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BULLETIN

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Number 8

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles for Children and Young People

M Archibald, Joseph. Fighting Coach.
7-9 Macrae Smith, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

A story of college football, with the plot conflict built around the struggle between a coach who wants to keep football just good clean fun for the players, and a wealthy alumnus who wants to hire players (through football scholarships) and build up a team to compete with the Big Ten. The two men fight their battle against a background of exciting game descriptions—and end up with the coach winning his point and the team its Bowl game. The game descriptions are good; the characterizations are extremely weak.

M Baker, Nina (Brown). Nickles and Dimes;
5-7 The Story of F. W. Woolworth; illus.
by Douglas W. Gorsline. Harcourt, 1954.
134p. \$2.50.

A rags-to-riches success story in the semi-fictionalized biography of F. W. Woolworth, who started life as the son of an unsuccessful farmer and rose to a position of great wealth. Through Woolworth's career, the reader also sees the

development of the dime store and of the philosophy that every customer is important no matter how small his purchase may be. The character of Woolworth is idealized, but the book will have use for social studies classes, for its picture of an important phenomenon in American economic development.

NR Baldrige, Dorothy A. Operation Knapsacks;
6-8 cover illus. by Robert Frankenberg.
Follett, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

The story of a bicycle trip made by a group of young hostelers through historic spots in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and ending in Washington, D.C. There is no plot to the story and very little characterization, the emphasis being on a description and brief history of each place that is visited. It is difficult to see where the interest in such a book would lie since it is neither wholly fiction nor a satisfactory informational book.

M Bauer, Helen. Good Times at the Park;
2-4 photographer, Hubert A. Lowman. Mel-
mont, 1954. 23p. \$1.35.

Brief text and photographs tell of the activities of two young boys and their parents as they

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celebrate the birthday of one of the boys with a day at the nearby park. The illustrations are not numerous enough or detailed enough to give a child any idea of what a park is like if he has never seen one, although they could be used to stimulate children to talk of their own experiences at parks and playgrounds. The text is not especially difficult, but there is too much of it to a page for beginning readers, and youngsters at the third grade level will find the tone somewhat condescending.

SpR Bemelmans, Ludwig. The High World.
7- Harper, 1954. 114p. \$2.75.

High in the Alps nestled the small village of Lech, and high above Lech was the home of the Amrainers. Tobias Amrainer occasionally shot a chamois or a deer when his family needed food, but although this legally was considered poaching, the village gendarmes never did anything about it. This happy state of affairs ended, however, when an important government official appeared one Christmas time, with plans for building a hydro-electric dam above the village, and a determination to enforce all laws. The villagers were unhappy over the new regime and the official was unhappy over their lack of response, until a near catastrophe one day brought a change of heart all around. The official found a way for Amrainer to remain on his mountain working for the government as a forest ranger, and the villagers discovered that the official was not such a bad person after all. Bemelmans' beautiful illustrations and excellent storytelling ability give the book appeal, although it is an appeal for adults and more mature young readers than for children. The book is one, however, that could be used for reading aloud in family groups where there is a wide age range.

R Bendick, Jeanne. The First Book of Super-
3-5 markets. Watts, 1954. 41p. \$1.75
A brief introduction to supermarkets—how they originated and how they operate. Independent supermarkets, chain stores, and cooperatives are discussed. A useful book for units on the community, although probably with little appeal for general reading.

M Bennett, Mabel R. The Hidden Garden;
5-7 illus. by Kathleen Voute. Day, 1955.
192p. \$2.75.

After the death of their parents, ten-year-old Anna Schoop and her older sister, Gerta, come to this country from Holland to live with an uncle. They arrive in New York only to find no trace of their uncle. While they hunt for him they stay with a young Dutch couple who came over on the boat with them. Gerta gets a job and

Anna sets about making friends with the neighbors in the East Side tenement where they are temporarily living. With rather remarkable ease she cures the neighbors of their racial prejudices and converts the cluttered, garbage-filled back court into a place of beauty. At the end, of course the uncle is found. In some ways a pleasing book, but too obviously purposive to be realistic.

M Brooks, Walter Rollin. Freddy and the Men
4-6 from Mars; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf,
1954. 246p. \$3.

