



I L L I N O I S

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VIII

May, 1955

Number 9

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles

for Children and Young People

- R Adler, Irving. Time in Your Life; illus.
6-9 by Ruth Adler. Day, 1955, 128p.
\$ 2.75.

A clearly written accurate explanation of the development of clocks, watches, and calendars, with some emphasis on time as it is expressed in the rhythms of nature. The style of writing is informal; there are good line drawings. The book is a fuller development of the subject than that given in Marshak's What Time Is It? (Lippincott, 1932). The final chapters include information about the language clock, atomic clock, electronic clock; all adding to our knowledge of the ages of past civilizations and the nature of the universe. The book is indexed, and there are directions on the jacket and in the book for making a perpetual calendar for the years 1951 through 1999.

- R Anderson, Ethel Todd. Saddlebag Summer;
8-10 decorations by Victor Mays. Funk &
Wagnalls, 1955. 238p. \$ 2.75.

Joan and Bruce Browning have earned enough money to drive from the Browning's Pennsylvania home to their uncle's Colorado ranch for

the summer. In character and background information, this is the same brother and sister who worked so hard to earn this vacation in the author's Summer in Their Eyes (Winston, 1952). For some unknown reason, the names of all of the characters, including the Arabian horse, have been changed in this book. All the beauty and excitement they have been promised is found by Joan and Bruce with their aunt and uncle and cousin Trish. Although Joan is a year older than Trish, she finds her cousin a good hostess and a lively companion. Joan's romantic interests and Bruce's medical interests are both encouraged by the friendship of a young rural doctor. Trish's mother never emerges from a flat "helping hand" type of character; however, the young people and Uncle Ned provide some very good friendship values. There is a slight mystery about the disappearance of the prize Arabian horse. The writing is not particularly distinguished, but it is pleasant and interesting.

- M Atwater, Montgomery Meigs. Cattle Dog.
7-9 Random House, 1954. 245p. \$ 2.75
A typical boy-dog story in which the boy is the only son of a successful ranch owner, and the dog is a throw-back among thoroughbred cattle dogs. The ability to bark has been almost bred

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.

out of the Buckley cattle dogs until Rusty comes along, and he has that ability to a distressing degree. Then a chance comes for sixteen-year-old Don Buckley to take Rusty with him to the summer range and try to train him out of his unfortunate habit. For three months—during which time everything happens from an encounter with a porcupine to a forest fire—the dog and boy work together, and in the end Rusty has learned to refrain from barking, and Don has proved his manhood. Not an especially original plot, and heavily laden with "had he but known."

NR Baker, Charlotte. The Venture of the Thunderbird; Story of a Voyage. McKay, 1954. 243p. \$3.

NR Baker, Charlotte. The Return of the Thunderbird. McKay, 1954. 216p. \$3. A two-volume novel recounting the adventures of two boys living in the year 1800. In the first volume the boys, sixteen-year-old Roy and fifteen-year-old Jerry, set forth on the China trader, Thunderbird, to try to recoup a lost fortune and clear their dead father's name. In the course of the story they run the gamut of melodramatic, sensational adventures from a trek on foot across the Isthmus of Panama (Jerry's contribution) to several months of enslavement by a tribe of Pacific Northwest Indians (Roy's share). The first book ends with the two boys reunited and ready to set off after their scoundrelly cousin, Audley, who has been the cause of all their mishaps. In the second volume the two boys are on the vessel Swan off the Pacific Northwest coast. The story begins immediately after Roy's rescue from the Indian tribe, and takes the boys through many melodramatic adventures in China, where they finally overthrow their cousin, regain possession of the Thunderbird, and bring Audley back to the States in irons. Once back in Virginia, they discover that their step-mother is also involved in the plot, but eventually they succeed in besting all of the villains and regaining their inheritance. Neither volume can stand alone as a separate story, and the faults are the same for each book: an episodic style with unrealistic, stilted characterizations, an overdependence on coincidence, and a piling of melodramatic incident on melodramatic incident.

NR Banks, Richard. The Mysterious Leaf; 4-6 illus. by Irene Haas. Harcourt, 1954. 51p. \$2.50.

A not too successful attempt at nature fantasy. Three eccentric professors who live together are visited one night by a ragged little girl who sells them some sassafras and gives them a magic leaf that they must hold constantly and let touch nothing except their skin. This they

manage to do throughout the winter and then when March comes they learn that they have been guarding Spring. Their reward is to hear the first bud pop out. Too precious to have much meaning or appeal for most young children and the fantasy is often strained and forced.

NR Barr, Jene. Mr. Mailman; illus. by 1-2 Chauncey Maltman. Whitman, 1954. 32p. \$1.25.

An attempt to show the work of the U.S. Postal Service, starting with the work of the local mailman and then showing what happens to three letters written by a small boy to three relatives in different parts of the world. The information is very superficial and the illustrations are not always accurate. For example, several pictures show the mailman going into houses to deliver mail rather than leaving it in the mail boxes; in fact, the mailman is never once pictured leaving mail in a mailbox. Since this is ostensibly an informational book, such obvious errors make it worthless. The Colonius, At the Post Office (Melmont, 1954) and the Schloat, Adventures of a Letter (Scribner, 1949) are better written books on the same subject and give accurate information.

SpC Beim, Jerrold. With Dad Alone; illus. by 5-7 Don Sibley. Harcourt, 1954. 145p. \$2.75. (Values: Understanding of death; Father-son relations)

A story built around the problems of adjustment that are faced by a father and his two sons after the sudden death of the boys' mother. The two boys have spent the summer immediately following their mother's death on their grandparents' farm but in the fall they return home. At times the inevitable loneliness of the new situation and the difficulties in learning to get along with a housekeeper seem almost insurmountable, especially to Bruce, the older of the two boys. In time, however, he makes a satisfactory adjustment and in the process comes to an even closer relationship with his father than he had had before. The problems are well-handled and although the book is too obviously written with a purpose to have much appeal for general reading, it could be used as guidance material to help youngsters in similar situations.

NR Bemelmans, Ludwig. Madeline. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden yrs. Book). 25¢.

The text of Bemelmans' classic has been reproduced here in its entirety; 20 of the original illustrations have been omitted and the rest greatly reduced in size. The colors

are less pleasing than those of the original edition. It will be unfortunate if any children have this as their only experience with Madeline.

R Bothwell, Jean. Flame in the Sky; A Story of the Days of the Prophet Elijah. Vanguard, 1954. 160p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized account of Israel during the days of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. The action is seen through the eyes of Jotham, a young boy who is serving at the court of Ahab, and whose uncle, Elisha, was chosen as the successor to the prophet Elijah. The major portion of the book is concerned with the prolonged drought which Elijah had prophesied as a result of Ahab's sins. At the end the reader is given a rapid view of the events that led to the death of Ahab. The action is well-paced and the story will give young readers a good picture of life during this period.

