boy who rebels at being constantly bossed by his parents until one day when he is given a chance to do all the bossing for a full day. Naturally he overdoes it and is glad to let his parents take over again. The story has more possibility for use with parents to persuade them not to be so bossy than for use with children. (Gr.2-4)

R Berk, Barbara. The First Book of Stage Costume and Make-Up; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, 1954. 45p. \$1.75.

An introduction to costuming, both for the stage and for fancy-dress parties, Hallowe'en, stunt nights, and the like. Most of the costumes are made from simple materials that are to be found around the home or that can be purchased for very little. The author stresses the importance of keeping a costume box in which any old clothes, draperies, trimmings, hats, and other cast-offs can be kept for possible use as costume materials. Included are directions for making historical costumes, foreign costumes, fairy-tale costumes, animal costumes, costumes for holidays, trick costumes, shapes and figures, headgear, hair, and circus costumes. There is also a section on make-up and the basic principles for using it. At the end there is a brief bib-

liography on various types of costumes and a list of theatrical supply houses. In addition to being informative, the book will stimulate youngsters to use their own ingenuity in working out their own costuming problems. (Gr.6-8)

NR Bialk, Elisa. Marty Goes to Hollywood. World, 1954. 221p. \$2.50.

Another story of Marty Warren, glamorous young newspaper reporter. This time Marty has been sent to Hollywood for a month to find out what happens to young girls who try to break into the motion picture and TV business with no training or experience. Marty moves into a boarding house and pretends to be just another movie-struck teen-ager. She makes the rounds of the casting offices and tries for contacts that will help her get a start. During the course of the month she gets a chance to do a bit part in a movie, models for a fruit juice ad, and has the double job of a bit part and a stand-in on the Ozzie Nelson television show. In addition she collects a handsome young actor who takes her to a premiere and to a party at a star's home. The author has also included a sad story of a young girl who has nothing to offer but looks and who ends up in jail on a forgery charge (rescued, of course, by Marty). Ellen, the wayward girl, is obviously introduced to support the author's thesis that it takes more than beauty and talent to make a success in Hollywood. The fact remains, however, that Marty, without beauty, talent, or experience, has a phenomenal success within a short time — and any teenage girl reading the story is going to identify herself with Marty and not with Ellen. (Gr.7-9)

R Black, Irma (Simonton). Pete the Parakeet; illus. by Kurt Werth. Holiday House, 1954. 97p. \$2.50.

Slight, but pleasant story of Pete, a green parakeet, who is owned by a middle-aged couple who have no real interest in him aside from being occasionally amused by his antics. One day Pete escapes through an open window and is later rescued by a young boy who lives nearby. Andy, the boy, becomes quite fond of the bird and even goes to visit him after Pete has been restored to his owners. In due time they realize that the bird is happier with Andy than with them and so they give him to the boy and everyone is happy. Woven into the story are some good pointers on the care and training of parakeets. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Blough, Glenn Orlando. Wait for the Sunshine; The Story of Seasons and Growing Things; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1954. 48p. \$2.25.

In a semi-fictionalized style the author has traced the cycle of seasons from spring to spring, showing the effects of each season on people's spirits and on growing things. The emphasis is on spring and summer and the effects of sunshine on all living things. The semi-fictionalized style and rather slight content will limit the book's usefulness. (Gr.3-5)

M Brady, James T. Chris Turner, Magician; illus. by Lloyd Coe. Ariel, 1954. 120p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Chris Turner became interested in magic while watching the Great Gaston on a television program. When a near failure in reading brought forth a parental injunction against television, Chris turned to books about magic as a means of improving his reading and finding out more about the subject that was beginning to fascinate him. From there it was a short step to learning a few tricks, putting on a show for the neighborhood children, and finally getting to meet the Great Gaston in person. The story is very slight and its appeal will be primarily for those youngsters who are just beginning to be interested in magic. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Brett, Grace Neff. Squiffy the Skunk; photographs by George Neff and Grace Neff Brett. Rand McNally, 1953. 30p. (A Book-Eif Book). 25¢.

Color photographs of unnatural, uncomfortable-looking cats, skunks, and a dog dressed in clothes and with various props. A contrived, determinedly humorous story about how Squiffy gets a present from Miss Kat-erina runs along beside the illustrations. (Pre-school)

R Bunce, William Harvey. Freight Train; drawings by Lemuel B. Line. Pufnam, 1954. 30p. \$2.

Full-color, scale drawings, which originally appeared in Fortune magazine, depict the various kinds of cars that go to make up a typical freight train. The brief, rather simply written text explains the functions of the various cars and gives some slight additional information on freight trains in general. Literal minded youngsters may be slightly disturbed by the fact that the text describes the train as if it were passing by on a track and yet in two places the cars are uncoupled. An interesting, informative book that should have a wide range of use and appeal.

(Gr. 4-8)

R Burgwyn, Mebane Holoman. Moonflower. Lippincott, 1954. 186p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations; Value building; Growing up)

Julie Hudson had drifted into college and through her first three years with no more definite interest in life than a rather vague and unformed liking for art. Just before the end of her junior year, her father lost all of his money and the family were forced to move from their home in the city to a nearby farm, which was the only property they were able to save. By the time Julie returned from college the other members of the family had made the adjustment to the new life and were liking it. At first Julie felt left out and as if she were no longer a member of the family circle, but in time she found her place and, through her art, began to discover a real focus for her life. The story is primarily one of Julie's growing understanding of herself, but there is also a romance angle to satisfy the current demand for love stories. The characterizations are well handled and the book will make satis-

factory reading for the less mature readers who are wanting this type of story. (Gr. 6-10)

Ad Carpenter, Shirley and Neurath, Marie. Icebergs and Jungles; Artists: Michael Charlton and Marjorie Saynor. Hanover House, 1954. 31p. \$1.

A brief overview of the climate zones of the world, what causes them and what are their characteristics. The material is presented in text, maps, and isotype drawings. So much has been attempted in so short a space that no one aspect of the subject has been given full treatment. The colorful maps and drawings will give the book appeal as an introductory book on the subject or for browsing. (Gr. 6-8)

R Chastain, Madye Lee. Dark Treasure. Harcourt, 1954. 208p. \$2.75.

A story of New York City during the days of the clipper ships, and of young Lissa Spenlow whose grandfather builds clippers and whose young uncle, Andrew, sails them. It is through Andrew that Lissa has her most exciting adventure. When he returns from one trip to Bombay, he brings with him a stolen idol, taken in an act of thoughtless revenge as retaliation against the natives who had stolen the copper sheathing from his ship. After Andrew has been seriously injured by the men who are trying to recover the idol, Lissa courageously arranges a meeting with them and returns it. The shadow of dark intrigue is lightened by the vivid pictures of life in New York City during this period. The characters are well drawn and lend an air of reality to a plot that is rather far-fetched, but avoids becoming melodramatic.

(Gr. 6-8)

SpR Chipperfield, Joseph E. Greeka, Eagle of the Hebrides; drawings by Larry Toschik. Longmans, 1954. 236p. \$3.

This time Mr. Chipperfield has turned from dogs to a golden eagle nesting in the wild mountains of the Hebrides. As in the earlier books the bits of action are interspersed with long descriptive passages of the country. The action in this book is even more slight than in some of the others and for that reason the story will not have wide appeal. For those who will make the effort there are excellent pictures of the country and a sure knowledge of the magnificent birds and their ways. (Gr. 9-12)

NR Christopher, Matthew F. The Lucky Baseball Bat; with illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1954. 123p. \$2.50.

Young Marvin has just moved to a new town where he wants to play baseball but is too unsure of himself to make much of an impression on the local sand lot team. A friendly high school boy gives him a bat which is supposed to be lucky and with it Marvin earns for himself a place on the team. In time, of course, he comes to realize that the bat is not lucky but that it is his own ability that is responsible for his good batting and fielding average. A very thin story, and few boys will appreciate Marvin's constant reliance on his younger sister

Jeannie for help in solving all of his problems.
(Gr.4-6)

R Clark, Denis. Black Lightning; The Story of a Leopard; illus. by C. Gifford Ambler. Viking, 1954. 144p. \$2.50.