More doings of Freddy the pig and the animals of Bean farm. This time Freddy's friend Mr. Boomschmidt, the circus owner, is the victim of a fraud perpetrated by Mr. Garble who claims to have in his possession some captured Martians. The Martians are disclosed as being nothing more than rats, but Mr. Boomschmidt's reputation is saved when some real Martians appear on the scene. A typical Freddy story, with predictable plot and characters.

M Broun, Emily. How Rabbit Stole Fire; A
4-6 Cherokee Legend; illus. by Jack Ferguson.
Aladdin, 1954. 52p. \$2.25.

A simplified retelling of an old Cherokee legend of how the Indians first acquired fire. The story is told with the simple directness of a folk tale. The illustrations, unfortunately, are mere imitations of the comic books' worst offerings. Rabbit, for example, has no individuality but is simply a rather poor copy of Bugs Bunny.

M Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Keiko's Birthday;
K-1 drawings by Jean Martinez. Friendship
Press, 1954. 32p. 75¢ paper; \$1.25 boards.

Slight story about the children who attend the U. N. kindergarten. The children were excited over the arrival of a new girl, Keiko, from Japan. When they learned that she was soon to celebrate her fifth birthday, they planned a surprise birthday party for her. There is not much to the story but it might be used to introduce young children to an awareness of different nationalities of people around them.

SpR Brown, Palmer. Beyond the Pawpaw Trees;
4-6 The Story of Anna Lavinia; drawings by
the author. Harper, 1954. 122p. \$2.50.

Modern fanciful tale of a small girl who lives with her mother in a house surrounded by pawpaw trees. One day she sets forth to visit her aunt, and after a series of adventures including a ride on a train that runs by itself and a visit to an Arab village, she finds her aunt living on a mirage. She also finds her father who has been away from home chasing rainbows for several years, and she helps him find the pots of gold at the foot of the rainbow. Thereupon

they both return to mother and the pawpaw trees. Brittle humor, and a precocious fantasy that will have limited appeal but will be enjoyed by a special few.

NR Brucker, Margaretta. The One and Only. 8-10 Ariel, 1955. 187p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Lynn Fairchild, an incredibly naive teen-ager, lives a sheltered existence as a member of the wealthy set in her Ohio home town, a few miles from Cleveland. Reality faces her when her older brother is killed overseas and the family then learn that he had been secretly married to a "Valley" girl—one of the community's untouchables. Unknown to her parents, Lynn meets the girl, Millie, and Millie's brother Michael. Lynn becomes infatuated with Michael, but by the end of the book is beginning to realize the impossibility of ever being more than casual friends with a boy of his socially unacceptable background. Added to the snobbish class consciousness of the book is a style of writing that closely resembles that of the soap operas—even to the series of rhetorical questions that close each episode. The characters are stereotyped to the extent that the reader has only to see their names to know exactly the part each is to play in the story.

NR Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). The Beech Tree; illus. by Kurt Werth. Day, 1955. 63p. \$2.50.

A problem story for young children that deals with a situation common to many families. When Mary Lou is eight-year-old, her grandfather comes to live with the family. He is very old and is often sick, but Mary Lou enjoys his company because he almost always has time to talk to her, and to answer her many questions. She is shocked, therefore, to learn that her mother is planning to have grandfather sent to a nursing home where he will be out of the way. With a perception that would be rare even for a precocious eight-year-old Mary Lou shows her mother that grandfather has a right to a place in the family home, and she teaches her mother a lesson in family solidarity. The author's point is not well-made and will be meaningless to most young children. The illustrations are quite ugly.

R Daringer, Helen Fern. Like a Lady; illus. 6-8 by Susan Knight. Harcourt, 1955. 218p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations)

Thirteen-year-old Johanna Jones was made acutely aware of her family's straitened financial condition when she overheard a member of the school's Mother's Club discussing Mrs. Jones' shabby clothing. Jo set out to earn enough

money to buy her mother a new suit so that she could be considered as a Club representative at the Chicago meeting. Although Jo managed only enough for a new hat for her mother, the effort was worthwhile, for she made some new friends along the way and learned some valuable lessons about herself and the people around her. A warm, friendly story, spiced with a bit of humor here and there.

R De Jong, Meindert. The Wheel on the School; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1954. 298p. \$2.75.