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. The Million Dollar Fumble. Lothrop, 1954. 180p. \$2.50

Upon returning from military service abroad, Jerry Rand plans to enter professional football. He finds that his father, a famous college football coach, has disappeared following the mysterious death of one of his players, so when Jerry is hired to play with the Bisons, a top professional team, he continues to search secretly for his dad. Meanwhile, Jerry is being watched by a large scale racketeer who has become part owner of the Bisons and who tries to bribe Jerry into throwing a game. Jerry and his friends eventually expose the villains and vindicate his father. The details about professional football give some value to the book. However, the characterizations are wooden and stereotyped; coincidence is relied upon to resolve the plot; and undue emphasis is given to the protection of the football teams from bad publicity, and the ease of attainment when one knows the right people.

R Bridges, William. Zoo Expeditions. 6-12 Morrow, 1954. 191p. \$3.50.

Fascinating first hand accounts of the author's experiences in gathering specimens and making scientific studies of animals in various parts of the world. As an interesting and informative account of how scientific expeditions are organized and carried out the book will be useful for classes studying unusual forms of animal life and for young readers who might be considering such work as a vocation. Illustrated with photographs made on the various expeditions.

R Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Ronnie's Wish; drawings by Jean Martinez. Friendship Press, 1954. 32p. 75¢ paper; \$1.25 boards.

Ronnie is a small Negro boy who wishes he were larger so that grown-ups would pay more attention to him. Then one day, at the children's zoo, he discovers that there are many pleasant things that he can do that grown-ups cannot do, so he becomes satisfied with his size. Rather slight, but may appeal to some children who have similar longings.

M Castor, Henry. Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders; illus. by William Reusswig. Random House, 1954. 182p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A brief, rather superficial account of the activities of Theodore Roosevelt in organizing and leading the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. There are some digressions that seem to have been included more for the purpose of padding the book than to add to the reader's understanding of the man or the times in which he lived. Some of the issues involved in the war are given such superficial treatment they could lead to misunderstandings on the part of the reader. The style is excessively slangy and marked by a heavy-handed humor.

R Cavanah, Frances, ed. We Came to America; Firsthand Accounts by Immigrants Who Came to This Country to Make New Lives for Themselves and to Help Make Our Nation Great. Macrae Smith, 1954. 307p. \$3.50.

Twenty-four immigrants from as many different countries are presented through excerpts from their own accounts of how they came to this country. A twenty-fifth (Phyllis Wheatley) is represented by an excerpt from Shirley Graham's The Story of Phyllis Wheatley (Messner, 1949). Some of the people are well-known, others are obscure, but their stories are all interesting and give a good insight into the kinds of people who make up this country. In each instance the editor has provided an introductory section about the country from which the person came and the names of some of the famous people who also represent that country. A useful book for social studies classes, and interesting for general library reading.

R Chipperfield, Joseph E. Silver Star; Stallion of the Echoing Mountain; illus. by C. Gifford Ambler. Roy, 1955. 268p. \$3.

Once again Mr. Chipperfield writes of the wild country and animal life that he knows so well. This time the setting is Northwest Montana and the main character is a wild bay stallion with a white star on its forehead. The stallion, like its sire, had become a legendary character in that section of the country and the belief had grown up that no man could capture him and

live. Then along came young Glenn Campbell, who likewise had grown up in the Northwest, and he was the one who finally broke the legend by capturing and taming the horse. As usual in Chipperfield's books the story is replete with long descriptive passages that reflect the beauty and grandeur of the country, but that also tend to slow the story in a way that will lessen its interest for many readers.

M Clairmonte, Glenn. John Sutter of California; decorations by L. Vosburgh. Nelson, 1954. 185p. \$ 2.50.

An over-glamorized biography of Sutter that takes him from the time he left Missouri for the Pacific Coast, through the establishment of his Fort in California, to the discovery of gold and the beginnings of the gold rush. The author gives no source for her interpretation of Sutter's thoughts and motives, and her characterization of him glosses over the eccentricities that are usually attributed to the man. The account does not show the disastrous effects that the gold rush had on Sutter and the kingdom he attempted to build. The book has some slight value for its picture of this era in American history, but it is so highly fictionalized that it cannot be used as other than the lightest of supplementary reading.

R Crisp, Frank. The Treasure of Barby Swin; 7-9 illus. by R. M. Powers. Coward-McCann, 1955. 215p. \$ 2.75.

A story of adventure on the high seas and in a small English port city in the early 1800's. Dick Grover, an orphan, worked in the chandlers shop of Amos Deeping, until Amos' death plunged him into a series of wild adventures that included two attempts to drown him, a voyage on a whaler, and the final recovery of Amos' fortune which had been the motivating factor behind all of the adventures. An exciting, swift-paced adventure story.

Ad Crouse, Anna and Russel. Peter Stuyvesant of Old New York; illus. by Spier. Random House, 1954. 184p. (A Landmark Book). \$ 1.50.

An adequate, although rather shallow biography of Peter Stuyvesant. His early career is treated very briefly and the emphasis is on his work in New Amsterdam. The brevity of the text does not allow for full treatment of the man or his times, and the use of the book will be limited to that of an introduction to Stuyvesant and to the work of the Dutch in settling the New World. The illustrations are pleasing but are not always placed appropriately with regard to the text.

NR Dawson, Carley. The Sign of the Seven Seas; illus. by Lynd Kendall Ward. Houghton, 1954. 287p. \$ 2.50.

In this sequel to Mr. Wicker's Window, Chris Mason returns to the Georgetown of 1792 and sails once more on the Mirabelle. This time Mr. Wicker also goes along on the voyage that takes them around the Horn to the coast of Western Mexico, where they once more meet the evil magician, Clagget Chew—and once more overcome him by the use of magic that is stronger than anything in his power. This time the story is about evenly divided between the young heiress Susan Moffit, a passenger on the Mirabelle, and David Russell, a stowaway. The introduction of the love story will limit the book's appeal for young readers who are interested in fantasy, and the elements of magic will not be especially appealing to girls who are wanting a love story.

Ad Derleth, August William. Land of Gray Gold; Lead Mining in Wisconsin; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Aladdin, 1954. 188p. (American Heritage Series). \$ 1.75.

A moderately interesting story of the Cornish lead miners who settled in Wisconsin in the mid-1800's. Young Peter Trelawney came to this country with his mother and younger sister to live in the house that Mr. Trelawney had built for them just before he was killed in a mine accident. Peter took his father's place both as head of the family and in the mine, although he did not do actual mining for very long. His educational background, which was exceptionally good for his day, and his ability in other respects brought him to the attention of the mine owner and resulted in a fairly rapid rise from mine work to office work. The story is little more than a framework for information about the development of the country, although it does have some appeal as a story and a few moments of suspense.

R Dillon, Ellis. The San Sebastian. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 241p. \$ 2.75.

