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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles for Children and Young People

- R Amrein, Vera R. Sudden Voyage; illus. by Frederick Henning. Harcourt, 1954. 218p. \$2.75.

Mark, Nora and Toby had had all of their sailing experience on inland lakes until one summer when they went to a resort town on the coast of Connecticut. They were given a small sloop, but their father exacted a promise that they would not sail outside the harbor into Long Island Sound until they had had more experience in handling the boat. During their first week-end a sudden storm came up that caused them to decide to go outside the harbor in order not to be battered by other boats in the anchorage. Before the voyage ended they had stumbled onto an unmarked harbor and found evidence of smuggling—which they very sensibly turned over to the nearest Coast Guard station. A credible story with realistic characters and a fast-paced plot. (Gr.5-7)

- NR Anderson, Catherine Corley. Officer O'Malley on the Job; illus. by Chauncey Maltman. Whitman, 1954. 64p. \$1.75.
Slight story of the actions of a group of elemen-

tary school children who are determined to keep a friendly traffic cop from being transferred to a desk job. The writing is mediocre, the action highly improbable, and the illustrations wholly without artistic merit. (Gr.3-5)

- Ad Archer, Peter. Gergely's Golden Circus; pictures by Tibor Gergely. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 32 p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.

Brief text and colorful pictures describe some of the acts that make up a large circus. The text will need to be read aloud to young children but they can enjoy the details of the illustrations by themselves. (K-Gr.3)

- M Baldwin, Clara. Cotton for Jim; illus by Elton Fax. Abingdon Press, 1954. 160p. \$2.

Twelve-year-old Jim Tilden is wholly absorbed with the problems of cotton raising that his family face on their Mississippi cotton farm. He cannot understand his older brother's lack of interest in cotton and much less can he understand Steve's desire to get away from the farm. There is little plot to the story, which takes the reader through a successful season of

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planting, cultivating, and harvesting a cotton crop. At the end of the season Steve is allowed to leave home to enter medical school and Jim is given the opportunity to help operate some of the machines around the farm—which had been the height of his ambition. There is a tremendous amount of information about how cotton is grown, ginned, baled, and spun into thread, and the book might be used for its information, although it has little appeal as a story. Rogers, First Book of Cotton (Watts, 1954) gives the same information in a straight factual form. (Gr.4-6)

NR Beale, Will. Binky; illus. by Vladimir Bobri. Lothrop, 1954. 126p. \$2.50. Semi-fanciful tale of a young boy living with his uncle in a fishing village on the coast of Maine. The fishermen are threatened with disaster when the herring fail to appear one year, and Binky tries to solve their problem by imagining himself in the place of a fish. The story is told partly from the point of view of Binky and his efforts to persuade the fishermen not to give up hope, and partly from the point of view of young Tommy Cod, son of King Cod, who rallies his fellow cod fish, the seals, and the squid to fight off the dogfish who are frightening away the herring. The story lacks cohesion and clarity. (Gr.5-7)

R Bertail, Inez, ed. Complete Nursery Song Book; illus. by Walt Kelly. Lothrop, 1954. 152p. \$2.75. Although the jacket describes this as a "New Revised Edition" there has been no change in the content of the book. The jacket and binding are of different color and design, the text is printed in black where the earlier edition was in brown, and the color values of some of the illustrations have been changed—for the better. This is an excellent collection of nursery songs, with humorous illustrations and with easy musical arrangements. One hundred sixty-two songs are included. (K-Gr.3)

R Brown, Paul. Sparkie and Puff Ball. Scribner, 1954. 32p. \$2.50. Sparkie is a young boy who lives on a farm and has all of the paraphernalia of a cowboy, except a horse. One summer he visits a ranch where a real cowboy (who is also an Indian) teaches him to ride the pony, Puff Ball, and shows him some trick roping. At the end of the summer Sparkie's parents buy the pony and take it home with them. Colorful pictures. Text written at a third grade reading level (Gr.2-4)

Ad Buckley, Peter. Luis of Spain. Watts, 1955. 87p. (Around the World Today).