In one of his best, and most childlike books to date, Mr. De Jong tells of an event in the lives of the people of a small Dutch fishing village. The school children of Shora begin wondering one day why there are no storks in their village, and under the guidance of their teacher set about remedying the situation. In working out their project they become better acquainted with the people of their village and of the surrounding countryside, and in time everyone in and around the village becomes involved in some way with the activity. A powerfully written story in which the reader finds himself as excited and concerned over the fate of the storks as are the children of the village.

R De Leeuw, Adele Louise and Cateau. The Expandable Browns; illus. by Don Sibley. Little, 1955. 147p. \$2.75. (Values: Family relations; Sharing)

A pleasantly told, episodic story of a gregarious family whose small house becomes impossibly crowded when they acquire a large dog and are visited by the father's younger sister. They move to a larger house on the edge of town, and immediately begin further expansion—taking on first the spoiled, rather unpleasant boy next door whose mother is in the hospital, then a kitten, a pair of rabbits, a boarder, and most of the pre-school children in the neighborhood. These latter are enrolled in a nursery school which Mrs. Brown runs in her spare time. There are touches of humor throughout, and children will find this a pleasing family story.

M Drury, Maxine Cole. Marty and the Major; 5-7 with illus. by Jeanne C. Manget. Little, 1955. 150p. \$2.50.

A slight, predictable mystery story involving a young girl and a dog that has been trained by a robber to stand guard over the man's victims. Marty finds the dog, Major, after it has been abandoned by its owner following a gun fight. She does not know that the dog is the one that has participated in several robberies since

Major is white when she finds him and the robber's dog is reported to be black. The dog and the girl become immediate friends and eventually Marty and her next-door-neighbor, Roger, solve the mystery of the dog's ownership and help capture the robber. Not outstanding.

M Eichelberger, Rosa Kohler. Bronko; illus. 5-7 by Hedley Rainnie. Morrow, 1955. 192p. \$2.95.

Bronko is a young Polish boy who has spent much of his life wandering over Europe, dodging the enemy, and trying to keep alive, until he is finally reunited, through the International Children's Village, with his mother who had escaped to this country. Bronko is pleased to be in the United States, but his first few months in New York City are not entirely easy or always pleasant. He has many fears to overcome, and he discovers that not everyone in this country is willing to respond to his friendly overtures. Some of the episodes in Bronko's readjustment are excellent. There is, however, an element of didacticism in the final chapters, and the ending, in which two leaders of a neighborhood gang are reformed overnight, is too pat to be realistic.

Ad Gruenberg, Benjamin C. and Adelson, 3-5 Leone. Your Breakfast and the People Who Made It; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Doubleday, 1954. 64p. \$2.

A fairly simple explanation of what happens to certain breakfast foods from their original sources to the breakfast table. Only the most typical foods are used—bread, cereal, milk, eggs, orange juice, sugar—although the authors explain in a rather too apologetic note at the end that these are not the only foods that are eaten for breakfast. The style throughout tends to be condescending and determinedly chatty. The book could be used for units on foods but will not be especially appealing for general reading.

NR Hoff, Syd. Eight Little Artists. Abelard-2-4 Schuman, 1954. 42p. \$2.

Slight, pointless story of eight children who find a box of chalk and set about decorating the sidewalk. When a neighbor complains, a convenient rain comes along and cleans the sidewalk. The children adjourn to the home of one of the group where there is a blackboard they can use. The cartoon-like drawings which the children do, and which the author obviously intends for readers to copy, are much too difficult for the age children for whom the book is intended. The book is poorly made, with stitching so crooked that the entire first half

of the pages come up every time the cover is opened, making it impossible to open the book out flat.

R Hogarth, Grace (Allen). The Funny Guy; 6-8 illus. by Fritz Wegner. Harcourt, 1955. \$2.95. (Values: Age-mate relations; Family relations).

Her twelfth year was a difficult one for Helen Hamilton. Her mother had been in the hospital for almost three years and Helen felt weighted down with the burden of worry over her mother and with the fact that she had no very great liking for the housekeeper who had moved in shortly after Mrs. Hamilton's accident. To make matters worse, the children in school teased Helen and called her "Funny Guy" because of her absent-minded ways. The story of how she faces up to her problems and finds relief through books and through the friendship of one of the girls in her class makes pleasant reading. Although the setting is 1912, many of the children of today will find comfort in the similarity between their own and Helen's problems and in her solutions to them. The illustrations are unusual and pleasing.