Young Pat Herron salvaged an old sailing ship, the San Sebastian, that appeared off the coast near his home during a severe storm, and was plunged immediately into a mystery that took him, as a captive, to a village on the coast of Brittany and back to his native Ireland. There, during a second storm, the mystery was finally solved. An exciting adventure story of 1850, told with the same Irish flavor that made Lost Island such good reading.

NR Disney, Walt. 20,000 Leagues Under the

- 4-6 Sea; told by Elizabeth Beecher from the original story by Jules Verne; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio, adapted by Campbell Grant. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 64p. (A Big Golden Book). \$ 1.

A watered down re-telling of the classic. The action follows the movie script closely. What made for drama in dialogue through the actors' abilities on the screen makes very dull reading as given here. The scenes of violence and struggle become the focus of the excitement. The beauty and mystery of the undersea life are never given any attention by the poor writing. The stiff, unnaturally colored illustrations are of comic book type. Children too young to enjoy the original book yet eager to find out more about Captain Nemo and the Nautilus (after seeing the movie) will find no additional information and very little stimulus to the imagination in this cheap commercial product.

- NR Dodworth, Dorothy. A Dangerous Day for K-2 Mrs. Doodlepunk. Scott, 1954. 40p. \$1.50.

Slight, moderately amusing story of a small girl who takes her doll for a walk one day and is harrassed by the small boy next door, until she finally turns on him and gives him a bit of his own treatment. The story is of the kind that appeals to adults but has little to offer young children.

- R Dolbier, Maurice. A Lion in the Woods; 4-6 with illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1955. 115p. \$ 2.75.

Amusing story of Timothy Hoppitt, ambitious young rabbit reporter on the Daily Blade, who sets the forest in an uproar by writing an imaginary story about an escaped lion—a story that is inadvertently printed as a piece of straight news. Harry Fox, unscrupulous and cowardly star reporter for the paper, learns of the hoax and turns it to his own advantage, until a real lion appears, Fox is shown up for the coward that he is, and Timothy becomes the hero of the day by facing the lion and sending it on its way. Not as funny as some of Dolbier's other stories, but perceptive readers will recognize and chuckle over many of the take-offs on human foibles.

- M DuJardin, Rosamond (Neal). A Man for 7-9 Marcy. Lippincott, 1954. 182p. \$ 2.50. Continuing the affairs of Marcy Rhodes, this story takes her through her senior year in high school—a year that starts out to be dull and uninteresting since her older brother Ken and her best friend, Steve, are away at college. She begins by joining a club of girls who call themselves the "Widows", but some straight

talking on Ken's part during Thanksgiving weekend shows her that this is not a sensible way to act. She sets about to develop an interest in some of the boys in her class and succeeds to the extent of snaring one of the most eligible of the seniors plus another boy who comes close to being serious competition to Steve. However, in the end she decides that her heart still belongs to Steve. As in the earlier books, this one is sheer fluff, with an accent on dates, and with boys the end-all and be-all of existence. There is no depth to the characterizations, but the book is not otherwise objectionable.

- M Emery, Anne. Campus Melody. Westminster, 1955. 188p. \$ 2.75.

Another story of Jean Burnaby. This time she is in her first year of college, where she finds herself torn between loyalty for Scotty, the boy-next-door, and infatuation with Phil, a campus wheel who turns out to be a selfish, unstable young man. At the end of the year Jean has decided to transfer to Northern University to be with Scotty. This is not Emery's best. The characters and situations are typed, and having Jean make her choice of a college on the basis of her current emotional state rather than any consideration of what the college offers is not exactly an idea to be fostered among young readers.

- R Emrich, Duncan. The Cowboy's Own Brand 5- Book; illus. by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1954. 82p. \$ 1.50.

An interesting discussion of the reasons why cattle brands were first used, how to read a complete brand, how to read single letters, and how to design original brands. Includes use of numbers, letters, figures, pictures, warnings, and rustlers brands. There are blank pages at the end for the reader and his friends to design and register their own brands. A useful book for general library, home, or group use.

- R Farley, Walter. The Black Stallion's 7-9 Sulky Colt; illus. by Harold Eldridge. Random House, 1954. 245p. \$ 2.

A sequel to Blood Bay Colt. With Jimmy Creech, owner of the colt, ill, and Tom Messenger, his driver, injured, it seems that the colt's chance for entering the Hambletonian is slim. At this point, Alec Ramsey and Henry Dailey step in and undertake to train the colt for the big race. They manage to cure it of its one bad fault and Alec drives it to victory in the Hambletonian. A good picture of harness racing and lacking the sensationalism that mars so many of Farley's stories.

M Faulkner, Nancy. Side Saddle for Dandy;
7-9 illus. by Marguerite de Angeli.
Doubleday, 1954. 214p. \$ 2.75.

Lucy Dandridge Clark (Dandy) had lived all her fourteen years on a back country plantation in Virginia. After her mother's death she had been allowed to do much as she pleased, to dress like a boy and to ride, hunt and fish with her brothers. The coming of her Aunt Cordelia and of her cousin Polly changed all that. Much against her wishes Dandy had to learn to be a lady, and this she accomplished in an incredibly short time, although she kept enough of her backwoods ways to be able to save the plantation during an Indian raid. Uneven characterizations and a well-worn plot.

Ad Fenner, Phyllis Reid, ed. Speed Speed
6-8 Speed; Stories of Races and Chases in
Hot Rods and Jets, Trains and Planes,
Submarines and Speedboats; illus. by
William Lohse. Watts, 1954. 246p. \$ 3.

Fourteen stories of speed on land, sea and in the air. Seven of the stories are from longer books—ranging from Felsen's Hot Rod to Saint-Exupery's Wind Sand and Stars. Six of the stories are from Boys' Life and one is from Open Road. The stories are exceedingly uneven in quality, the excerpts being generally better written than the magazine stories. An adequate collection for libraries needing material of this kind.

R Fischer, Hans. The Birthday; A Merry
3-5 Tale with Many Pictures. Harcourt,
yrs. 1954. 32p. \$ 3.

Another delightful picture-story book by the creator of Pitschi. This time the animals are planning a surprise birthday party to celebrate their beloved Mistress Lizette's seventy-sixth birthday. They prepare a fine feast and a pageant, then—final and best surprise—Mauli and Ruli produce a basketful of kittens that had been born several weeks earlier. As in the first book, there is a childlike appeal to the story, and the illustrations have a wealth of detail, colorful and amusing, for children to pour over.