The dramatic story of the life of a black leopard in the jungles of Ceylon. Black Lightning became separated from his mother while he was still a cub and his life then became a long struggle to keep alive in the face of innumerable dangers from the other animals in the jungle and from man. There are excellent descriptions of the country in which Black Lightning lived, adroitly woven into the story so that they add color to the writing without slowing the smooth pace of the plot.
(Gr.6-8)

R Cleary, Beverly. Henry and Ribsy; illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

More humorous adventures of Henry Huggins and his dog, Ribsy. This time Henry has bargained with his father for a chance to go salmon fishing — he can go if he can keep Ribsy out of trouble during August and September. That is a formidable task what with Ribsy's dislike for the garbage collector, his love for chasing the neighbor's cat, and his unremitting effort to recover his favorite bone when it is taken by Beezus' sister Ramona. However, by the end of the summer Henry has kept Ribsy from any activities that would call forth the wrath of the neighbors or the police and he and Ribsy get their fishing trip and their fish, although the latter is not caught in the strictly orthodox manner. In many ways this has more real child humor than some of the earlier Cleary books have had.
(Gr.4-6)

NR Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. The Giant Golden Book of Cat Stories; pictures by Feodor Rojankovsky. Simon and Schuster, 1953. 66p. (A Giant Golden Book). \$3 Goldencraft Cloth Binding.

A collection of short stories, very brief articles, poems, and one song, all of them about cats, except for three articles which are about other animals. The stories are uneven in quality of writing and are generally quite pointless, especially the ones about talking animals. The articles contribute nothing to a child's understanding of cats, and seem to have no real purpose in the book unless it is for padding. Many of the illustrations are attractive but they are not an important enough part of the book to overcome the poor quality of the text.
(K-Gr.1)

Ad Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W. At the Bakery. Melmont Pub., 1954. \$1.35 pre-bound.

A purposive book designed both as an easy reading book and to teach the process of bread making on a large scale. Two children who have been studying about bread at school visit a bakery and are shown the entire process. The explanations are clear and the book will be useful for social studies units. By developing the technical vocabulary in class before using the book it can be handled at a second grade reading level.

Without such preparation it will require an average third grade reader to handle it with ease.
(Gr.2-4)

Ad Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W. At the Harbor. Melmont Pub., 1954. 24p. \$1.35 pre-bound.

Two children and their teacher visit a dock to watch the freighters being docked and unloaded. The book has interesting content, but the illustrations vary widely in quality. Some are quite good; others are not clearly reproduced and therefore do not convey to the child the information that is being emphasized in the text. The book is written at a middle third grade reading level, although it might be used at a lower level where there has been some vocabulary drill on the technical terms.
(Gr.2-4)

Ad Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W. At the Library. Melmont Pub., 1954. 24p. \$1.35 pre-bound.

An account, in simple text and photographs, of a class visit to the public library. The second grade class meets the children's librarian; is shown how books are processed, shelved and circulated; examines the card catalog; and sees some of the exhibits in the library. The visit ends with a story hour. The book could be used as a part of the preparation for a similar class visit. Written at an average second grade reading level.
(Gr.1-3)

R Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W. At the Post Office. Melmont Pub., 1954. 32p. \$1.35 pre-bound.

Susan and Steve go with their mother to mail a package at the local post office and, at their mother's request, are taken on a tour of the building. On the way home their mother tells them more about the postal service and later they visit a railroad mail car. The simply written text and clear illustrations will give the book value for social studies units on the postal service.
(Gr.2-4)

R Coombs, Charles Ira. Skyrocketing into the Unknown; illus. with photographs. Morrow, 1954. 256p. \$4.

A detailed, very readable discussion of the progress that has been made thus far in supersonic and space travel and the problems that are still to be overcome before man can travel into the upper reaches of space. The many, excellent photographs are as important as the text and will give the book added value and appeal.
(Gr.7-12)

NR Combs, Charles Ira. Young Circus Detective; illus. by Charles Hand Geer. Lantern Press, 1954. 192p. (Young Heroes Library) \$2.50.

An exceedingly thin, poorly written mystery story about a circus that is being sabotaged by a crook who wants to buy it cheaply and resell it to a larger outfit. Just before the owner is forced to sell, his young son discovers the villain and saves the show. The characters are poorly drawn, the plot is too dependent on

coincidence, the writing is quite mediocre. The illustrations are crude and the paper is of such poor quality that the inking comes through in many places. (Gr.4-6)

NR Dehkes, Evelyn S. The Pink Ballet Slippers; illus. by Ruth Ruhman. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 202p. \$2.50.

Ten-year-old Grete Holm dreamed of the day when she could own a pair of pink ballet slippers, even though she knew that ballet lessons were out of the question financially. Then she had an opportunity to accompany her best friend, Marie, when Marie went for her first ballet lessons. Grete became so interested in what was going on that she unconsciously joined in the class from the sidelines. That disrupted the group for a while but the teacher was sympathetic and arranged for Grete to join the class and do odd jobs around the school in return for her lessons. Interwoven into the story are detailed descriptions, with illustrations, of some of the basic ballet steps. The characters are not always consistently portrayed, for instance, one little girl is supposed to lisp, but she does so on only one "s" out of every sentence, and sometimes not at all. Some of the episodes which are evidently intended to be funny are not in very good taste. The same information about ballet steps is available in such books as the Freeman Fun with Ballet (Random House, 1952) where it is not cluttered by a story. (Gr.5-7)

NR Devine, Louise Lawrence. Funland Party; illus. by Helen Szepelak. Rand McNally, 1953. 30p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

Timothy's birthday surprise is a trip to Funland with his friends. The children are all excited and happy but they are unnaturally generous and well-behaved for six-year-olds. They climax the trip by taking a shy little girl, who is also celebrating her birthday, on the rides. The illustrations are out of focus and disproportioned. On page 30, the first lines of text and the pictures are reversed. (K-Gr.1)

NR Dietz, Lew. Jeff White: Forest Fire Fighter. Little, Brown, 1954. 210p. \$2.75.

Another story of Jeff White and his experiences in the forests of northern Maine. This time the plot revolves around a French lumberman who has jumped his bond and is trying to return to Canada, a disguised archaeologist who turns out to be hunting for gold and who commits two murders in the course of the story, and a young girl disguised as a boy who has come back to make sure that her deceased grandfather, an explorer, is buried in the spot of his choice. The whole of them, plus the inevitable Skip, and a bush pilot named Link, come together for a grand climax in and around a forest fire. The archaeologist dies with his ill-gotten gold clutched firmly in hand; the girl and Link plunge into an intense love affair — on the basis of two meetings during one of which Link did not know that she was a girl. Jeff and Skip, being still too young for such matters, go off looking for new adventures. Very patterned and unrealistic. (Gr.7-9)

NR Dixon, Ruth. Scalawag the Monkey; photographs by Rie Gaddis. Rand McNally, 1953. 30p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

Scalawag, the monkey, runs away from his organ-grinder boss Murdstone Mastiff and has various adventures at a play school for puppies and kittens. The coy text is painfully contrived to go with the pictures which are color photographs of animals, dressed like people, and looking hunted and uncomfortable. (Pre-school)

NR Ecuyer, Lee. Zippy Goes to School; photographs by Albert G. Westellin and Lee Ecuyer. Rand McNally, 1954. 26p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

Another story about Zippy, the chimpanzee who appears occasionally on television. This time the very slight story and color photographs have been contrived to show the events of a day during which Zippy visits a school. The book could have appeal for youngsters who have seen Zippy on television but it is too obviously made to order to have value otherwise. (K-Gr.1)

NR Edmonds, Elmer V. Atomic 'Energry Goes Prospecting. Pageant Press, 1953. 210p. \$3.

An attempt at science fiction that outdoes the comic books in poor writing, fantastic episodes, forced humor, and inaccurate information. The two children, Atomic 'Energry and Beta Ray, go vacationing with their friends the Jeps in the California desert country. Their adventures include excursions into the past, fantastic uses of atomic power, and a round or so with some gnomes. The author struggles desperately hard to be funny, but the results are more often painful than humorous. (Gr.4-6)

NR Eisenberg, Philip and Mariam. The Brave Gives Blood; illus. by Lee Ames. Messner, 1954. 62p. (Everyday Science Stores). \$1.60.

Frank and Billy have for years carried on a campaign of friendly rivalry at Camp Takana-see each summer. This year their rivalry includes trying to outdo each other in collecting specimens for their cabin's project — finding examples of unusual animals that represent the three types — warm-blooded, cold-blooded, and no-blood animals. Their counselor is an Indian and when Billy has an accident, the counselor teaches a lesson in the similarity of all human blood by providing the transfusion that Billy needs. A contrived story that is too obviously trying to teach a lesson. (Gr.4-6)

SpR Farjeon, Eleanor. The Silver Curlew; illus. by Ernest H. Shepard. Viking, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

A fanciful tale based on the English folktale of "Tom Tit Tot" and the Mother Goose rhyme "The Man in the Moon." Doll, the beautiful but lazily dreamy daughter of Mother Codling, is wedded to Nellekins, the King of Norwich who mistakenly thinks her to be a wonderful spinner.