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, 3-5 Reinald. My Goldfish; illus. by Mina yrs. Gow McLean. Rand McNally, 1954. 28p. 25¢.

Tommy has three goldfish, and one day mother takes him to the pet store and lets him choose a fourth one, which he names Happy. Told in first person.

R Landeck, Beatrice. More Songs to Grow All On; A New Collection of Folk Songs for Ages Children; drawings by David Stone Martin; arrangements by Forence White. Sloane, 1954. 128p. \$3.50.

A companion volume to Songs to Grow On. This one contains 64 folk songs, some of them not often found in collections, selected and arranged for use with children from six years up. Includes carols and festive songs, dramatic play songs, singing games and rounds, and folk songs to sing just for the fun of it. The compiler's notes on each song are informative and useful; the musical arrangements are simple enough for young children to handle with ease. An excellent collection for school, home, or group use.

R Lobdell, Helen. The King's Snare; illus. 7-10 by C. Walter Hodges. Houghton, 1955. 218p. \$2.75.

A story based on Sir Walter Raleigh's disastrous expedition to the Orinoco River and his final betrayal and death at the hands of King

James. The story is told through the experiences of young Francis Martinson, who served Raleigh as a secretary and accompanied him on the fateful Orinoco voyage. Francis, an orphan, won the friendship of Raleigh's son, Wat, who later saved him from the cruel tanner to whom Francis had been apprenticed. The boy was taken into the Raleigh household and became practically a member of the family. After Raleigh's death, Francis went to Virginia and established a home there. As in her Golden Conquest, the author has combined interesting historical material, a vivid portrayal of the period, and an exciting adventure story.

NR MacKellar, William. The Mystery of the Ruined Abbey; map and title page by Scott Maclain. Whittlesey House, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

A run-of-the-mill mystery story. An American boy, Chip Brown, is visiting his Scots friend, Neil Graham in Neil's home town of Ardour, Scotland. The boys have scarcely arrived in town before they are involved in a mystery that soon grows to include an escaped convict, a series of mysterious robberies, a murder (or two), and a bankrupt laird who committed the robberies and the murders for the sake of his ne'er-do-well son. Needless to say it is the American boy who solves the whole problem for the baffled Scots.

SpC Mason, Agnes Leckie and Ohanian, Phyllis 3-6 God's Wonderful World; Songs, yrs. Hymns and Games for the Home, Sunday School and Kindergarten. Random House, 1954. 173p. \$3.95.

A collection of 159 songs for use by children at the pre-school and kindergarten level. One hundred twenty-one of the rhymes are by Mrs. Mason; 92 of the tunes were composed by Mrs. Ohanian, and she arranged all but eight of the others. Some of the tunes have been taken from folk songs and some of the words are from well-known rhymes and songs. However, much of the words to many of the verses are insipid. The result is a very uneven collection. The contents are quite loaded with action, rhythmic activity, and dramatized songs. There are notes with most of the songs indicating ways in which they can be used. The music and verse lack the dignity and beauty of the Lenski-Bulla, We Are Thy Children (Crowell, 1952).

NR Memling, Carl. What's in the Dark? 3-5 drawn by Virginia Carten. Abelard-Yrs. Schuman, 1954. 42p. \$2.50.

A cataloging, in brief text and pictures, of

the familiar things that are to be found in the dark, designed to reassure a child who is afraid at night. The text is adequate; the illustrations, in which many of the items mentioned are personified, leave much to be desired and are, in at least one instance, more likely to frighten than to comfort a child. The book is poorly made, with crooked stitching that makes the first half of the pages difficult to hold open.

NR Moyers, William, and Cooke, David Coxe. 5-7 Famous Indian Tribes; illus. by William Moyers. Random House, 1954. 64p. \$1.

A brief, superficial introduction to the Indian tribes of North America, from the east coast to the Pacific Northwest. There is not enough about any one tribe for the book to have value as an informational or reference book. There are many better written, more informative books on the subject and this one will have little value.

R Moran, Jim. Sophocles the Hyena; a Fable; K-2 pictures by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House, 1954. 48p. \$2.25.