\$2.75 (Values: International understanding).

Second title in the new Around the World series. There is less attempt at a story in this one, and more straight factual information. The setting is a farm near Valencia, where young Luis lives with his parents. There is enough general information about life in this and other sections of Spain to give the reader more than just a brief glimpse of life in one small segment of the country. Many of the illustrations are too obviously posed, but they do give the reader some idea of how people in modern Spain live, dress, work and play. (Gr.4-6)

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Squanto, Friend of the White Men; illus. by Peter Burchard. Crowell, 1954. 106p. \$2.50.

A highly fictionalized account of the life of Squanto from his first meeting with white men as a young boy through his years in England and ending with his meeting with the Pilgrims when they first landed at Plymouth. The author gives no authority for his version of Squanto's first meeting with white men and it is not one of the more generally accepted versions. Aside from this point the book gives an interestingly new and different approach to the subject of the first settlement in New England. The excellent drawings by Burchard add greatly to the interest and appeal of the book. (Gr.2-4)

M Clewes, Dorothy. The Mystery of the Blue Admiral; illus. by J. Marianne Moll. Coward-McCann, 1954. 214p. \$2.50. When Inspector Hadley is called in to solve the theft of an exceedingly unattractive picture from the home of a wealthy recluse, he conveniently comes down with flu and thus leaves the way open for his three children to solve the mystery. This they do with the help of a doctor friend. They not only recover the painting, but also discover that the existing picture has been painted over an earlier picture that contains clues to where a treasure has been buried. The story has some interesting aspects, but the elements of coincidence are stretched beyond the point of credibility. The paper is of poor quality and on many pages the inking has come through to such an extent that the text is difficult to read. (Gr.6-8)

NR Coleman, H. S. Modelmaking. Crowell, 1954. 87p. \$2.

In Part I the author discusses the value of modelmaking: as a hobby, as one of the steps in inventing new machines or improving ones already in existence, as a means of illustrating scientific principles, and other uses. In Part II plans and instructions are given for building

six models: a toy sailing yacht, a miniature galleon—"The Golden Hind", a beginner's marine steam plant, a waterline model refrigerated-cargo liner, a flying model cabin monoplane, and a solid scale model "Viking" airliner. The book is excessively British in tone and terminology and will be difficult for boys in this country to use. The references made are to British books and magazines. (Gr.8-10)

NR Commager, Evan. Tenth Birthday; with drawings by Don Sibley. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 186p. \$ 2.25.

Five stories, each one about a little girl who is celebrating her tenth birthday. The stories begin in 1844 with Maggie Spears, and in each succeeding story the little girl of the preceding story is the mother of the girl whose birthday is being described. The author's self-conscious use of dialect results in writing that is forced and unrealistic. The style is that of a person telling the stories (with many parenthetical remarks by the author) to an audience of children, and the reader never has the feeling that the characters are real people. (Gr.5-6)

R Coy, Harold. The Real Book about Gold; illus. by Harper and Anita Johnson. Garden City Books, 1954. 222p. \$ 1.50.

An interestingly written account of the history of man's search for and use of gold from the days of the early Egyptians to modern times. The part that gold has played in promoting the exploration of the earth's surface and its effects on civilizations of various periods are presented, along with legends from many cultures and true accounts of man's adventurous search for the precious metal. (Gr.6-9)

R Crowell, Pers. What Can a Horse Do That You Can't Do? Whittlesey House, 1954. 32p. \$ 2.