NR Freer, Marjorie (Mueller). House of
8-10 Holly. Messner, 1954. 183p. \$ 2.75.
Holly was the only member of the Elliot family made unhappy by the family's move to the country. She liked the new house, but was dismayed at the thought of living so far from the city where she had hoped to get a job in one of the large department stores. Her family did not want her to live away from home and the new house was too far from the city for her to commute. Following the suggestions of some of her neighbors,

Holly reluctantly began to investigate the possibilities of putting her talent for creating gadgets of all kinds to work and establishing a mail order business. During the course of the next year she learned all the joys and headaches of mail order work—and decided it was just what she wanted most to do. There is, of course, a romance, with the usual unappreciated "right" man and the infatuation with the "wrong" man, plus the expected happy ending. Stock characters and surface emotions combined with poor writing keep the book from having any value either as a career novel or a love story.

NR French, Paul. Lucky Starr and the Oceans
7-9 of Venus. Doubleday, 1954. 186p.
\$ 2.50.

Another story in the Lucky Starr series. This time the intrepid hero is off to Venus where trouble is brewing in the colonies. After the usual run of narrow escapes, Lucky finds and captures the man who is causing all of the trouble. A typical series story style that gains nothing from the fact that it is also science fiction.

NR Furman, Abraham Louis, ed. Everygirls
7-9 Mystery Stories; illus. by Albert L.
Lake. Lantern, 1954. 222p. \$ 2.50.

A collection of ten poorly written mystery stories, some of them quite pointless and others so dependent on coincidence as to be totally unrealistic.

M Gleason, Riner. The Boy from Nowhere.
7-9 Westminister, 1955. 192p. \$ 2.75.

Biff, a young boy whose parents were killed in an Indian raid on the way to California, had grown up in a mountain mining camp where he learned to handle horses but had virtually no formal schooling. When he reached the age of fifteen, Biff decided to leave the camp and attach himself to a wagon train that was going back East. He got a job driving for the Wilson family, and when Mr. Wilson died on the trail, Biff agreed to remain with Mrs. Wilson and the two girls. They stopped at Fort Laramie for a time and then moved on to Cheyenne where they planned to settle permanently. During the time at Laramie, Biff made remarkable progress from a state of almost complete illiteracy to the point where he was able to obtain a job as a newspaper reporter. Eventually, through a series of convenient and fairly predictable coincidences, his parentage was discovered. The characterizations and plot are neither outstanding nor especially original. There is some value to the setting and to the rather detailed account of the work toward women's rights in Wyoming.

R Gould, Jean. Fisherman's Luck; illus.
5-7 George and Doris Hauman. Macmillan,
1954. 218p. \$2.75.

Barney Brewster was the middle boy in his family and his father often called him "Clumsy Claud" because of his tendency to rush headlong into things without looking to see where he was going. The summer that the Brewsters moved to a new house on the shore of Lake Erie, Barney became interested in fishing and, in spite of his clumsy ways, persuaded Mr. Simon, an elderly and crochety commercial fisherman, to take him on as an assistant. During the summer Barney learned to think before acting, helped Mr. Simon solve a mystery involving some fish pirates, and won a local fishing contest. In spite of typed characters, the story has appeal for its subject interest and well-paced plot.

Ad Graham, Alberta (Powell). La Salle,
4-6 River Explorer; illus. by Avery
Johnson. Abingdon, 1954. 128p.
W (Makers of America). \$1.50.

A simply written, interesting account of the life of La Salle and of his efforts to gain control of the Mississippi River basin for France. The book gives a well-rounded picture of La Salle's life and something of his nature comes through, although this is a somewhat more idealized picture of the man than is generally given. The book will serve as a good introduction to La Salle and to the history of the French settlements in this country.

M Granberg, Wilbur J. Sons of the Big
5-7 Muddy; Dakota Territory in the 1880's;
illus. by James V. Medler. Aladdin,
1954. 192p. (American Heritage Series)
\$1.75.

A story of the Dakotas during the days when Scandinavian wheat farmers were homesteading the land. The main character is young Lars Olsen who works as a printer's devil for Einar Jensen, owner of the local Norwegian newspaper. Jensen is campaigning to help the farmers break the power of the grain buyers by establishing cooperative storage silos, and to persuade them to learn English so that the various national groups can get together and discuss their mutual problems. The ending is rather far-fetched, and the story is marred by uneven, pedestrian writing.

NR Hambleton, Jack. Wolverine. Longmans,
7-9 1954. 184p. \$3.

Another story of Bill Hanson, young bush pilot who operates a private plane in Northern Ontario near the southern tip of Hudson's Bay. The story involves a contract Bill makes with a U.S. financier to survey the beaver popula-

tion of the area, and to entertain, for one month, a fifteen-year-old boy who has won the Madison Square Boys Club award as the outstanding member of the year. The focus is primarily on the boy, Tom Carson, and his reaction to life in the North. There is a Russian spy thrown in for good measure—and to give the book its title (the spy being likened to a wolverine). The book contains some good pictures of life in this section, but it is weakened by the contrived spy story, and by the author's heavy-handed style and awkward humor—usually expressed in the form of references to Bill and Tom as "Mr." Hanson and "Mr." Carson.

R Heinlein, Robert Anson. The Star Beast.
8-12 Scribner's, 1954. 282p. \$2.50.

A somewhat different approach to science fiction for this author in that he has not used space travel or other planets for his setting, but has used the earth at a future time—2500 A.D. The plot is built around the problems created by an over-sized creature from space. LummoX, or Lummy as the beast is affectionately known to its owner, was brought back to earth by one of the earliest explorers in outer space, and was never properly identified. Several generations later it was the center of a local uproar caused by its tremendous size, and of a national crisis brought on when a space ship appeared bearing some of its compatriots who threatened to blow up the earth unless the creature was restored to them. Earth officials were willing, but LummoX did not want to leave without its owner, a problem that was finally solved by sending a group of human beings, including LummoX's friend, to the new planet to establish a colony. Heinlein's satiric jibes at human officialdom give the book a tone that is more suited to older readers than those who have enjoyed some of his earlier books.

M Hennagin, Allie D. Third Daughter.
7-9 Nelson, 1954. 189p. \$2.50.

A story of the days of the Oregon Trail and of seventeen-year-old Sarah Connor who agrees to work as a bond servant to the Harlan family in payment for a team of horses that her family need to take them the rest of the way over the Trail and into Oregon where Mr. Connor plans to homestead. Sarah is fairly well treated by the Harlans, but she is homesick for her family and for Ted Marshall with whom she fell in love on the trip West. After six long months of anxious waiting for her father to send her money for the trip home, Sarah is finally reunited with her family and with Ted. Not a very original or a particularly outstanding story, although the setting lends it interest.

R Hertz, Louis Heilbroner. Making Your 5- Model Railroad; illus. by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1954. 216p. \$2.75.

An introduction to the hobby of building and operating model railroads. In clear, simple style and informative drawings, the author discusses the different types of model railroads, how to choose equipment, the kinds of equipment that can be made and those that must be purchased, suggested plans for layout, scenery and action accessories, and many other aspects of model railroading. At the end there is a list of hobby shops that carry model railroad equipment, magazines devoted to the subject, and a brief bibliography of more detailed works.