She makes the usual bargain with the small black imp who offers to do the spinning for her, and is saved at the final moment by her sister Poll, who with the help of the Man and Lady of the Moon has managed to learn the imp's name. The title of the book is taken from the fact that the Lady of the Moon has been changed into a silver curlew and is cared for by Poll when one of the Horribles from the Witch Wood breaks her wing. All ends happily in true fairy tale style. A liting tale to appeal to the more sensitive, imaginative reader. (Gr.4-6)

NR Faulkner, George H. Gentlemen and Rebels; with illus. by Harve Stein. Little, Brown, 1954. 223p. \$3.

A collection of nine stories, in the form of radio scripts, based on material originally gathered for the writing of the "Cavalcade of America" radio programs. Some of the material is interesting, although there are distortions of historical events because of the limitations imposed by the drama form in which it is presented. The style has the glib, highly glossed quality that is characteristic of most radio programs. Occasionally, as in John Adams' famous quotation in justification of his efforts in the defense of the English soldiers who were involved in the Boston Massacre, the original is infinitely more effective than is Falkner's dry and rather emasculated version. The book might be useful for classes wanting to dramatize scenes from American History but would have little appeal otherwise. (Gr.8-10)

M Fenton, Carroll Lane and Mildred Adams. Our Changing Weather. Doubleday, 1954. 110p. \$2.50.

A fairly simple explanation of weather phenomena and their causes. Air, heat, water, and earth are explained in relation to their effect on weather; certain aspects of weather such as clouds, haze, fog, rain, thunder and lightning, snow, dew and frost are explained; and at the end there is a section on weather prediction and how to read weather maps. The material is accurate, but the style of writing is very poor. The misuse of pronouns makes some of the passages difficult to read, and several typographical errors, such as the transposition of lines of type and the omission of a word, do not make the reading any easier. (Gr.5-8)

NR Fine, Aaron. The School Bus Picnic. Holt, 1954. 30p. \$2.25.

Slight story in which a school bus breaks down one spring day and the children who were on it have a picnic in the woods as they wait for someone to come and fix the bus. The story has too much realism for young readers to regard it as a fanciful tale, and yet it is completely beyond the realm of probability in that the children are left to their own devices all day and apparently no one from the school thinks to send another bus to take them on to school. Although the text is written at an upper second grade reading level, its arrangement on the page — going up and down hill and around corners — will make it difficult for beginning readers to handle. The

illustrations are without distinction. (K-Gr.2)

NR Ford, J. Duncan. The Superliner United States; World's Fastest Liner; illus. by A. K. Bilder. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

Two children travel from America to France on the United States and are taken on a complete tour of the ship. The text fluctuates widely in reading difficulty and in difficulty of comprehension — on one page the children get a chocolate cookie from the cook, and on the next learn about the workings of gyrocompass, sextant and chronometer. From the illustrations the children look to be about three and five, and their conversations vary from two-year-old to adult. Many of the illustrations are blurred and uninteresting. (Pre-school)

R Franklin, George Cory. Tuffy; illus. by L. D. Cram. Houghton, 1954. 148p. \$2.25.

The story of a young beaver through several years of his life. When the pond where he was born became overcrowded, Tuffy went alone to a place up the stream that was suitable for building a dam and a new pond. There he lived through one round of seasons, building the dam and making sure that the place was safe enough for him to live. He then returned to his home pond for a mate. Later other beavers were transferred to the new pond by the conservation men. During the next few years the beaver dam and pond were responsible for saving the crops in the valley below and the lives of many animals from nearby regions when the country suffered a prolonged and severe drought. In spite of a tendency to personify Tuffy more than is realistic, the author tells an absorbing story and one that will have added value as conservation material. (Gr.5-7)

R Freeman, Lydia and Don. Pet of the Met. Viking, 1953. 63p. \$2.50.

Maestro Petrini is a mouse who lives in the attic of the Met with his family and who earns his living as page-turner for the Met's prompter. Of all the operas he sees each year, his favorite is "The Magic Flute," which he and his family attempt to perform in the attic occasionally. It is an exciting day for them when the Maestro makes arrangements for them to attend a children's performance of their favorite opera. During the performance Petrini is so carried away by the music, he hops out of the prompter's box and joins the dancers on the stage. The act almost costs him his life when Mephisto, a cat with no music in his soul, appears on the scene, but fortunately for the Maestro "The Magic Flute" has the power to charm even a thoroughly unmusical cat. The colorful illustrations and the humor and suspense in both the text and the pictures will have appeal, although the whole is rather sophisticated. A book to read aloud. (K-Gr.2)

M Frick, C. H. Tourney Team. Harcourt, 1954. 215p. \$2.75.

Rocky Ryan, a sophomore on the Hillcrest High

basketball team, was asked by the coach to turn in his suit after he had ignored repeated warnings about his unnecessarily rough playing. At first he tried to get his friends to lead a school strike to get himself reinstated and then he turned to writing sports stories for the school newspaper. By the time the team had reached the state finals, Rocky had shown so thorough a change in attitude that he was reinstated on the team. At the end of the season the team lost the state championship by one point. The game descriptions are well handled, as are some of the characterizations. Rocky's change comes about somewhat too thoroughly and too quickly to be wholly convincing. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Friskey, Margaret (Richards). The True Book of Birds We Know; color plates by Anna Pistorius. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

Simple text and illustrations tell something of the various kinds of birds there are and some of their nesting and eating habits. The material is simply presented and will be interesting for young readers as an introduction to the study of birds. The illustrations are not as satisfactory as might be desired. Some of the colors are not very clear and the one illustration of eggs makes them look more like rocks than eggs. The text is written at an upper second grade reading level. (Gr.2-3)

R Gaer, Joseph. The Adventures of Rama; The Story of the Great Hindu Epic Ramayana; illus. by Randy Monk. Little, Brown, 1954. 210p. \$3.

A re-telling of the stories from the Ramayana that follows closely the Valmiki version, omitting the episodes which digress from the main story line. The book is divided into six main sections in which the story of Rama's banishment, his wanderings with Sita, Sita's capture by Ravan and her rescue by Rama and the monkeys, and the eventual return of Rama to his rightful throne are told with a simplicity and ease that will make the book suitable for reading aloud and for independent reading. For younger readers this book will have much the same appeal as the Greek myths and legends; for some of the more perceptive older girls it could be read as a love story comparable to that of Tristan and Isolde or Aucassin and Nicolette. The last chapter contains material that was added by writers who came after Valmiki. At the end there is an index with a note on names, and a bibliography of other books on the subject, most of them adult titles. (Gr.6-8)

M Graham, Janette Sargeant. Challenge of the Coulee; decorations by Sidney Quinn. Longmans, 1954. 197p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Syd Clayton disliked farming and resented the set of circumstances which forced him to stay on his family's ranch rather than going away to school to learn the engineering that was his main interest in life. However, with his father dead and his older brother slowly recovering from a serious leg injury there was nothing for Syd to do but settle down to ranch

work and make the best of it. This he does, and successfully, in spite of a youthful fling that almost gets him into serious trouble, a fire that destroys the wheat crop, and the activities of a shiftless handy man who turns out to be a hunted criminal. The book gives a good picture of the difficulty of dry farming in the Columbia Basin and of a young boy's acceptance of a distasteful responsibility, but some of the episodes, and especially those involving the hired man, seem much too contrived to be realistic. (Gr.7-9)

NR Graham, Shirley. The Story of Pocahontas; illus. by Mario Cooper. Grosset, 1953. 178p. (Signature Books). \$1.50.

A fictionalized account of the life of Pocahontas from her birth several years before the settlement of Jamestown to her death in England twenty-two years later. The account is not always in agreement with other histories of the same period and the author gives no sources for her version. The writing is in no way outstanding. (Gr.4-6)

R Grant, Bruce. Warpath; A Tale of the Plains Indians; illus. by Jacob Landau. World, 1954. 220p. \$2.75.

A story of the Indian Wars of 1874 when the Comanche tribes joined together for the first time in their history to make a final stand against the white men who were trying to force them to live on reservations. The events of the story are seen through the eyes of sixteen-year-old Brick Burnet, who with his younger brother Sul, had been captured by the Comanches four years before. Brick's attempts to escape from the Indians and his part in the fight at Adobe Walls makes an exciting story of this period. The author has attempted to present the conflict fairly from the point of view of both the Indians and the white men. Not outstanding writing. (Gr.7-9)

SpC Halladay, Anne M. The Boy with the Busy Walk; illus. by Iris Beatty Johnson. Friendship Press, 1954. 128p. \$2 cloth, \$1.25 paper.