Amusing comparisons, in text and pictures, between a horse and a boy. In the first half of the book the boy is shown trying to do some of the things that are easy for a horse—eat grass, carry a man on his back, pull a wagon up a hill, etc. In the second half the horse is shown imitating the boy—brushing his teeth, sitting on mother's lap, riding a bicycle, etc. The book may seem just silly to some literal minded children and adults, but it has the broad kind of humor that appeals to many young readers. (Gr.1-3)

NR Disney, Walt. Ben and Me; based on the book by Robert Lawson; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio adapted by Campbell Grant from the motion picture "Ben and

Me." Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A crude adaptation of the Lawson book, Ben and Me (Little, Brown, 1939). Disney has attempted, unsuccessfully, to improve on Lawson's humor and the result is labored, forced slap-stick where Lawson's book is truly funny. (K-Gr.2)

M Doane, Pelagie. Bible Children; Stories from the Old Testament. Lippincott, 1954. 64p. \$ 2.75.

Ten brief stories about episodes from the childhood of some famous Old Testament characters. Included are: Cain and Abel, Isaac, Benjamin, Miriam, Samuel, David, the small Hebrew maid who helped cure Namaan, Joash, Daniel, and Esther. The last story seems out of place, since Esther could hardly be called a child at the time of her marriage to Xerxes. The stories are only moderately well-told. The illustrations are excessively sentimental, and there is no individuality to any of the children in the pictures. (Gr.1-3)

R Eaton, Jeanette. Trumpeter's Tale; The Story of Young Louis Armstrong; illus. by Elton C. Fax. Morrow, 1955. 191p. \$ 3. (Values: Intercultural understanding)

An absorbing biography of Louis Armstrong from his childhood in the slums of New Orleans to his present position as king of trumpeters and one of the greatest living exponents of jazz. No attempt has been made to gloss over the more sordid aspects of Armstrong's early life, but neither have they been unduly emphasized. The warm, friendly personality that has won friends for Armstrong wherever he goes is evident throughout the book. In addition to being excellent biography, the book will have appeal for its history of the development of jazz. (Gr.7-10)

SpC English, William Walters. Basic Ballet. Random House, 1954. 181p. \$ 7.50.

A highly specialized book—more suited to use by ballet students than for general readers. In detailed drawings, photographs, and clear text, the author describes the basic ballet steps and how they are performed. Two 45 rpm recordings are included with the book. They contain music and voice coaching for some of the exercises that are described in the book. (Gr.5-)

R Erickson, Phoebe. Daniel 'Coon; The Story of a Pet Raccoon. Knopf, 1954. 179p. \$ 3.

A pleasing story of a young boy who loves all animals, and especially about his pet raccoon, Danny. Tacks, the young boy, lives with his grandparents on a farm where he has ample opportunity to study the habits of wild animals,

for his grandfather shares his interest and he has inherited from his mother a notebook in which she wrote about her own observations of the small animals of that region. There is a slight mystery involving a lost deed but it is not an important part of the story, which is primarily concerned with the escapades, often humorous, of Tacks and Danny. A warmly friendly story that will be fun to read, and will at the same time impart to the reader a great deal of nature lore. (Gr.6-8)

Ad Floherty, John Joseph. Troopers All; Stories of State Police. Lippincott, 1954. 148p. \$2.85.

From various states are gathered descriptions of the work of state policemen, giving incidents in the routines of duty, some history of the development of police forces, vocational opportunities and the requirements for both men and women working in these services, details of modern law enforcement and crime detection, and dramatic episodes told from state police records. The book points up the purpose and the scope of the state police organizations in a manner that will be useful for vocational guidance. The material is presented in a semi-fictionalized, journalistic style and is a description of the work of policemen rather than a discussion of causes of crime. (Gr.9-12)

NR Furman, Abraham Louis, ed. Everygirl's Career Stories. Lantern, 1954. 221p. \$2.50.

A collection of twelve fictional stories by different authors about teen-age girls who are either trying to get started in their careers or are working at their first jobs. The book contains little factual vocational information. It does not give a realistic picture of the working world: for instance, there is a high improbability in the ease and speed with which most of the girls find success. Throughout the book the characterizations have no depth of portrayal and the light prose gives a monotonous similarity of style to all the selections. (Gr.7-9)

R Gibson, Katharine. To See the Queen; illus. by Clotilde Embree Funk. Longmans, 1954. 144p. \$2.50.