As Morris, the cat, went to school one day, he persuaded a dog, a duck, and a mole to attend cat school with him. On the way they met a mean, hungry hyena who was also on his way to cat school, but not to learn to meow. He was intent on finding a cat to eat for breakfast. Matters had reached a desperate point when Morris' soldier father appeared at the school, took the hyena in hand and reformed him by giving him a name and some lion chops to eat. An amusing story with elements of appeal for children and adults alike. Fun to read aloud.

M Montgomery, Rutherford George. Amikuk; 7-9 illus. by Marie Nonnast. World, 1955. 204p. \$2.75.

The story of an Aleutian sea otter from birth to adulthood. The animal's struggles against the forces of nature, other animals, and man are vividly told. Interwoven into the story of Amikuk is that of Peter, an Aleutian boy who saves the otters from the poachers in his village. Amikuk's story is well-told, although at times a bit repetitious. That of Peter seems dragged in and adds little to the appeal of the book.

R Norman, Charles. To a Different Drum; 8-10 The Story of Henry David Thoreau; pictures by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, 1954. 113p. \$2.50.

A sympathetic biography of Henry David Thoreau, emphasizing his trip down the Concord-Merrimack Rivers and his life at Walden Pond. Excerpts from his writings are used throughout, especially for descriptions of the countryside.

No attempt is made to give a critical look at the man, his philosophy or his writings. The book might serve to lure readers on to Walden.

Ad Norman, Gertrude. The First Book of Music; pictures by Richard Gackenbach. Watts, 1954. 69p. \$1.75.

A brief history of the development of classical music from primitive to modern times. Included are short biographies of famous composers, a list of the main types of music, how music is written down, how music is used today, the instruments of the orchestra, four simple pieces to play on the piano, and a suggested basic record collection. In one instance two pictures and their captions are reversed, and on another page the chant is described as "to be sung by voices alone, with the accompaniment of other instruments." In general, an adequate book as an introduction to the subject, although it will need to be supplemented by other, more detailed volumes.

NR Orton, Helen (Fuller). Mystery in the Apple Orchard; illus. by Robert Doremus. Lippincott, 1954. 116p. \$2.

A slight, very obvious mystery story in which two young children invite the crippled son of their mother's cleaning woman to come out from town and play in their apple orchard. Young Timmy enjoys himself until snobbish Gloria comes along, sporting a diamond ring, which she proceeds to lose and to accuse Timmy of stealing. In the end Timmy overcomes his handicap enough to climb a tree and find the lost ring. Gloria is properly abashed. Unnatural dialog and wooden characterizations.

NR Pilgrim, Jane. Christmas at Blackberry Farm; illus. by F. Stocks May. McKay, 1954. 31p. (Blackberry Farm Books). 95¢.

Slight, pointless story of how the Smiles family shared Christmas with the animals on their farm. The personification of the animals is not well-handled, with the result that they have neither reality nor individuality.

NR Simon, Norma. The Wet World; pictures 4-6 by Jane Miller. Lippincott, 1954. 20p. \$2.

An attempt to capture in a simple text and illustrations the feeling of a rainy day. There is no story; this is simply the things a small girl sees and feels as she watches the rain from the security and warmth of the breakfast table; goes out into the rain, well bundled in raincoat

and boots; and comes again to the warmth and dryness of her own home. The text is adequate, but the illustrations will, for the most part, be meaningless for young children: the artist has used the same color and texture for the interiors of the house as she used for the wetness of the out-doors; the child is shown eating breakfast alone, with only a maid in attendance; and the outdoor scenes picture the grounds of a large, wealthy estate. This is essentially a book for adult consumption and will have little meaning for children.

NR Smith, Eunice Young. Jennifer Dances. 6-8 Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 250p. \$2.75.

Another story of Jennifer Hill, this time with a Chicago setting. Jennifer is spending the winter with her Aunt Lobelia, and during the course of her visit she becomes an accomplished ballet dancer, teaches her schoolmates a lesson in democracy, and patches up her aunt's broken romance. The picture of life on Chicago's Near North Side in the early 1900's is interesting, but Jennifer accomplishes too much in too short a time for the story to have any reality.

NR Snow, Dorothea J. The Whistling Mountain Mystery; illus. by Robert Todd. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 237p. \$2.50.