An obviously contrived story of a young boy living in Denver who moves across town to spend a summer with his grandparents while his own parents are out of town. The section in which his grandparents live borders on a blighted area, and Tippy, the young boy, soon becomes involved with some of the neighborhood children and their activities at the local mission church. As an account of the kind of work that is done in mission churches this is adequate, but it is too obvious in its lesson to have much appeal simply as a story. (Gr.4-6)

NR Harvey, Laura Turnidge. Living Is the Most Fun There Is. Pageant Press, 1954. 43p. \$2.

An excessively coy story, supposedly written by a dog, and relating her adventures around the house and on walks through the park. (Gr.4-6)

M Haywood, Carolyn. Betsy and the Circus.
Morrow, 1954. 190p. \$2.95. (Values:
Friendship values; Age-mate relations).
Another story of Betsy and her friends at school.
As in the earlier books, Betsy's adventures are
those of any normal youngster her age and they
are told with a light touch. The last few chap-
ters, in which Betsy and Ellen have a temporary
falling-out over Betsy's friendship with a new
girl, will give youngsters a better understanding
of some of their own problems in age-mate re-
lations. Both the style and the content make this
a book for older readers than the age that usual-
ly reads the Betsy books, and there is not the
spontaneity of the earlier stories. (Gr.3-5)

NR Heath, Janet Field (Curtis). Little Lost An-
gel; illus. by Janet Laura Scott. Rand
McNally, 1953. 29p. (A Book-Elf Book).
25¢.

A sentimental story of a little angel who comes
to earth with the big angels on the first Christ-
mas. She falls asleep among the sheep and is
left behind. She gives her harp and crown away
to a man and woman, and her wings to a lame
shepherd boy. She is then adopted by a couple
who had wanted a child, and she grows up with
them. Much of the text — in both the language
and the concepts — will be beyond the compre-
hension of the picture book age for whom the
book is intended. (Pre-school)

M Hilles, Helen Train. Moving Day; pictures
by Jean Tamburine. Lippincott, 1954.
63p. \$2.

Seven-year-old Tim was quite satisfied with his
life. He liked his parents, his home, his school,
and, most of the time, his younger sister Jane.
His security was threatened when the family was
forced to sell the house and move to an apart-
ment, although the new home was still in the
neighborhood of Tim's school. Tim was unhappy
at the prospect of the move, but once it had been
accomplished he discovered that home was still
as good a place as it had seemed before. A
slight story, but one that might be used to help
a young child adjust to the idea of a change. Writ-
ten at a third grade reading level. (Gr.1-2)

M Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath,
Reinald. Growing Things; illus. by Ruth
Thompson van Tellingen. Rand McNally,
1954. 28p. 25¢.

When Susan's mother finds a lone sweet potato
in a bag of Irish potatoes, she gives it to Susan
to put in a bowl of water and watch it grow. In
time the vines from the potato grow to be almost
as long as Susan is tall. Not much story, but it
could encourage other young children to try a
similar nature study experiment. (Pre-school)

Ad Hubbell, Harriet Weed. Cannons over Niag-
ara. Westminster, 1954. 191p. \$2.75.
Twelve-year-old Eben Bascom was captured by
a small group of Mohawk Indians as he was on
his way, with his father, from Chester, Pennsylv-
ania to Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario. He
was taken to Fort George on the Canadian side
of the Niagara River, and from there escaped to

Buffalo. This was in 1812 just as the war be-
tween England and the United States began and
it was not until the close of the war that Eben
was finally reunited with his father. The ac-
count of Eben's adventures in and around Buf-
falo as he tried to contribute to the war effort,
find his father, and dodge his former Indian
captor has moments of suspense, but is, on the
whole, too drawn out and slow-paced to hold
the reader's interest. (Gr.7-9)

R Hughes, Langston. The First Book of
Rhythms; pictures by Robin King. Watts,
1954. 63p. \$1.75.

An unusual book, beautifully written, to intro-
duce to children the rhythms that are around
them, showing how rhythms are to be found in
every aspect of life, in all movement, in sounds,
and even in the feel and smell of things. The
way in which all things are tied to all other
things through rhythms is simply but clearly
expressed. The book will be excellent to intro-
duce young readers to an awareness of the har-
monies of life around them, and also to stimu-
late them to try to create more rhythms of
their own in drawings, music, poetry, and oth-
er aspects of living. Teachers at the elemen-
tary level will find the book helpful for their
own use to give them ideas of ways in which
the idea of rhythms can be presented to young
children. Readers at the upper elementary and
junior high school level will be able to use the
book by themselves. (Gr.6-9)

M Jewett, Eleanore Myers. Felicity Finds a
Way. Viking, 1952. 304p. \$2.75.

Felicity is a small girl living with her grand-
parents in New York City at the close of the
Revolutionary War. Although Felicity's broth-
er Harry is a soldier in Washington's army,
her grandparents are staunch Tories and Fe-
licity is torn between her love for her brother
and her indoctrination by her grandparents. At
the end of the war the Dorsetts move to the Ba-
hama Islands and Felicity is again unhappy,
this time at the thought of leaving both her
brother and her slave girl, Cinder, behind. She
solves the latter problem by smuggling Cinder
on board ship, a move that brings many prob-
lems when Cinder becomes seriously ill and
when it is discovered that the boy who helped
Cinder get aboard also decided to stowaway.
The account of the trip to the Bahamas and of
the adjustments that have to be made to the
new way of life is well told but is slow-moving
and may prove too long for many readers at
this level. (Gr.6-8)

M Johnston, Ralph E. Old Tangle Eye; illus.
by William Moyers. Houghton, 1954.
178p. \$2.50.

A story of the hazards of homesteading and
gold mining in the early days of Colorado.
Twelve-year-old Steve Merrill and his uncle's
family came to Fort St. Vrain thinking to be
met by Steve's father who had come out a year
earlier to start homesteading. Instead they
discover that George Merrill has disappeared,
his shanty has been burned down, and a sus-

picious character named Musgrove tries to buy them out and then to frighten them away. In the end Steve's uncle establishes his homestead, George Merrill is found, and all ends happily. The book gets its title from the name given to a rogue buffalo who causes the death of Musgrove. There is little originality to the plot or the way in which it is handled, although the story moves well and gives an interesting picture of life during the period. (Gr.5-7)

M Kenyon, Paul B. Driftwood Captain; illus. by Louise Kenyon. Houghton, 1954. 124p. \$2.

Twelve-year-old Pete Leonard was determined his family should have a cruising boat, large enough for the entire family and sea-worthy enough to use on long voyages. Not all of his family felt as he did, although when he found an abandoned hull and set about reconditioning it, the others became interested enough to help him over the most difficult spots. Woven into the story of Pete's efforts to reclaim the old boat is a slight mystery concerning some hidden pewter ware and an old boat builder who was trying to clear the name of one of his ancestors who had made the pewter and who had been wrongly accused of piracy. The boatbuilding part of the story is good; the mystery is never made very clear and serves to clutter rather than to enhance the story. (Gr.5-7)

R Kettelkamp, Larry. Magic Made Easy. Morrow, 1954. 60p. \$2.

An introduction to magic tricks for young readers. The first tricks are simple ones that can be done with practice and very little equipment. Toward the end of the book some more elaborate tricks are described and some suggestions for patter are given. The text is printed with no chapter headings or other divisions and the results are sometimes confusing, as it is not always obvious where one trick stops and another one begins. The illustrations are clear and helpful in explaining the text. (Gr.5-7)

R King, Marian. Young Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots. Lippincott, 1954. 155p. \$2.50.

The story of Mary Stuart's life in France from the time she arrived there from Scotland at the age of five and a half, until her return to Scotland thirteen years later. Those thirteen eventful years are vividly described with full and colorful details of French court life of the time and of the many intrigues in which Mary was involved through her uncles who were determined to make the Guise family a power in European politics. A very readable biography and an interesting picture of this period in French history. (Gr.7-9)

R Knight, Ruth Adams (Yingling). The Land Beyond; A Story of the Children's Crusade; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1954. 218p. \$2.95.

A dramatic tale of the Children's Crusade as seen through the experiences of young David, son of an English knight and a Swiss girl, and Ede, a blind girl from somewhere in Germany. David's father had given his life to the Second Crusade

and David's mother was almost heretically bitter in her belief that the Crusades were not worth the price they exacted in broken lives and bodies. In spite of her opposition, David joins the company of children who are following Nicholas, the boy monk, and with them makes the dangerous, difficult trip over the Alps into Italy. Ede reaches the Holy Sepulcher and her eyesight is restored; David gets no farther than Genoa, but he finds an equally priceless gift in his final understanding of what he wants from life and in his decision to become a monk. The author carefully refrains from voicing her own opinion as to the right or wrong of the Crusades, but she gives the thoughtful reader much to think about on both sides of the question. The story is somewhat weakened by an overdependence on coincidence. (Gr.8-10)

R Landis, Paul H. Your Dating Days; Looking Forward to Happy Marriage; foreword by Helen Judy Bond. Whittlesey House, 1954. 155p. \$2.50.