A fanciful tale based on the nursery rhyme, "Pussy cat, Pussy cat, Where have you been?" The story tells of eleven-year-old Isabelle, the French princess who was wed to Richard II of England at the close of the Hundred Years War. Spoiled and bored with life at court, Isabelle ran away one day and lived for several months as a simple milkmaid on the farm of Freeholder John of Kent. There she became interested in John's son, Nicholas, known as Sparrow because of his

singing ability. When Isabelle returned to court, she took Sparrow with her for training as a minstrel. He was not happy, however, and eventually was allowed to return to his farm home. The story gets its title from Boots, Sparrow's cat who, like the cat in the rhyme, went to London to see the Queen—and thus precipitated the whole affair. An entertaining story that reproduces for the reader a picture of life during this period, but makes no attempt at historical accuracy otherwise. (Gr.6-8)

NR Goodenow, Earle. The Lazy Llama. Follett, 1954. 32p. \$2.

Pointless, very slight story of a llama too lazy to do any work who is sold to an American zoo. Once in the United States he perks up and becomes so lively that he is a nuisance for the zoo and so is returned to his former owner. At home once more he reverts to his lazy ways and spends the rest of his life lying in the sun by his master's house. (K-Gr.3)

NR Helm, Ruth H. The Roary Lion; pictures by Mimi Love. Oxford, 1954. 48p. \$2.25.

Tommy, the young hero of Gwendolyn, is back again with another maladjusted animal from the zoo. This time it is a lion that disturbs everyone around him with his continuous roaring. In spite of the protests of his aunt, Tommy takes the lion home and there discovers that it roars because it is hungry for ice cream. Forced humor in both text and illustrations. (Gr.3-4)

R Henry, Marguerite. Justin Morgan Had a Horse; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Rand McNally, 1954. 174p. \$2.95.

A re-written, expanded version of the book by the same title originally published by Wilcox & Follett in 1945. The story has gained somewhat in the re-writing, some new episodes have been added and parts of the original story have been re-written. Some confusion will be inevitable for libraries that have both volumes on the shelves, and it seems unfortunate that the author did not see fit to do this thorough a job in the first place. (Gr.5-8)

NR Hogan, Inez. Me. Dutton, 1954. 61p. \$2.

A collection of fifty-three poems for young children. The author has borrowed freely from Robert Louis Stevenson and A. A. Milne for the subjects and ideas used in her poems, but she unhappily lacks their poetic abilities. (K-Gr.2)

NR Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Wide River; pictures by Nils Hogner. Lippincott, 1954. 64p. \$2.

Little Chipmunk had spent the winter in a hole

near the banks of Wide River. When spring came he awoke and began wondering how to find his way back to Big Stump Lot where he had been born. His problem was solved for him when Wide River overflowed its banks and Little Chipmunk and several other small animals were washed downstream on a log. With rare good luck the log chose to turn over just as they were passing Big Stump Lot, so all of the animals swam ashore and made the Lot their new home. The animals are too personified to be realistic and the author presents as true the myth regarding groundhog day and that pigs are happiest when wallowing in mud. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level but the tone is too babyish to have appeal for youngsters of that age level and the book does not lend itself to reading aloud to younger children. (Gr.2-4)

R Kenworthy, Leonard S. Brazil; illus. by Rafaello Busoni. Holiday House, 1954. 28p. (Lands and Peoples). \$ 1.75. Following the usual pattern for books in this series, the author presents a brief overview of the geography, the present social and economic conditions, the people, and the history of Brazil. Busoni's illustrations are attractive and informative. A useful book as an introduction to the study of Brazil. (Gr.6-9)