NR Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Ring Neck. 5-7 Morrow, 1954. 158p. \$2.

Ring Neck is a huge mother dog who was mistreated by her owners and escaped to the open range just before her pups were born. While they were still too young to be left alone she was captured by some cowboys on a nearby ranch who wanted to tame her and use her to rid the ranch of wolves. She escaped, leaving her pups at the ranch, but she later made friends with the two young sons of the ranch owner and after she had saved them from the worst of the wolves she submitted to life in the town with the boys. Like the earlier of Mr. Hinkle's works this one is characterized by wooden, uninspired writing.

Ad Hoffman, Elaine and Hefflefinger, Jane. 1-2 More Friendly Helpers; photography by Peggy Irwin. Melmont, 1954. 23p. \$1.35.

Full-page photographs and very brief, simple text show the work of various community helpers: the milkman, the plumber, the T-V repair man, the telephone repair man, the gas station attendant, the bus driver, the street car motor-man, the street cleaner, the trash collectors, and the garbage collectors. There is not much actual information given in the text about the work of these persons, but the style is easy enough for beginning readers and the book could be used as supplementary material to stimulate discussion about community helpers.

NR Holland, Marion. Billy's Clubhouse. 5-7 Knopf, 1955. 82p. \$2.50.

In some ways a realistic story of boy life, as Billy and his friends try to find ways of saving their playground. The boys have for years had permission to use half of a double-lot vacant area and no one had ever objected to their use of the entire area. Then one lot, half of their ballfield, was put up for sale and prospective

buyers began coming around to look it over. Billy had the bright notion of building a clubhouse on the other lot and of organizing all the boys in the neighborhood to play there noisily every time a prospective customer came around. There are some real insights into boy nature in the story and considerable humor in the illustrations, but there are also elements of highly questionable value. For example, Billy steals the boards for his clubhouse from his aunt's chicken house and never admits to her that he has done so. It would also seem better for the author to have suggested some alternative solution to the problem of the lost playground, instead of leaving the reader with the belief that discouraging the sale of the lot was the only solution.

NR Holliday, Joseph. Oil Trails in Headless 7-9 Valley. Longmans, 1954. 158p. \$2.75.

An unsuccessful attempt to combine a mystery story and a factual account of how oil is prospected in the wilderness of Canada. Mr. Bailey, a Canadian oil prospector, takes his family with him one summer when he goes to the wilderness country north of Calgary to help with the drilling of a new oil well. The work is hampered by three men who try to blow up the well because they think there is uranium in the valley where the well is located. The sections describing Mr. Bailey's work read like a textbook, and the bits about the mystery are sheer melodrama.

NR Honness, Elizabeth Hoffman. Mystery of 6-8 the Diamond Necklace; illus. by Decie Merwin. Lippincott, 1954. 182p. \$2.50.

A far-fetched mystery story involving an old chateau in the Catskills, an exotic French family, and a diamond necklace that had been hidden in the chateau many years before. There is also, of course, an international jewel thief and a hidden diary. In typically mystery story style the children save the day, and the necklace.

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, 4-5 Reinald. Dolls of Other Lands; illus. yrs. by Jane Flory. Rand McNally, 1954. 28p. 25¢.

Barbara has three dolls representing other countries—a Japanese doll, an Irish doll and a Greek doll. According to the author's statement the book "should help children to understand that there are other countries in our world and other people who live in them." There is little in the story to help children gain such understandings, and since the dolls are not in modern dress, any information that children gleaned from the book would be erroneous.

Liang's Tommy and Dee-Dee (Oxford, 1953) is a much more successful, and more attractive, attempt to give the same understandings.

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, 3-5 Reinald. Peek In; illus. by Katherine yrs. Evans. Rand McNally, 1954. 28p. 25¢. Johnny goes from room to room peeking in at each member of the family to see that everyone is awake before he makes any noise in the morning. An idea that many parents would welcome, but not a realistic action for a child, and the telling is too sweetly sentimental.

NR Howard, Elizabeth. The Road Lies West. 7-9 Morrow, 1955. 218p. \$2.75. Eighteen-year-old Melissa had lived with Granny Ellis most of her life, although the two were not related. After Granny's death, Melissa, turned out of the cabin by Granny's married son, set off on foot hoping to find a friendly family with whom she could travel West. In time she fell in with the Parmenters, whose friendship to her was offset by the fact that Mr. Parmenter was a peddler of a cure-all and a tyrant over his family. Melissa managed to escape from them and went to Pittsburgh where she joined a company of actors. Disillusioned once more when the owner of the company left town to avoid paying his debts, Melissa turned to Alex Parmenter, who had finally broken with his father and was planning to go on West. The characterizations are weak and the style is overly-melodramatic.

NR Hubbell, Harriet Weed. The Captain's Secret; illus. by Edward J. Smith. Westminster, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

A slight mystery story with a setting in the 1820's in the village of Greatham on Cape Cod. Fourteen-year-old Content Prouty was unhappy not to be allowed to go with her father and brother on their voyage to China, but her discontent turned to pleasure at the unexpected visit from a cousin, Joshua Prouty Du Bois, who lived in South Carolina and about whom Content had never heard until he came to Greatham. Together the two explored the country around Greatham and set to work to clear the name of Joshua's grandfather who had been accused of being a Tory in the Revolution. They succeeded in proving that the man had really been a spy for the Americans and they also found the money which he had hidden near Greatham. The author's constant, and wholly unnecessary asides to the reader, and her coyly condescending tone take from the book any appeal which its subject and setting might have had.

R Hunt, Mabel Leigh. Miss Jellytot's Visit; 4-6 illus. by Velma Hsley. Lippincott, 1955. 126p. \$2.50.

Nine-year-old Katie, impressed by the service given a houseguest in her home, persuades her parents to let her pretend to be thirty-years-old and come visiting for six days. They reluctantly agree, but then they help her carry out her plans far more thoroughly than is likely to happen in real life. It takes less than the six days for Katie to see the advantages of being nine instead of thirty, and only her promise to her father to stick with the bargain once it is made keeps her pretending for the full six days. The story is somewhat far-fetched, especially the leap-frog episode, but it is told with a light and humorous touch that will give it appeal, and it expresses a fairly common wish among children of this age to participate in the adult world.

SpC Jauss, Anne Marie, ed. Legends of Saints and Beasts. Aladdin, 1954. 48p. \$2.50. Re-tellings of four legends about famous saints: "Saint Jerome and the Lion," "Saint Roch and the Dog," "Saint Francis and the Wolf," and "Saint Macarius and the Hyena." The stories are told with a dignity and simplicity that makes them pleasant for reading aloud. The pages are decorated to resemble early illuminated manuscripts, and the decorations occasionally get in the way of legibility, especially for younger readers.