An exceedingly sane and healthy approach to many of the problems of dating, courtship and marriage which young people face. The writing is straightforward and mature; there is nothing coy or condescending in the treatment of any of the problems that are presented. The book should have value for all libraries which are serving teen-age readers and also for home collections. (Gr.8-12)

Ad Lansing, Marion Florence. When Washington Traveled; as a Pioneer, a Statesman, and a Private Gentleman; illus. by Corydon Bell. Doubleday, 1954. 224p. \$2.75.

Fairly detailed accounts of Washington's trips, as a private citizen, as an emissary and scout for the British, and during his two terms as President of the United States. His travels in connection with the Revolutionary War are not included. The material is interesting and gives a side of Washington that is not often stressed. There is a labored conscientiousness about the writing that will keep the book from being widely read except on assignment. (Gr.6-8)

M Latham, Jean Lee. Medals for Morse; Artist and Inventor; illus. by Douglas Gorsline. Aladdin, 1954. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

An entertaining but very superficial biography of Samuel F. B. Morse from the time he was four years old until the sending of the first successful telegraph message from Washington to Baltimore on May 24, 1844 (not May 14 as is given in the book). (Gr.5-7)

R Le Grand. Tom Benn and Blackbeard, the Pirate. Abingdon, 1954. 63p. \$2.

Another of Le Grand's humorous interpretations of an event in American history. This time the scene is Ocracoke Inlet in North Carolina where Blackbeard was captured by Lieutenant Maynard of the U. S. Navy. Tom Benn, a twelve-year-old, was tired of hoeing beans

and corn and of hauling water for the Saturday night bath. When the opportunity came he slipped away to visit the pirate ship that had anchored off the shore by the Benn farm, and shortly found himself serving as an unwilling cabin boy for the pirate Blackbeard. Far from being glamorous, his life was now a round of serving meals — and hauling water for the pirate's Saturday night bath! When the pirate ship once again anchored in Ocracoke Inlet, Tom slipped overboard with Blackbeard's wooden bath tub, rowed out to where the Navy ships were anchored, and led them back to the Inlet to capture the pirates. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Lewis, J. M. Sailing and Small Boats.
Crowell, 1954. 95p. \$2.

An introduction to sailing and the handling of small boats for the beginner. Includes a description of the various kinds of small boats; navigation; weather and tides; signalling; safety; knots; care of a boat; and a very brief, rather dull, history of shipping. The information is completely British, even to the prices of equipment, which are given in pounds and shillings, and the references to British supply houses. The same information is available in the Line-weaver First Book of Sailing (Watts, 1953) and the Zarchy Let's Go Boating (Knopf, 1952), both of which are better suited to use by children in this country. (Gr.6-8)

R Ley, Willy. Engineers' Dreams; diagrams and maps by Willy Ley; illus. by Isami Kashiwagi. Viking, 1954. 239p. \$3.50. Nine major engineer projects which have been proved possible, on paper, but have not been carried out because of political or economic conditions, are discussed in non-technical terms that make them easy to understand and that make them sound eminently worth while. Some of the projects included are: a tunnel between England and France; a Jordan Valley power and irrigation project; solar power; and the use of waves and wind for power. The book should inspire budding young engineers to look around them for other, similar sources of untapped power. (Gr.7-12)

M Lochlons, Colin. Barney of the Babe Ruth League; illus. by William Hamilton.
Crowell, 1954. 148p. \$2.50.

The Babe Ruth League is designed for boys who are too old for Little League ball and not old enough to qualify for Junior Legion teams. The story follows a fairly typical pattern of a young boy who is out of step with his team because he is not allowed to play the position he wants to play, who sulks through the season without contributing anything to the team and even without doing much playing, and who then has a change of heart during the crucial last game that enables him to go in and win the game, to the great acclaim of his teammates. (Gr.5-7)

M Lyon, Jessica. To Have and Not Hold.
Macrae, 1954. 205p. \$2.50.

Twenty-year-old Gwen Jeffreys has come to New York City to work and to try to overcome a per-

sonality problem (unreasoning jealousy). Through her uncle, she gets a job as a secretary in an architect's firm where she meets young Phil Webb, a draftsman who is studying to become an architect. Her romance with Phil gets off to a good start but does not last long because of her jealousy — over the fact that Phil is taking night classes and cannot be with her as much as she would like, and because he is occasionally asked by one of the firm owners to serve as an escort for the man's wife or to fill in at a dinner party. After Gwen and Phil break up, she begins to look at herself seriously and objectively for the first time, and eventually learns to control her jealousy. Gwen's life in New York is rather more glamorous than most girls in a similar situation could expect — she has a room in the home of a wealthy artist's family, friends of Phil's, where she gets something more than just a taste of the "bohemian" life. The personality problems which Gwen faces are very real ones, and the author has handled them with considerable perception, although the final solution borders on the melodramatic. (Gr.8-10)

R McClung, Robert M. Bufo; The Story of a Toad. Morrow, 1954. 48p. \$2.

The life story of a toad from the time the eggs are laid in the spring until the toad reaches maturity. The illustrations, in black-and-white and shades of brown and green, are pleasing and informative. The primer size type makes the book look easier than it actually is, since the text is written at an upper fourth grade reading level. Could be used to read aloud to first and second grade children. (Gr.3-5)

R MacGregor, Ellen. Miss Pickerell Goes to the Arctic; illus. by Paul Galdone.
Whittlesey House, 1954. 126p. \$2.25.

Another tale of the humorous and unpredictable Miss Pickerell, her pink sweater and her cow. This time she becomes interested in weather forecasting, with an eye to protecting her cow in case of a blizzard the following winter, and ends by going to Alaska with a rescue mission to help the crew of a ship that has been forced down in the Arctic. As usual in these stories, the science information is accurate and is woven into the story with an adroitness that adds to the book's appeal and never gives the reader the impression that he is being taught. (Gr.4-6)

R Machetanz, Sara. Where Else but Alaska?; lithographs and photographs by Fred Machetanz. Scribner's, 1954. 214p. \$3.

Mrs. Machetanz tells a vivid tale of her life in Alaska from the time of her marriage at Unalakleet to the building of their home at High Ridge in the Matanuska Valley. The result is an absorbing picture of a country that still has much to offer by way of pioneer life. (Gr.8-12)

M MacIntyre, Elisabeth. Mr. Koala Bear.
Scribner's, 1954. 30p. \$2.

Slight story of a koala bear who lives alone in

a penthouse apartment in a gum tree. One day he is visited by two young bears who claim to be his nephews. Even though he is almost certain that he does not have any nephews, he accepts the two boys and tries to entertain them. This proves to be a difficult task since even their attempts at being helpful turn out to be disastrous. Just as Mr. Koala Bear is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, the mother of the two bears appears with the news that they are in the wrong house — their uncle lives at the foot of the tree. The book is designed for reading aloud to young children. (K-Gr.2)

M McLeod, Emilie Warren. The Seven Remarkable Bears; illus. by Juliet Kepes. Houghton, 1954. 47p. \$2.50.

Po was the only polar bear in the city zoo where he lived lonesomely in an enclosure with seven caves but no other bears. Each day his keeper, Mr. Fitz, gave him exactly one fish — hardly enough to keep a polar bear alive. How Po used echoes to fool Mr. Fitz and all the people, except one small boy, into thinking there were seven bears living in his enclosure, and so got seven fish to eat each day, makes a moderately amusing but over-long story and one which may prove confusing for any youngsters who do not understand about echoes. The ending seems singularly unsatisfactory since Po is left in his original state of loneliness. The text is best suited to reading aloud. (K-Gr.2)

R Malvern, Gladys. The Foreigner; The Story of a Girl Named Ruth; decorations by Corinne Malvern. Longmans, 1954. 214p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized version of the biblical story of Ruth which takes her from early childhood through her marriage to Boaz. The story is told with dignity and makes use of such facts about Ruth's life as are available. The result is good biographical fiction and a love story which will have appeal for some teen-age girls. (Gr.8-10)

Ad Neurath, Marie. The Wonder World of the Seashore. Lothrop, 1954. 36p. \$1.75.

Brief text and illustrations describe some of the more unusual of the animals living on or near the sea shore. The book will make a useful addition to nature study collections although there is not sufficient information about enough different kinds of sea shore life to make it satisfactory as the only book of its kind in a collection. (Gr.4-6)

R Norton, Andre. At Swords' Points. Harcourt, 1954. 279p. \$3.