R Lansing, Elizabeth Carleton (Hubbard). Lulu's Window; illus. by Grace A. Paull. Crowell, 1954. 150p. \$ 2.50. Eleven-year-old Libby Barnes was prepared to like the girls in her father's new pastorate at Danford, Connecticut, but she was uneasy as to whether she would be liked in return. Her worst fears were realized when she discovered that the girls in the new neighborhood were still under the domination of the previous minister's daughter—the remarkable Lulu. It took some time and considerable unhappiness before the other girls recognized Lulu's selfishness and lack of consideration for anyone but herself, and realized that Libby was just the opposite. Lulu's complete domination of the other girls, even from a distance, seems somewhat far-fetched, but the story makes entertaining reading otherwise and does show some of the problems faced by a new child in a community. (Gr.5-7)

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Diana in the China Shop. Morrow, 1955. 128p. \$ 2.25. Young Diana longed to help her grandmother in the antique shop, but because she was at the stage where she fell over chairs and dropped things, her grandmother insisted that she do no more than answer the telephone and occasionally help dust large pieces of furniture. In a pleasantly quiet, episodic style the author

describes some of Diana's activities as she tries to prove to her grandmother that she is to be trusted in the shop. Written at a third grade reading level. (Gr.3-5)

R Lawson, Robert. The Tough Winter. Viking, 1954. 128p. \$ 3. In this sequel to Rabbit Hill, the reader once again meets Georgie, Uncle Analdas, Phewie the skunk, Willie the fieldmouse, and all the other small animals of the first book. This time the "Folks" are planning to be away for the winter and have left the house and grounds in the hands of a caretaker and his wife. The caretaker turns out to be a sour man who owns a mean, badly-trained dog, and between them they make life miserable for the small animals. To add to the animals' troubles the winter is an unusually severe one, and only Georgie, Willie, and Father Rabbit are able to stay on the hill throughout the winter months. In the end, of course, the Folks return, the small animals come back to their favorite haunts, and all is well again. Children who have liked the first book will enjoy this one equally well. (Gr.4-6)

R MacKaye, David Loring. Pat's New Worlds; decorations by Richard Bennett. Longmans, 1954. 242p. \$ 3. Penniless, seventeen-year-old Pat Boyle came to this country in 1840 with his mother and with high ambitions. In spite of his poverty he dreamed of becoming a doctor and eventually managed to find a way to enroll at Harvard. There he made friends with a wide assortment of people—including the famous Agassiz. The story, which involves not only student life at Harvard but also a lost sea captain and a runaway slave, is a lively one, told with much vigor and humor. The fictionalized characters are more fully developed than are the real characters, and the plot becomes somewhat extenuated toward the end. Nevertheless, the book with its skilled, almost epigrammatic writing makes a satisfactory contribution to collections of period and adventure stories. (Gr.8-12)

NR MacLaren, Evelyn. Rocket Rider; pictures by Jan Ross. Whitman, 1954. 26p. \$ 2.75. Extremely slight story of a cat, living on a rocket base, who gets into a rocket one day when no one is looking and is inadvertently carried aloft with it. The story is in some ways similar to Todd's Space Cat (Scribner, 1952), but it is not as well written and does not have as much information as the Todd book. Written at an upper second grade reading level. (Gr.1-3)

R Meader, Stephen Warren. The Buckboard

Stranger; illus. by Paul Calle.
Harcourt, 1954. 213p. \$ 2.75.

Using a setting from his own boyhood, the author tells a rousing story of two fourteen-year-old boys who become involved with a stranger who turns out to be a gambler and a murderer. The background, of a small New Hampshire town at the turn of the century, is excellent, and if the story occasionally borders on the melodramatic, it is fast-paced and told in a manner that makes it seem plausible. (Gr.7-9)

SpR Means, Florence (Crannell). The Rains Will Come; illus. by Fred Kabotie.
Houghton, 1954. 241p. \$ 2.50.