NR Johnson, Enid. Great White Eagle; The Story of Dr. John McLoughlin. Messner, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

A sympathetic, but far from well-rounded picture of John McLoughlin that seeks to vindicate him of all the charges laid against him by members of the Hudson's Bay Company and the American settlers in Oregon. In her effort to prove that McLoughlin was none of the bad things that were said about him, the author ends with what almost amounts to a plea for benevolent despotism. Her characterization of the American missionaries and their work is equally one-sided. She describes Whitman and Spalding as "really 'men of God', intent upon the good they could do their fellow men", but she fails to mention the antagonism between the two that almost wrecked their work, or Spalding's libelous stories about Mrs. Whitman. Later the author claims that these missionaries were complete failures and indicates that only the Catholics succeeded in doing any good for the Indians. In some ways she has presented an interesting picture of this era in the development of the Oregon Territory but by itself the book does not give a wholly accurate picture of McLoughlin or the other men with whom he worked.

M Johnson, James Ralph. Lost on Hawk Mountain. Follett, 1954. 187p. \$2.50.

A story of modern falconry and of two boys who capture three young Cooper's Hawks and train them to hunt small animals and other birds. The last part of the book, in which the two boys and an old woodsman are marooned (not lost as the title implies) on a mountaintop for a week, is more exciting than the earlier part in which the story is often subordinated to the information about training and hunting with hawks. The characterizations are rather weak and the main value of the book will lie in its unusual subject matter.

NR Kaufer, John G. The Amazing Land of Wew;
4-6 illus. by Warren Hunter. Steck, 1954.
232p. \$ 2.50.

Joan, a young Texan, his dog Bill and his pet lamb Nana, go exploring in a cave one day and find themselves in the middle of fairy land. Their adventures with a jeweled man, with people made of snow and of wood, with ant people, etc., seem straight out of the Wizard of Oz, but this book lacks the qualities that make Baum's work a successful bit of fantasy. Also, this is a deadly serious fantasy, and does not have the humorous touches that make Baum's and Nesbit's books fun to read. The characterizations are not always consistent and the author works too hard for his effects.

NR Kean, Edward. Howdy Doody and His Magic
4-5 Hat; based on the UPA cartoon; pictures
yrs. by Art Seiden. Simon and Schuster,
1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.

Howdy Doody admires the sombrero of one of the riders in a rodeo and chases the hat when it blows away. It leads him through a series of improbable encounters with a wide assortment of animals and finally leads him back to the rodeo where it helps him ride a wild horse. As a reward he is given the hat. A slight, rather disjointed story. Ward's Black Sombrero (Ariel, 1952) has a similar theme, but is much better writing and better art work.

R Kennedy, Mary. Jenny; illus. by Adrienne
4-6 Adams. Lothrop, 1954. 153p. \$ 2.50.

Sweetly sentimental story of a young orphan girl who lives with her seamstress aunt and the aunt's three children. Jenny entertains her young cousins with tales of a fantasy character named Hildegarde, makes friends with a wealthy scientist who lives nearby, and by reconciling him and his beautiful wife, causes them to become interested in helping her aunt. A story in the vein of Sara Crewe, but told with more humor and fewer tears.

Ad Knight, Frank. Voyage to Bengal; illus.
7-9 by Patrick Jobson. St. Martin's Press,
1954. 266p. \$ 2.50.

Somewhat patterned story of sea faring in 1832. Young Jim Tubb, parentage unknown, found himself aboard the Indiaman True Friend as a result of a fishing boat accident. From the very beginning of the voyage Jim incurred the unreasoning dislike of the Chief Officer, Chesmond, and during the voyage to Bengal and back several attempts were made on his life, all of which he traced to Chesmond. Eventually Jim discovered the truth about his origins and the reason for Chesmond's dislike. In true romance style Jim turns out to be a nobleman's son and the heir to an estate that would otherwise have gone to Chesmond. The author's vivid style compensates for the lack of originality in plot and characterization, but the book is further weakened by poor print and paper.

NR Konkle, Janet. Easter Kitten; color sketches
K-1 by Katherine Evans. Childrens Press,
1955. 28p. \$ 1.50.

A mild, rather insipid story of a kitten who discovers all the wonders of spring, from the green grass and colorful flowers to the Easter bunny. There is no verve and little originality to the story. The combination of black-and-white photographs and color sketches gives the book a disunity that is not pleasing.

M Kroll, Francis Lynde. Young Crow Raider;
6-8 illus. by Charles Hand Geer. Lantern,
1954. 187p. (Young Heroes Library).
\$ 2.50.

A patterned, run-of-the-mill story of a young Crow Indian boy who overcomes a handicap to prove his worth as a warrior. Bent Arrow had been wounded in one leg by the Sioux when he was a baby, but thanks to the treatment given him by the tribe's medicine man he eventually regained the use of his leg and helped his uncle in a retaliatory raid against the Sioux. In no way outstanding, with little originality to plot or characterizations.

R Kubie, Nora Benjamin. King Solomon's
7-9 Navy. Harper, 1954. 181p. \$ 2.50.

A suspenseful, action-packed story of the days of King Solomon. Young Jared ran away from home to escape a bullying older brother, was captured and sent to work as a slave in King Solomon's copper mines. He escaped from there and won the favor of Solomon by offering to sail with the King's navy on a mission to the court of the Queen of Sheba. The voyage proved a long and dangerous one when the admiral of Jared's ship ignored his orders and set forth to find gold for himself. Jared and the ship's master managed to overpower the admiral, complete the mission to the Queen of Sheba, and return the ship and cargo to King Solomon. A full-bodied story, with good characterizations

and a vivid picture of the period.

R Langstaff, John. Frog Went A-Courtin';
K-3 with picture by Feodor Rojankovsky.
Harcourt, 1955. 32p. \$2.50.

Picture book version of the old Scottish ballad. The tune is easy to learn, but perhaps would be more useful if included at the beginning as well as at the end of the book where it is almost lost. Each page has a colorful and humorously detailed picture, usually with two lines of the ballad below. The words given here are a composite of several versions. The ending turns out happily when frog and mouse, safely wed despite the old tom cat's interruption at the wedding party, sail for France. The format makes an attractive picture book and good story telling (or singing) material.

NR L'Hommedieu, Dorothy (Keasbey). Pompon;
3-5 illus. by Marie C. Nichols. Ariel,
1955. 55p. \$2.50.

Pompon is a miniature poodle who lives in the city where he has the best of care—but no love. One day he is taken to the country, runs away from his keeper, and has a series of adventures that leave him so bedraggled his mistress sells him to a small girl who has befriended him. Not an especially original plot, and the excess of personification keeps Pompon from seeming like a real dog.

SpC Lockridge, Frances and Richard. The
4-6 Nameless Cat; pictures by Peggy Bacon.
Lippincott, 1954. 78p. \$2.25.