When the Todd family came to Martinsdale, Alabama to live they were pleased with the thought that they would have no housing problem. Mrs. Todd's ancestral home, Magnolia Mansion, stood on the outskirts of Martinsdale and although she had not seen it since she was a small girl, the one thing she remembered about it was that it was a large house, and the Todd's were tired of the small quarters they had lived in before coming to Alabama. The house turned out to be a huge, dilapidated one with no electricity and with a nearby well as its only source of water. Nothing daunted, the Todds moved in and proceeded to clean and repair the place. When they needed money to have electricity and running water installed, Billy conveniently managed to find the family silver that had been missing since Civil War days. In the process he also discovered what made Whistling Mountain whistle. A contrived, unrealistic mystery story.

R Taylor, Sydney. More All-of-a-Kind Family; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 1954. 160p. \$2.95. (Values: Intercultural understanding)

More episodes from the life of the all-of-a-kind family, except that they are no longer all of a kind since there is now a boy in addition to the five girls in the family. Like the first book,

this one recounts the ups-and-downs in the life of a Jewish family living on New York's Lower East Side during the early twentieth century. There is humor and a warmth of family solidarity that make the book pleasant reading.

R Thompson, Mary (Wolfe). Green Threshold. 7-10 Longmans, 1954. 176p. \$ 2.50.

During the eleven years since the death of her parents, Ginger's whole life had centered around her older brother Hal. When the story begins, Hal, at 29, is facing the prospect of life as a cripple; the result of a war injury. Sixteen-year-old Ginger is not only willing, but almost insistent on spending her life caring for him. In an effort to give Hal new interest in life, Ginger and her aunt move from New York City to a small town in Vermont where they buy an old house that needs remodeling. Hal, who had trained as architect before the war, becomes interested in the house, remodels and sells it, and gets well started on a business of buying and remodeling old houses in this section of the country. In the meantime Ginger is going through the difficult adjustment of recognizing her unnatural attachment to her brother and ridding herself of the jealousy she feels toward any one in whom he becomes interested. With the help of two exceptionally understanding boy friends she makes the readjustment. The situations are well handled and the solutions to the problems are logical ones.

R Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). Beany Has a Secret Life. Crowell, 1955, 262p. \$ 2.75. (Values: Adjustment to Stepparents).

Another in the series of stories about Beany Malone and her family. Beany is now in her junior year at Harkness High—a year that starts inauspiciously with Norbert, Beany's best boyfriend, moving to Ohio, and with Marty Malone, Beany's famous newsman father, bringing home a new wife. Beany gets off to a wrong start with her stepmother, she becomes involved with a forbidden secret club at school, and life is just a series of miseries until her family step in and help her straighten things out. The plot is somewhat patterned, but it has the same warmth of family relations as the earlier stories.

NR Well, Ann. Betsy Ross, Girl of Old Philadelphia; illus. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans). \$ 1.75.

Patterned, highly fictionalized account of the childhood of Betsy Ross. The fictionalized style

is necessary since so very little is known about Betsy Ross' actual life, but the author has used no imagination in her story, and the result is an insipid characterization of Betsy Ross and no feeling for the period in which she lived.

Ad Welch, Ronald. Knight Crusader; illus. by William Stobbs. Oxford, 1955. 272p. \$ 2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Philip d'Aubigny was of Welsh ancestry although he had lived all his life in Outremer, where his father ruled over the fief of Blanche Garde, one in the string of castles that guarded the Holy Land. The story covers the period following the first Crusade and begins with the uprising of the Turks under Saladin. Philip had just been knighted when the uprising occurred and so he took his place with his father's army. During the Battle of Hattin he saw his father killed and was himself captured by the Turks. When he escaped four years later he joined the army of Richard I who was just starting on the Second Crusade. After the Battle of Arsuf, when the Second Crusade came to a close, Philip decided to leave the Holy Land and go to England to claim his family estate there. The story is somewhat slow-paced but the descriptions of the battle scenes are sufficiently gripping to hold the interest of most readers.

NR Willard, Annmary, ed. Pillow-Time Tales; 3-5 Fourteen Famous Nursery Stories; illus. yrs. by Dorcas Couri. Rand McNally, 1954. (Book Elf Giant). \$ 1.

Fourteen familiar nursery tales, retold in very brief, uninspired versions. The stories are from a variety of sources—Grimm, Andersen, Aesop, etc.—although no recognition of the original sources is given. Some of the illustrations are misleading and they are all of calendar art caliber.