A story of the Hopi Indians in the early days of their first contacts with white men. The events take place during a period of severe drought, and are concerned primarily with sixteen-year-old Lohmay who believes that all of the troubles are the result of his having shown a white man some of the tribe's religious secrets. Finally he makes a public confession—only to find that many other tribal members have done equally wrong. In the end the rains come and the people are saved from starvation. The grim, almost unrelieved suffering throughout the book makes this a story for fairly mature readers. (Gr.8-10)

NR Moore, Lillian. The Important Pockets of Paul; illus. by William D. Hayes.
McKay, 1954. 74p. \$ 2.75.

A two-part story of a small boy and his pockets. In the first part Paul sets out to prove to his mother that the things he carries in his pockets are important. He gives his string and top to a carpenter to use as a plumb line (not that the carpenter needs a new plumb line, but it will prove to Paul's mother that tops and string are important to have in case a plumb line is needed.) A long nail is used to repair a friend's wagon so that the boys can go coasting down a hill, and a piece of wood is used to carve a new propeller for a model airplane. So much for the first part. In the second part of the story a friendly watchmaker helps Paul to overcome his fear of water and learn to swim. An over-long, disjointed story. (Gr.3-5)

NR Morenus, Richard. Northland Adventure.
Dodd, 1954. 250p. \$ 2.50.

Randy's family in Indiana inherits a trading post in Canada, along with a mystery about its past owner. Father, mother, and son head north for a series of adventures during which the villains are exposed, the Indians of the area are won back to friendship and trade, and Randy grows in competence as a woodsman. The outdoor detail is good. Some of the characterizations are well-handled. The plot is slight and slow-

moving and there is a definite superciliousness in the author's treatment of non-whites.

(Gr.7-8)

Ad Paradis, Adrian A. Never Too Young to Earn; 101 Part Time Jobs for Girls.
McKay, 1954. 179p. \$ 2.75.

Advice for the high school girl who is looking for ways to earn money, with 101 suggestions for either finding a job or creating one. The first three sections of the book cover (1) succeeding in business—proper attitudes, etc.; (2) working for others—job hunting, job opportunities, and (3) managing a business of one's own. In the last two sections there are short job descriptions, with hints for the job hunter. Most of the presentations seem accurate and will arouse interest. The book encourages the girl to judge herself and to find her own special place in the working world. However, the book presents work as that which one must do rather than that which might make life worthwhile, and there is undue emphasis on the profit motive in business. (Gr.9-12)

NR Reiss, Malcolm. China Boat Boy; illus. by Jeanyee Wong. Lippincott, 1954. 157p. \$ 2.50.

A story of modern China and of a young boy's efforts to find his father—a soldier with the Nationalist Army—and to save the family's fishing cormorants from a greedy money-lender. The story has many of the elements of a Fu Manchu movie as the boy becomes involved with murderers, smugglers, American airmen, hidden passageways, and a white rain bird that is the last of a royal breed. The setting is interesting but the action is too fantastic to seem realistic. (Gr.6-8)

R Rendina, Laura Cooper. My Love for One; frontispiece by Ruth King. Little, 1955. 244p. \$ 2.75.

In this fourth story about Debbie Jones, she and her family are facing the difficult period of readjustment following the shock of her mother's sudden death. Debbie is struggling to learn to keep house, to garden, to give some guidance to her younger sister Polly, and at the same time reconcile herself to the thought that she cannot go on to college as she had planned. The story is about equally divided between Debbie's efforts to cope with a new situation, and Polly's difficult, but fairly typically adolescent reaction to the shock of her mother's death. By the end of the book, Polly has regained her perspective. Mr. Jones is all set to re-marry, and Debbie has before her the pleasant prospect of college and a new love affair. For the most part the problems and characterizations are adequately handled. (Gr.7-9).

NR Rounds, Ruth. It Happened to Hannah;
illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse.
Dutton, 1954. 123p. \$ 2.50.