An exciting, suspenseful modern spy story that follows, although it is not a sequel to, The Sword Is Drawn and Sword in the Sheath. This time nineteen-year-old Quinn Anders, the slightly crippled, retiring, half-brother to the famous underground fighter, Stark Anders, is on his way to Holland to investigate Stark's death. Quinn becomes involved in the same intrigue that cost Stark his life, but through the friendship and aid of the van Norreys and their contacts with the

Dutch underworld, he wins through, solves the mystery of Stark's death, prevents the Russians from carrying through their plans for a way of getting American dollars to Iron Curtain countries, and proves his ability to do work that, in its own way, is as important as that which Stark did. A well-told, fast-paced story. (Gr.7-9)

R Norton, Andre. The Stars Are Ours! World, 1954. 237p. \$2.75.

The year 2500 found the people of Terra in a state of ignorance and blind prejudice in some ways comparable to that of the Dark Ages. This time their prejudice was aimed against all members of the Free Scientists group and their families. Dard Nordis, his young niece Dessie, and his older brother Lars, lived in poverty and fear on their small farm, always on the alert for raids from the Peacemen. There came a night when the long anticipated raid occurred, Lars was killed, and Dard and Dessie escaped to the nearby hills where they were taken in by a group of Free Scientists who had established a hidden colony there. Before his death Lars had given Dard a formula and this turned out to be the final bit of information needed by the colony to enable them to make their escape from Terra to a new planet in another galaxy. The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the efforts of the Free Scientists to find a way to reach a new galaxy, and the second telling of their experiences on the new planet. Good science fiction. (Gr.7-12)

M Norton, Sybil and Cournos, John. John Adams, Independence Forever; illus. by Jacob Landau. Holt, 1954. 198p. \$2.50.

Biography of John Adams from his early childhood to his death. The information is quite detailed and consistent with other accounts of his life, except that the authors picture him as a reserved man, but fail to indicate the stubbornness, vanity, and pompousness that other biographers attribute to him. There is no spark to the writing and Adams never emerges as a very real person. (Gr.7-9)

R Oliver, Rita N. Rain or Shine; Things to Make; photographs by Biagio Pinto. Harcourt, 1954. 57p. \$2.50.

Simple things to make with a minimum of equipment. Some of the ideas will be useful to help a child through a period of convalescence and some are useful for suggestions of party favors or activities. Included are: a clown collar (made of folded newspapers); a lace doily hat; doll furniture; Christmas decorations; decorations for food, etc. The directions will be easy enough for most youngsters in the middle and upper elementary grades to handle alone. (Gr.3-5)

M Philbrook, Elizabeth. Hobo Hill; illus. by Don Freeman. Viking, 1954. 96p. \$2.50.

The story of four boys and their efforts to save

Hobo Hill, their playground, when the city decided to level it off for a new highway. Hobo Hill, so named by the boys because they thought it would be an ideal place for hobos to camp, except that none ever did, was on the outskirts of town and had everything that boys could ask for in a playground — trees to climb, a place to slide in winter, clumps of wild plum trees for hide-outs, and a fine view of sunsets. When the boys presented their side of the question to the owner of the hill and to a reporter who was representing the City Council, their arguments were so eloquent and so effective the Council decided to use another route for the highway and set aside the hill as a permanent playground for the boys of the town. The rather slight, and slow-moving story is based on a real incident.

(Gr.6-8)

M Pratt, Margaret. Flash of Washington Square; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, 1954. 30p. \$2.

Colorful, lively illustrations and rhymed text tell of the adventures of Flash, a young cocker pup living in New York City. Flash's exuberance causes trouble for himself and his owners, so they take him to a dog school. There he is even worse behaved and is finally put out of the school as unteachable. His owners reluctantly decide that he is just not suited to city living, but then he disproves them by following all of the rules he was supposed to have learned at school when he is next taken for a walk. The text is in uneven, often awkward rhymes. The illustrations are the best part of the book, and they do manage to impart a feeling for New York City and for wriggling, impetuous cockers.

(K-Gr.3)

M Prout, Vera J. The Race for Land; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 1954. 179p. \$2.75.

Twelve-year-old Tom Gilbert and his nineteen-year-old brother Sam joined the settlers who took part in the 1889 run for land in the newly opened Cherokee Strip. Their father was ill and could not make the run. The story of the run and of the hardships which the boys faced in settling the land, building a house, and breaking the ground for farming has interest as a piece of period fiction, and libraries wanting additional material on the Oklahoma land runs will find this an authentic piece of writing. The style is not especially strong; the characters have little depth, and the incidents follow an easily predictable pattern.

(Gr.7-9)

NR Queen, Ellery, Jr. The Blue Herring Mystery. Little, Brown, 1954. 214p. \$2.75.

Young Djuna is off on another mystery solving spree. This time the scene of action is his own home town of Edenboro, and incidentally, for a boy who is as bright and observing as Djuna is supposed to be, he certainly knows very little about his home town or the people in it. As usual Djuna is all wide-eyed innocence with no intention of getting into trouble or of solving a mystery. His sleuthing this time is concerned with some pearls that old Captain Jonas had hidden ninety or more years ago. Also after the pearls

are the unscrupulous Doc Petry, an ex-jail bird disguised as a druggist, and Chester Britt, a private detective disguised as a professor. The preposterous story is recounted in an archly coy attempt at New England coastal dialect.

(Gr.6-8)

R Renick, Marion (Lewis). John's Back Yard Camp; illus. by Pru Herric. Scribner's, 1954. 124p. \$2. (Values: Sharing; Age-mate relations)

John Wheeler thought it was bad enough that he could not go to camp for the summer as most of the other boys in his neighborhood were doing, but it was even worse to learn that his parents were planning to go to Mexico for the summer and leave him and his younger sister Shirley in the care of their Aunt Marty. Nor did it help matters to have to share his room with Malcolm Train whose parents were going to Mexico with the Wheelers. Then Malcolm (nicknamed Choochoo) arrived with first hand information about camps and camping; Aunt Marty turned up with an astonishing amount of knowledge on the same subject, plus a willingness to go along with their play even when it meant more work for her; and soon the backyard had been turned into a camp that was a very satisfactory substitute for the real thing. John is much too good to be wholly realistic, but the story is a pleasant one, and will have many ideas to suggest for other youngsters who are faced with a summer of nothing special to do.

(Gr.3-5)

R Ripper, Charles L. Bats. Morrow, 1954. 64p. \$2.

Clear, easy to read text, and excellent pencil drawings tell of the physiology, life cycle, habits, and differing characteristics of bats the world over. The author corrects such mistaken ideas as that bats are filthy or that they will get in your hair. The book will be useful both for nature study and for conservation units.

(Gr.5-7)

M Rogers, Elizabeth. Angela of Angel Court; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Crowell, 1954. 116p. \$2.

A pleasant, but rather too sentimental story of an Italian family living in a slum building in a large city. Nine-year-old Angela Rossi is determined to win the music scholarship offered by the nearby Settlement House, although she has occasional twinges of conscience when she realizes that her good friend Jake Epstein is equally anxious to win and needs the help as much as she does. Interwoven into the story of Angela's attempt to win the scholarship are the financial problems which her family faces and the difficulties of living in the Angel Court building which is on the verge of collapse. In fairy tale style the landlord appears on the scene, is smitten with the charms of Angela, her six-year-old sister Maria, and their mother. Although nothing is definitely settled at the end, the implication is given that Mr. Bianchi will in due time find himself with the family he professes to want so much. In the meantime he

is content to build them a new apartment house in which to live. Not very realistic, but a nice rosy glow. (Gr.3-5)

R Rushmore, Helen. Ghost Cat; illus. by Reisie Lonette. Harcourt, 1954. 150p. \$2.50. (Values: Neighborliness)

A delightful story of a small girl living in the Ozarks, and of the small white cat that she found one day near a supposedly haunted house. The cat, named Miss Nancy Rose after the ghost that was believed to haunt the house, proved a good luck mascot for Glory and her family. The story is told with a real understanding of the Ozark people and their ways, and with a warmth and depth of family affection. The style lends itself quite well to reading aloud, and the story is one that should be enjoyed by a wide age range within a family group. (Gr.4-6)

R Schlein, Miriam. How Do You Travel? pictures by Paul Galdone. Abingdon, 1954. 23p. \$1.50.

Many of the ways that men and animals travel are pictured in colorful illustrations and named in brief, rhythmical text. The book is generally good for building a concept of ways of getting from place to place, and it is unfortunate that both the author and the illustrator succumbed to the desire to be cute rather than informative by introducing Lady Smithington in her hack, the one false note in an otherwise good book.