NR Wilson, Anthony C. Mystery Tour. Crowell, 5-7 1955. 163p. \$ 2.

Two more mysteries are solved by Norman and Henry Bones, the English counterparts of Djuna. In the first story the boys locate a missing sight-seeing bus and its thirteen passengers—and incidentally break up an international smuggling ring. In the second story they thwart the efforts of a would-be murderer and locate a long lost treasure trove in the wilds of Dartmoor. The plots lean heavily on coincidence, and the boys are once again super-sleuths.

Ad Wolfe, Louis. Adventures on Horseback; 7-9 illus. by Paul Brown. Dodd, 1954. 207p. \$ 2.75.

A collection of fourteen stories of men and women who have made famous rides in this country. The episodes range from Paul Revere's famous ride to Marcus Whitman's trek across country from Oregon to Washington in the early nineteenth century. Not exceptional writing.

SpC Wood, Katharine, ed. The Story in the All Ages Rosary; text from the Douay-Rheims translation of the Holy Bible. McKay, 1954. 64p. \$ 2.75.

"The fifteen mysteries that high-light incidents in the life of our Lord and of our Lady, which make up the story in the Rosary, are here presented as a consecutive account in the words of the Bible (Douay version)." —Book jacket. Illustrated with marginal drawings in blue and with full-page black and white illustrations. There is no interpretation of the text or the pictures and the book will be more useful for Catholic children than meaningful for Protestant children.

R Wood, Kerry. Wild Winter; illus. by 7-9 Victor Mays. Houghton, 1954. 175p. \$ 2.25. (Values: Self-reliance; Perseverance)

When his parents moved from the small town of Willowdale, Alberta, to the nearby city, sixteen-year-old Callon stayed behind in spite of their protests. Fired by his determination to earn his living by writing, he spent a bitter winter alone in a shack on the outskirts of Willowdale. Here he wrote short stories—which brought only rejection slips—and trapped small animals that provided him with enough food to subsist on and furs to sell for postage and a few necessities such as oil for his lamps. The winter was a grim one but by its end Callon had sold a short story and had earned a job as the local reporter for a big city newspaper. The story seems a bit incredible in spots but it is well-told, with nothing hackneyed about either the plot or the characterizations.

R Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). Almena's 4-6 Dogs; illus. by Elton C. Fax. Ariel, 1954. 240p. \$ 2.75.

Almena Brown, one of the minor characters of Starlight, is the heroine of this story that takes place earlier than the events of Starlight. Almena is a small Negro girl who is determined

to become a veterinarian, although she feels quite frustrated by the fact that the family's lease will not permit her to have a pet of any kind. She makes up for it by taking care of the dogs belonging to her friends and neighbors whenever possible, and even manages to gain permission to board a dog occasionally. Although the story is primarily about Almena's efforts to be around dogs as much as possible, there are some good pictures of school life inter-woven. The style is episodic, and a few of the episodes have a didactic ring that does nothing to add pleasure or interest to the story.

R Wooley, Catherine. Ginnie and the New 3-5 Girl; illus. by Iris Beatty Johnson. Morrow, 1954. 159p. \$ 2.50. (Values: Age-mate relations).

Ginnie's status as Geneva's best friend is threatened when a new girl, Marcia, moves to the neighborhood and tries to join their two-some. Geneva is willing to add another friend to her list, but Ginnie is jealous of Marcia and refuses to have anything to do with her. The resulting clash is unpleasant while it lasts, but it has some good results. Ginnie becomes more independent of Geneva and learns to have fun by herself or with other children, and she also acquires the beginnings of an understanding of why people sometimes act as they do. Both girls come to understand Marcia better, even though they do not accept her as a "best friend," and they recognize their own selfishness in the situation. The writing lacks the light touch that make the Haywood and Cleary books so popular for this age level, but it does provide an adequate handling of a fairly common situation with youngsters of this age.

NOTE:

Unless otherwise indicated, the numbers given below the code letters for each annotation represent the reading grade level of the book.

Requests for the bibliography, "Books and Audio Visual Materials for Elementary Social Studies", which was listed in the February Bulletin, should be addressed to Miss Ellen Jones, Librarian, Minnetonka High School, Excelsior, Minnesota. The price of the list is \$ 1.25, plus 10¢ for postage.