Nine-year-old Hannah Adams was unhappy when she and her grandmother first moved from Washington Square to Washington Heights. The neighborhood was different and Hannah was sure she would never make friends with any of the girls in her new school. Then one day she found a "Star of David" which someone had lost, and without really understanding its meaning, began wearing it. The medal opened a world of friendship to her but also brought trouble as she tried to keep the truth about her religious affiliation from her new-found Jewish friends, and at the same time tried to hide her deception from her staunchly Methodist grandmother. In the end the problem is resolved, but not before the author has dragged in several other brands of religion and has preached a very obvious sermon on religious tolerance and understanding. The results are too didactic to have much appeal.
(Gr.5-7)

R Scheele, William E. Prehistoric Animals.
World Publishing Co., 1954. 127p. \$4.95.

An interestingly written account of various forms of animal life during the first five million years of life on the earth. The large page size (9x12) gives ample scope for the black-and-white drawings picturing the various animals in their natural habitats, and also the smaller drawings showing the bone formation and the fossil remains of many of the animals. The text includes the approximate period in which each animal flourished, the approximate size of each animal, the literal meaning of the animal's name, where fossils of each animal are generally found, and museums in which fossil remains or reconstructed skeletons of the various animals may be found. The text is more suited to readers at the junior-senior high school level, but the illustrations are clear enough for the book to be used in the elementary grades. A bibliography at the end suggests some relatively simple and some more advanced books on the same and related subjects.
(Gr.4-)

NR Schlein, Miriam. The Sun Looks Down;
pictures by Abner Graboff. Abelard-
Schuman, 1954. 42p. \$ 2.50.

A listing of some of the things that the sun sees as it looks down each day—sheep on a hill, a ship, a store, a robin's nest, a house, etc.—described in simple text and grotesque illustrations. For each item the statement is made that someone else looks down on the same thing, and the child is supposed to guess the answer from a more or less accompanying picture (some of the pictures come several pages after the question has been asked). The pictures are not always

easy for the child to identify since the shepherd looks more like an ogre than a man and in the boat picture it is difficult to tell whether the text is referring to the sailor or the sea-gull. There is little order to the arrangement of text and pictures and the results are confusing.
(Pre-school)

R Schneider, Herman and Nina. Let's Look Under the City; illus. by Bill Ballantine.
Scott, 1954. 71p. \$ 2.

Completely revised edition, with most of the text re-written, new illustrations throughout, and a new page size (7 1/2 x 6 1/2), of a book first published in 1950. The emphasis in the text has been changed from a simple explanation of where gas, electricity, and water come from to the inter-dependence of people in making such services available to everyone in a city. The new edition is better organized than was the earlier one and some of the illustrations are better, although some are still not at all clear and understandable.
(Gr.2-4)

SpR Slobodkin, Louis. The Horse with the High-Heeled Shoes. Vanguard Press,
1954. 32p. \$ 2.50.

Fanciful story of a horse and her mistress both of whom try too hard to show the world that they are ladies. The horse wears high-heeled shoes and the owner wears an old-fashioned full-skirted riding habit. One rainy day they bog down from the mud that collects on the horse's shoes and the weight of water in the skirt of the riding habit, and have to be rescued by a colonel, who tells them what he thinks of their apparel. Thereafter they both dress more sensibly and learn that clothes do not necessarily make a lady. Much too adult for most children of the picture-book age.
(K-Gr.1)

NR Sprinkle, Rebecca K. Parakeet Peter;
illus. by Dorothy Grider. Rand McNally,
1954. 30p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

Insipid story of a small boy who struggles to teach his pet parakeet to say "Happy Birthday." He succeeds.
(K-Gr.2)

NR Steele, William O. Francis Marion, Young Swamp Fox; illus. by Dirk Gringhuis.
Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans). \$ 1.75.

Highly fictionalized account of the life of Francis Marion. Marion never emerges as a real character with any individuality of his own, and there is not enough about his military career to give the young reader any accurate conception of who the man was or the importance of his part in the Revolutionary War.
(Gr.3-5)

M Summers, James L. Prom Trouble.
Westminster, 1954. 222p. \$ 2.75.