(Pre-school)

M Seth, Ronald. Operation Getaway. Day, 1954. 191p. \$2.75.

A spy story of post-war Poland in which a British secret service agent parachutes into Poznan to rescue the son of a Polish atomic scientist from the Russians who are threatening to send the boy to a forced labor camp if his father does not return to Poland. The story has a full quota of arrests and escapes, disguises, hidden rooms, and narrow brushes with death. Naturally the boy and the agent both escape over the German frontier. The writing is just average, but the story will have appeal for its modern setting and its adventure. (Gr.7-9)

R Shippen, Katherine Binney. I Know a City; The Story of New York's Growth; illus. by Robin King. Viking, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

An absorbing history of New York City from the days of the New Amsterdam colony to modern times. The history is traced through the growth of city services and functions. Part One discusses: "How the City Began," showing that the needs of the people of the city were essentially the same then as now. In Part Two: "How They Worked to Bring the People Safety and Comfort," the author discusses developments in housing, street lighting, provision of water, fire fighting, the police, and provision of food. Part Three: "How They Worked to Bring the People a Better Life" deals with parks and playgrounds, schools, and the public library. Part Four: "How They Extended the City Farther and Farther" considers "Sociables" and subways,

bridges, tunnels, and the establishment of the Port of New York Authority. Not only is this an interesting history of New York City, but it can also be used in connection with the tracing of the growth and development of any large city. (Gr.7-9)

M Simon, Ruth. Mat and Mandy and the Big Dog, Bigger; with pictures by Lisl Weil. Crowell, 1954. 96p. \$2.50.

More about Mat and Mandy, their parents, and the little old car. This time the family moves to the seashore to escape the heat of their valley home. There they are adopted by Bigger, a Great Dane puppy who gets his name because he is bigger in all ways than any dog the family has ever seen before. By the end of the vacation Bigger has won a place in the children's hearts and he wins over their parents when he saves Mat and Mandy after they have been caught on the side of the cliff by the high tide. The book employs many of the devices of primary readers and as such will be useful.

(Gr.1-3)

R Small, Sidney Herschel. Dangerous Duty; illus. by Rus Anderson. Oxford, 1954. 218p. \$3.

A story of Perry's first mission to Japan as seen through the experiences of cabin boy, Johnny Craig. Johnny wins Perry's attention through his sharing of the Commodore's interest in steam engines and his belief that they will some day supplant sails. On arriving in Japan, Johnny manages, through his quick wit and courage, to save the mission from failure and even helps bring about the final signing of the treaty. The background of the story is accurate enough and, if Johnny's part in the whole proceedings is incredible, it is at least presented in a plausible manner and makes exciting reading as an adventure story. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Smith, F. C. The First Book of Conservation; pictures by Rene Martin. Watts, 1954. 69p. \$1.75.

A brief look at some of the plants and animals that serve to make life possible for man on earth today, with a consideration of the problems that come when man disturbs their balance in nature through indiscriminate killing of the animals or destruction of the plants. Mistakes that have been made in the past are discussed and ways of correcting those mistakes and avoiding similar ones in the future are presented. Because of their distortion of sizes, the illustrations have little value as information, although they do add to the attractiveness of the book. (Gr.4-8)

Ad Smither, Ethel L. Early Old Testament Stories; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Abingdon, 1954. 80p. \$1.50.

Re-tellings of some of the stories from the Old Testament beginning with Abraham's journey from the valley of the River Ur and tracing the history of the Hebrew people through their journey under Moses' leadership to the foot of Mount Sinai. The versions avoid any contro-

versial aspects of the stories or any episodes, such as Abraham's offering of Isaac as a sacrifice, which might lead to questioning by children. The stories are simply told and will be useful for young children to read to themselves. They do not have the beauty of language of either the Bowen or the Barnhart versions. (Gr.4-6)

M Steele, William O. The Story of Daniel Boone; illus. by Warren Baumgartner. Grosset, 1953. 175p. (Signature Books). \$1.50.

An adequate, unimaginative biography of Daniel Boone. The author stays primarily with the known facts of Boone's life, although Boone is pictured throughout with the traditional coonskin cap which has been repeatedly disproved. Boone never emerges as a very real or very exciting character. (Gr.4-6)

R Steiner, Charlotte. Charlotte Steiner's ABC. Garden City Books, 1954. 26p. \$1.50.

New edition of an ABC book first published by Watts in 1946. Each letter is represented by a simple sentence and a full-page, full-color illustration in which a child whose name begins with that letter is playing with an object, or is engaged in an activity also represented by the letter. The objects and activities are familiar ones, and many children will have the added pleasure of finding the page with their own name. (Pre-school)

NR Stephens, Annabel Wiseman. Pancho the Monkey. Pageant Press, 1954. 57p. \$2. Dull, too-long story of a monkey that is captured in the jungle of Honduras and brought to Mississippi where it is given to a young boy as a pet. The writing is stilted and the characterizations completely unrealistic. Typical example of the conversation of the children who play with Pancho: "Bless my soul! Now isn't he too cunning for anything?" — this from a Mississippi school-boy! (Gr.4-6)

R Sterling, Dorothy. Insects and the Homes They Build; with photographs by Myron Ehrenberg. Doubleday, 1954. 125p. \$2.50.

Text and photographs combined to give the reader information about various kinds of insects and the types of houses they build. Included are houses of wood, of paper, of mud, of silk, etc. Some suggestions are included for youngsters who might want to collect specimens of these insects and watch them build their homes. The material will be useful for nature study classes and many youngsters will welcome the book as an addition to their home libraries. (Gr.5-9)

NR Stewart, Elizabeth Laing. Taxco Tommy; illus. by Dave Lyons. Pageant Press, 1954. 21p. \$2.

Tommy is a small Mexican burro who is jealous of his owner's parrot, Rosita, because she can sing "La Paloma." One day he runs away and in the course of his wanderings through town acquires a set of small bells to wear around his

neck. Then he returns home and delights the tourists who have come to see Rosita by braying "Kee wau nee," which just happens to be the home town of one of the tourists. A rather pointless, labored story. (Gr.3-5)

NR Thayer, Jane. Where's Andy? pictures by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1954. 48p. \$2.

When Mother calls Andy one day, he decides to fool her and hide. First he hides behind a tree, and then he follows her into the house, staying behind her as she goes through the house hunting in all of the likely and unlikely spots she can think of. The idea is one which will amuse young children, but the book is just about twice as long as it should be to hold the attention of the pre-school child. Andy is much too babyish in the illustrations for the book to have appeal for the seven-year-olds who might be able to handle the text. (K-Gr.1)

NR Thogmartin, V. J. Merriman. The Make-Believe Giant, and Other Stories; illus. by Al Kilgore. Pageant Press, 1953. 33p. \$2.

Eighteen very short, incredibly poorly written stories which the author originally made up for her own children. The stories are all in the form of fantasy, and they are all coy and didactic in tone. Many of the endings are so abrupt they will leave the young child wondering what happened. (Pre-school)

NR Tippet, James Sterling. Search for Sammie; pictures by Beth Krush. Abingdon Press, 1954. 48p. \$1.50.

Sammie is a beagle puppy who wanders away from home one day and is lost for a week before his owner finds him. Ann, Sammie's owner, is remorseful for letting him out of the house without his collar and identification tag on, and is almost in despair before a highway patrolman brings her the news that Sammie was picked up on the highway and is being cared for by the man who found him. A very slight story and a dull, unattractive format. (Gr.2-4)

NR Tousey, Sanford. John C. Fremont, Western Pathfinder. Whitman, 1953. 48p. \$1.50.

A stilted, patterned biography of Fremont, with the emphasis on his experiences in exploring and mapping the land west of the Mississippi River. All controversial issues in Fremont's career are ignored or else they are given such superficial treatment as to become confusing. The writing is dull and the ugly illustrations do nothing to enliven the book. (Gr.5-7)

NR Tousey, Sanford. Pete and the Old Ford. Ariel, 1954. 45p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Peter Peggs found an old Model-T Ford in a pile of junk on his father's newly acquired farm and set about reconditioning it. Being blessed with a truly phenomenal mechanical ability for a boy his age, he managed, with little or no trouble, to get the engine in good working condition. Then he used

the car for odd jobs around the farm until he had enough money to buy a new top for it. As a climax he entered the car in a Fourth of July contest and won first prize. As a bit of much needed interest there is a shifty-eyed hired man who tries to steal the car, but he is thwarted before he has time to damage the car or spark the story. The illustrations are quite ugly.