A big black homeless cat is being hunted through the backyards in New York City by men from the S.P.C.A. Insight into the cat's reactions adds to the suspense as the cat faces his opponents, escapes, and is temporarily rescued by young Bob Wilkins, a boy who had befriended him before. The story is adult in tone and style but could be used for reading aloud in cat-loving families. The black and white drawings, always better of the cats than of the people, add to the suspense of the tale.

R Loken, Anna Belle and Hjalmar J. When
4-6 the Sun Danced; illus. by Richard
Bennett. Lothrop, 1954. 181p. \$2.50.

A slight, pleasant story of Norway and of a nine-year-old boy who longs to be allowed to go with the cattle and sheep herds for a summer at a mountain saeter. Peder's family cannot afford a herd large enough to justify his going, and so he must prove his ability to the other men of the section in the hope that they will hire him to help with their herds. In the story of his activities through a year as he tries to show his competence, the author has drawn an interesting picture of life in rural Norway.

Ad Low, Elizabeth. Hold Fast the Dream.
8-10 Harcourt, 1955. 245p. \$3.

A love story with a setting in post-war France and Austria. Blythe Moreland has persuaded her family to allow her to spend one summer in Paris studying with a famous sculptor before making up her mind whether to return to college or continue with her art. In the middle of the summer she makes a trip to Austria to deliver a package for a professor friend of hers in America, and thus meets the Lang family. She also sees the famous Lippizan horses for the first time and is fired with ambition to do a statue of two of them. After convincing her family that she should be allowed more time in Europe, Blythe returns to Austria where she becomes better acquainted with the Langs and through them comes to an understanding of some of the problems faced by post-war European countries. She also learns self-discipline in her art, and culminates her love affair with Jim McGill, a talented G.I. artist whom she had first met at the Paris school. The love elements are the most important part of the story and are presented against a background that is unusual enough to overcome the fact that Blythe and her friends are rather stock characters. Not great writing, but more well-rounded and less fluff than many love stories for this age level.

NR McGuire, Frances. Keys to Fortune; illus.
5-8 by Albert Orbaan. Dutton, 1954. 124p.
\$2.50.

Thirteen-year-old Bob Taylor is unhappy when he learns that the family must give up their home in northeastern U.S. so that Mr. Taylor can enjoy a complete rest in a warmer climate. Bob overcomes his sadness quickly when the family decides to buy a trailer and head for Key West. The story gets off to a slow start despite the ease with which the Taylors sell their home and furniture, pack, dismiss the maid, and equip the trailer. Bob and his younger brother share their parents' delight in the flora and fauna of Florida. Bob takes the spotlight when he meets a Navy "frogman", and he then learns how to dive with the guidance of the "frogman" and some borrowed U.S. Navy gear. The action stops to make room for many short explanations about the Navy man's hazardous occupation. After several week-ends of training, Bob discovers a sunken ship, rescues his more experienced friend, and with the help of Mr. Taylor and a wiry old fisherman, hauls up several old cannon, one of which is filled with gold pieces. The action is melodramatic, the conversations unrealistic, and the information often inaccurate. The mediocre writing never lifts the characterizations beyond stereotypes.

R Marshall, Catherine. The Unwilling
8-10 Heart. Longmans, 1955. 246p. \$3.

A problem novel for teen-agers. High school student, Linda Doverman, arrived home from a winter vacation to the shock of learning that her father had been arrested on a charge of embezzlement and was serving a year's jail sentence. At first she could neither forgive him nor face the students at school, but as she began working to help her mother earn their living expenses, she gained a new independency and a maturity that won her the respect of her friends, showed her new values in life, and in time enabled her to help her father build a new life. A perceptive novel with some well-drawn, and some stereotyped characters, but generally good in its handling of the problems which Linda faced.

R Mary Marguerite, Sister. Martin's Mice;
3-5 illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Follett,
yrs. 1954. 32p. \$2. Size: 9 1/4 x 12 1/4.
Picture book version of a legend from the life of Saint Martin de Porres. In simple text and full-page black and white illustrations, the story is told of how mice over-ran the monastery until Saint Martin persuaded them to move to the barn with the promise that he would bring them corn and grain each day. A pleasing story for reading aloud to young children.

Ad Megargee, Edwin. The Dog Dictionary.
5- World, 1954. 104p. \$3.95.

In alphabetical arrangement 118 breeds of dogs are pictured and described, with something of the history of each breed, the outstanding characteristics, and the major uses—as working dog, pet, etc.—given. Over 425 "dog terms" are included, and there are five pages illustrating various aspects of dog anatomy plus a geneology chart. In two instances the pictures of the dogs do not exactly match the description given in the text. Much of this same information is included in Tatham's World Book of Dogs (World, 1953).

R Melin, Grace Hathaway. Maria Mitchell,
4-6 Girl Astronomer; illus. by Bette Davis.
Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 192p. \$1.75.

Fictional biography of the American astronomer, emphasizes her childhood interest in her father's work as an astronomer on Nantucket Island. Maria is a warm-hearted and intelligent child, who helps care for her numerous brothers and sisters in an industrious, loving Quaker home. Her understanding mother and kind teacher-father respect her desire to learn all about the world and the stars. There is a good feeling of wholesome family relationships. The writing is

easy enough for fourth grade readers; however, the details of the star clock and other scientific observations may lessen the story appeal for this age group. Slow readers in the fifth and sixth grades should find the family story as well as the information interesting. A somewhat more difficult but better written picture of life in Nantucket and of young Maria Mitchell's relationships with her neighbors may be found in Torjesen's Captain Ramsay's Daughter (Lothrop, 1953).

R Merrell, Leigh. Tenoch. Nelson, 1954.
7-9 191p. \$2.50.

A story of California in the early days of Spanish exploration. Tenoch, half Indian and half Spanish, hates the Spanish for their mistreatment of the Indians, and especially because of his own father's desertion of Tenoch's Indian mother shortly after the boy was born. Tenoch is jailed for throwing a stone at the Spanish governor, and is later forced to join a sailing expedition up the coast of what is now California. On this trip he learns that there are good Spanish as well as bad, and he is eventually reconciled to his father, who turns out to be the captain of one of the ships. A vigorous story and a vivid picture of the life of that period.

NR Miner, O. Irene Sevrey. The True Book of
1-2 Our Post Office and Its Helpers; pic-
tures by Irene Miner and Mary Salem.
Childrens Press, 1955. 47p. \$2.

The work of the post office described through simple text and illustrations. The extreme simplification and the use of general rather than specific terms occasionally lead to confused sections, for example, the difference between hand and machine stamping is never made clear, even though a full page is devoted to each process. The book is neither as well organized nor as informative as the Colonus, At the Post Office (Melmont, 1954) or the Schloat, Adventures of a Letter (Scribner, 1949).

NR Montgomery, Rutherford George. The
7-9 Golden Stallion to the Rescue; illus.
by George Giguere. Little, 1954. 207p.
\$2.75.