Mr. Summers has again written of the trials of a teen-age boy. Rodney Budlong, junior class president, suffers from an over-whelming sense of inferiority that makes it difficult for him to realize that he is well liked by his classmates, and especially by pretty Jody Bradford. There is some humor to the account of Rodney's bumbling efforts to lead the class through its junior year, and occasional perceptive insights into the characters of Rodney's teachers and his parents. However, Rodney's inferiority complex seems excessive to the point of unreality, as does Jody's mature understanding of herself and of Rodney. (Gr.8-10)

Ad Thomson, Peter. Sierra Ranger. Dodd, 1954. 212p. \$ 2.50.

An adequate, although in no way outstanding story of a young man's experiences as a beginning ranger in the National Park Service. Doug Moran has his full share of adventures—fighting forest fires, hunting for lost children, and capturing a man who is destroying the forest. There is nothing noteworthy about the writing but the picture of the work of the Park Service is a good one. (Gr.7-9)

R Todd, Ruthven. Trucks, Tractors and Trailers; drawings by Lemuel B. Line. Putnam, 1954. 32p. \$ 2.

Full-color, scale drawings of forty different trucks, tractors, and trailers with brief accompanying text telling how and where each is used. Young children will enjoy the clear, accurate details of the pictures, although the text is too difficult for independent reading below the fifth grade reading level.

(Gr.3-7)

NR Watson, Nancy Dingman. Whose Birthday Is It? pictures by Aldren Auld Watson. Knopf, 1954. 47p. \$ 2.

Tommy was excited and puzzled as he went with his three older sisters and his older brother to the barn one cold December night. They told him it was someone's birthday, and they even took a cake, book, and candle along, but they would not tell him whose birthday it was until after all the chores were finished. After doing the chores, the older children dressed like Mary, Joseph, an angel, and "We-Three-Kings", put Tommy in the manger to represent the baby Jesus, and had a Christmas celebration. The story will have more meaning for adults than for very young children who will undoubtedly confuse Tommy with the Christ Child. The animals in the illustrations

are much better drawn than are the children, who are often out of proportion (K-Gr.1)

M Wehren, Kate. Penny's Bargain Horse. Dodd, 1954. 170p. \$ 2.50.

Penny Wheeler dreamed of a horse of her own, although she had no real hope of owning one as long as her family lived in the city. Then came a summer when the family planned to live on an olive ranch for three months, and it was there that Penny found her horse—a bargain horse that she could have for only \$ 25. The horse was not exactly a bargain, however, since it had been so poorly handled that Penny had to spend the summer re-training it. Then came the problem of what to do with the horse when the family moved back to the city. Participation in a local horse show—where Penny won second place—solved that problem neatly, if unrealistically, by having the original owners of the horse appear and offer to take it off her hands, with the understanding that she could come out and ride it at any time. The story has little originality in either plot or characterizations, and some of the situations are highly improbable. (Gr.5-7)

NR Werner, Jane. The Golden Picture Book of Words; How They Look and What They Tell; pictures by Cornelius Dewitt. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 64p. (A Fun-to-Learn Golden Book). \$ 1.

Contrived stories designed to introduce new words. The words and the pictures of the things they represent are given on one page and the story is on the facing page. The stories are pointless and labored and the illustrations are not always adequate for word identification.

(K-Gr.2)

M Widney, Stanley A. Terry Parks; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 1954. 127p. \$ 2.

Seven-and-a-half year old Terry Parks was the only boy in the new neighborhood to which his family moved, although there were numerous girls, including his own two sisters. Shortly afterward another new family moved in next door to the Parks, and to Terry's delight there were two boys, one eight and the other nine. The activities of the three boys are set forth in brief episodic chapters, held together by the slight thread of Terry's desire for a caboose for his backyard—a desire that came true at Christmas time. The author shows an occasional insight into the child's way of thinking and talking, but often the humor of the situations is that of an adult being amused by children and not real child-humor. The reading difficulty level ranges from third grade up. (Gr.3-4)