(Gr.4-6)

~~B~~ Ullman, James Ramsey. Banner in the Sky. Lippincott, 1954. 252p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized account of the first scaling of the Matterhorn in 1865, and of a sixteen-year-old boy's struggle for the right to live his life in the way that was best for him. Rudi Matt's father had been one of the most famous guides in the village of Kurtal, but after his death while trying to scale the Citadel (Matterhorn), Rudi's mother refused to let the boy have anything to do with the mountains, and apprenticed him to a hotel keeper. How Rudi rebelled at his unending round of dish washing and joined the Englishman, Captain Winter, in his successful attempt to climb the mountain makes a compelling story.

(Gr.7-9)

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

George Ferguson, a young American boy, is spending a year in Holland with the family of one of Mr. Ferguson's business friends. As in the other books of the series, the way is made clear for him to travel over most of the country and absorb huge quantities of its history, geography, language, and customs. The Dutch children he meets are all walking encyclopedias, and George has a knowledge of the history of his own country that should put at ease all critics of the way in which American history is currently being taught. As in most of the other titles, the naturalization of George from British to American has not been wholly accomplished, and he comes through with some surprisingly British habits and expressions. Some of the information about Amsterdam applies to pre-World War II Amsterdam and is no longer true.

(Gr.7-9)

NR Verrall, Charles Spain. Men of Flight; Conquest of the Air; illus. by William Heaslip. Aladdin, 1954. 191p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

The story of the growth of aviation in this country as seen through the eyes of two boys, cousins, as they grew up together and argued over the respective merits of the Wright Brothers and Glenn Curtiss. The story begins in 1903 with Langley's unsuccessful attempt to fly his plane, and ends during World War II with one of the first successful sea battles between planes from carriers. There is actually not enough story for the book to be classed as fiction, and too much for it to be truly informational. At times the story is lost sight of completely as the author brings the reader up to date on some phase of the history of aviation.

(Gr.5-7)

M Vetter, Marjorie (Meyn). Cargo for Jennifer; decorations by Peter Spler. Longmans, 1954. 240p. \$3.

Jennifer Calderon had always considered herself completely American although she knew vaguely that her father had at one time lived in Cuba. It came as a shock, therefore, to learn that she had many relatives living in Cuba, among them a grandmother who wanted her to come to Havana and live for a year. Ordinarily she would have said no, but when her mother's health necessitated a year's rest in an Arizona sanatorium, it seemed the best solution for Jennifer to accept her grandmother's invitation. Jennifer went to Cuba with a head full of prejudices against "foreigners" — and was greatly surprised to realize that in Cuba she was herself a foreigner. However, within a year she had come to a real understanding of her new family and of the Cuban people. The author's "lesson" is very obvious, and too often the characters are no more than puppets responding to jerks on all too visible strings. There are some excellent pictures of life in Cuba and the lesson in international understanding is a worthy one.

(Gr.7-9)

NR Wadsworth, Wallace Carter, ed. Peter Rabbit; illus. by Anne Sellers Leaf. Rand McNally, 1953. 30p. 15¢.

Why Mr. Wadsworth felt the need for re-writing Peter Rabbit is difficult enough to understand, but what he thinks he has accomplished with his occasional changes in Miss Potter's text (except to make it falter where it once flowed smoothly along) is even more incomprehensible. As for the illustrations, the artist has succeeded, sadly enough, in making Peter Rabbit look "cuddly"! Although Miss Potter would doubtless not be particularly happy at having to claim kin to this changeling, it is unfortunate that neither Mr. Wadsworth nor the publisher has seen fit to give her credit for having had the original idea.

(Pre-school)

NR Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. All My Love. Morrow, 1954. 314p. \$2.95.

The setting for this story is Claremont College, which the author identifies as being Vassar in everything except name. Gretchen Miller had been a top student in her home town high school, both scholastically and athletically. She looked forward to college, but during her first few days at Claremont found herself unhappy, bewildered, and homesick. Her roommate was unfriendly, she found it difficult to get acquainted with the other girls in the dorm, and she was totally lost in class (the author implies that this was because she had had the disadvantage of attending a public high school rather than a private school). Finally there came a week-end when she agreed to go to a dance being given at nearby Brownell and after that her problems were solved. She found herself with two boy friends — and naturally fell in love with the one who was thoroughly conceited and inconsiderate, while the one with sterling qualities languished unappreciated. With her major prob-

lem thus solved, she could turn with ease to the matter of class work, which she managed to master in spite of her public school background. A superficial, unrealistic story. (Gr.7-9)

NR Warren, William Stephen. Headquarters Ranch. McKay, 1954. 210p. \$2.50.

A run-of-the-mill ranch story set in 1875. Young David Cain's family were massacred by a band of Comanche Indians who were set on the ranch by a scheming buffalo hunter who wanted possession of the rich grassland for himself. Dave was captured by the Indians but later escaped with the help of a young Indian boy. He returned to the ranch and with the aid of his family's hired man, who had also escaped, found the papers which proved his ownership of the ranch. In time his older brother, also captured by the Indians but taken to another part of the country, escaped and the two boys set about building up their ranch. There is little originality to either the plot or the characterizations and the writing is quite mediocre. (Gr.5-7)

NR Watkins, Richard. Thunder Beach. Nelson, 1954. 189p. \$2.50.

A missing uncle, an abandoned stretch of Florida beach, a sunken treasure ship (platinum and tin rather than pieces of eight), and an assortment of mysterious characters, from an ex-seaman turned photographer to a smuggler-bully combination, all add up to occasionally exciting but generally standard adventure story fare. High school senior Walt Powell came to Thunder Beach to hunt for his uncle and ended up by finding both the uncle and the lost ship, and by giving the crooks their come-uppance. He also managed to make a satisfactory adjustment to the idea that he would never be able to command a navy ship because of his poor eyesight. A competent story but nothing out of the ordinary. (Gr.7-9)

NR Wehen, Joy DeWeese. Stairway to a Secret; illus. by Genia. Dutton, 1953. 220p. \$2.75.

An English spy melodrama involving a young American girl who is spending a year in London with her authoress godmother; a British nobleman playboy, who turns out to be a member of Scotland Yard's Ghost Squad (the nobility is authentic); and a very cloak-and-daggerish villain. Just to make things complete, there is a hidden staircase, a secret door connecting adjoining houses, and an old antique shop whose eccentric proprietress is, of course, the leader of the spy ring. Not only are the plot and characterizations poorly handled, but the author's constant derogatory remarks about British food and people are objectionable. (Gr.7-9)

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters at Snowflake Camp; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City Books, 1954. 184p. 95¢.

Further adventures of the Pollyannish Hollis-

ters. This time they are on the trail of a missing dog team and its owner — who just happens to be the twin brother of Pam's teacher, Miss Nelson. In their usual style, they find the man, who has the good judgment to be hiding near their grandparents' winter resort camp; they bring the crooks to justice; and they walk off with two silver cups from the Trappers' Carnival contests. It took them almost ten days to accomplish the first part of their mission, but it took considerably less time for Holly to learn to ski well enough to win the children's ski race, and for Pete to learn to drive a dog team well enough to win the annual dog team race. (Gr.4-6)

M White, Dale. The Johnny Cake Mine; illus. by Richard Bennett. Viking, 1954. 222p. \$2.75.

A story of 1870 Montana and of two sixteen-year-old boys and their uncle who find a mountain rich with silver deposits. The account of the development of such mines, of how a boom town grows up, and of some of the dangers and difficulties of life at that period and place is interesting. The characters, themselves, are not so well developed. Jim is the hero — the boy who always does the right thing, except for a very minor slip on rare occasions, who thinks the right thing, and says the right thing. He has noble thoughts, high ideals, and the ability to lead men who are considerably older and more experienced than himself. His cousin Earl represents the wealthy young man who has always been pampered, who thinks of himself first and last, who is out for easy and quick wealth, but who reforms under the gentle guidance of his cousin. In spite of the lack of originality in the characterizations, the story will have appeal for its vivid and seemingly authentic picture of the period. (Gr.7-9)

NR Wilcox, Don. David's Ranch; illus. by Louis Zansky. Messner, 1954. 62p. (Everyday Science Stories). \$1.60.

A written-to-order story about a young boy whose father gives him fifteen acres for his own use, and who learns the hard way what happens to land that is overgrazed and not properly cared for. The lesson in conservation is a good one but it does not gain anything from the attempt to put it into fictionalized form. (Gr.4-6)

NR Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). More Fun with Herbert; illus. by John N. Barron. Knopf, 1954. 150p. \$2.50.

Eight more stories about Herbert Yadon and his family. Herbert is still the precocious, often ill-bred, boy of the earlier books, and his parents are still the spineless nincompoops who bow to Herbert's every wish. Several of the stories in this collection are flat and pointless and do not even have the humor, however questionable, of the first two books. (Gr.4-6)