Another story of the Carter family of the Bar L ranch. The problem this time comes about as a result of the cattle loses suffered by the ranch during an especially severe winter. Unknown to her husband and son, Ann Carter advertises for young boys to spend the summer on the ranch as paying guests. The only response comes from Rodney Wharton, son of a wealthy oil man. Rodney almost ruins the ranch by persuading his father to drill for oil in the middle of the Carter's best grazing range (government land)

and then proceeds to buy Charley Carter's beloved stallion, Golden Boy, when the horse herd has to be sold to pay the ranch's debts. In the end the well proves to be dry; Golden Boy turns out to be more than Rodney can handle and is returned to the ranch; and Mr. Wharton decides to go into partnership with the Carters. The relationship between the title and the content of the story is slight, to say the least. There is little originality to the plot, and the characters have grown thin from working their way through a succession of Golden Stallion stories.

R Neal, Harry Edward. The Story of the Kite; 5-7 illus. by John Moment. Vanguard Press, 1954. 64p. \$2.75.

An interestingly written history of kites, with several accounts of unusual uses of kites—to propel carriages and boats, to fly people, and in various aspects of war. Also includes directions for making several different kinds of kites. The illustrations are attractive and informative and the book should have wide interest. No sources are given for the historical material.

R Newell, Hope (Hockenberry). Penny's Best 6-8 Summer; pictures by W. T. Mars. Harper, 1954. 244p. \$2.50.

The story of one summer in the life of twelve-year-old Penny McKean who lives with her widowed mother, older brother, and young aunt on a Pennsylvania farm during the early 1900's. An oil well is being drilled on the farm and its owner, Mr. Curtis, his thirteen-year-old daughter Crane, his nephew, and several workmen are all boarding with the McKeans. The two girls become close friends, and attempt a bit of matchmaking between Crane's father and Penny's Aunt Ronnie as a way to insure that Crane can remain on the farm after the summer is over. Their plans are partially successful, except that it is Mr. Curtis and Mrs. McKean who fall in love. A very light story, but pleasantly told.

NR Oberreich, Robert. Super Summer; with 6-8 drawings by Charles Hargens. Lippincott, 1954. 182p. \$2.75.

Continues the adventures of the four boys—Rob and Chet Neill, Larry Goulding, and Indian Tom—at Tomahawk Lake in Michigan. This time the boys are bent on solving the mystery of a haunted house and of reforming an ill-tempered hired man. They discover that the hired man is the one who has been haunting the house, and they reform him by rescuing him when he gets bogged down in quicksand. The unrealistic story is further marred by unnatural conversations and forced humor.

R O'Connor, Patrick. Flight of the Peacock;

7-9 illus. by Rus Anderson. Washburn, 1954. 179p. \$2.75.

Before settling down as heir to his father's iron works, young Bill Smith was given the task of proving himself responsible enough to handle the job. To this end he set forth one day with one hundred dollars in his money belt, and a naive trust in all mankind, both of which he lost within the first twenty-four hours. Starting his adventures by being shanghaied aboard a slaver, he was subsequently wrecked on the coast of Barbadoes, re-shipped on the China clipper, Peacock, and eventually found himself in China where he had other stirring adventures before returning home, no wealthier but much wiser than when he started out. Although the boy seems almost unnaturally naive, his story is told with vigor and suspense and makes an exciting adventure story of clipper ship days.

R Ogilvie, Elizabeth. Whistle for a Wind; 7-9 illus. by Charles Hand Geer. Scribner, 1954. 241p. (The Strength of the Union Series). \$3. (Values: Responsibility; Family relations)

A story of Maine in the 1820's. There is no great amount about Maine's struggle for statehood, for the story is primarily concerned with the efforts of seventeen-year-old Jamie Bennett to support his mother and four brothers and sisters, and to hide the almost over-powering desire he feels to get away from the small island on which he lives and see something of the rest of the world. Jamie's father had been captured by a British press gang during the War of 1812 and the boy's mother is afraid to let any of her children far from her sight. The story has some exciting moments as Jamie becomes involved in an attempt to apprehend a crew of wreckers who are operating on the island, and it has some real insights into a boy's growing up. The characters are well developed and the situations are well handled, up to the ending when everything happens at once—including the return of Jamie's father after seven years. The book has more genuine story appeal than have most of the titles in this series.

NR Pallas, Norvin. The Locked Safe Mystery. 7-9 Washburn, 1954. 184p. \$2.50.

Another mystery involving Ted Wilford, young high school hero of Secret of Thunder Mountain. This time the mystery revolves around the theft of a large sum of money from the high school safe and Ted's efforts to prove the innocence of the most obvious suspect, the Assistant Principal, Mr. Clayton. The author succeeds in thoroughly confusing the issue with his introduction of elements that have no bearing on the main plot, and the final solution is too dependent on coincidence to have any reality.

- R Patchett, Mary Elwyn. Ajax, Golden Dog
7-9 of the Australian Bush; illus. by Eric
Tansley. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 172p.
\$2.

A story based on the author's own experiences as a child growing up in the Australian bush country. She would have had a lonely childhood had it not been for her pets—three dogs, a monkey, a kangaroo, and a carpet snake. The account of her adventures with her pets is told in an episodic style, with some humor and several moments of excitement and suspense. The last episode, in which Ajax saves his owner's life when she is attacked by three wolves, seems a bit improbable, but on the whole the book is a vivid and accurate picture of life in the bush country.

- NR Peare, Catherine Owens. Mark Twain, His
4-6 Life; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Holt,
1954. 116p. \$2.

A simply written, rather pedestrian biography of Samuel L. Clemens. Most of the well-known incidents from his life, especially his early years, are included but the author never gets below the surface to show Clemens as a real person. There is no great feeling for his writings, and the young reader who has no prior acquaintance with Twain's books would never guess from this biography that he is one of the world's great humorists. In some instances, for example, the discussion of Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, the reader is led to wonder if the author has herself actually read the books being described. The jacket indicates that this is a book intended for grades 4-7. Fourth graders could handle the text, but it would seem better to let them wait until they are old enough to read Twain's own writings, or else a more well-rounded biography of him such as the Proudfit, River Boy (Messner, 1940) or the Paine, Boys' Life of Mark Twain (Harper, 1916).

- R Peckham, Betty (Clock). Tangle-Britches;
5-7 A Pennsylvania Dutch Story; illus. by
Henry C. Pitz. Aladdin, 1954. 166p.
\$2.50.

A warm, friendly story of a young boy living on a Pennsylvania Dutch farm in the mid-nineteenth century. The story is episodic, with little or no plot, as it takes young Peter through a series of adventures at school and at home. The writing is uneven, but the book gives an interesting picture of the people, their speech, and their ways of living.

- R Perrault, Charles. Cinderella; or, The
2-4 Little Glass Slipper; a free translation
from the French; with pictures by
Marcia Brown. Scribner, 1954. 32p. \$2.
The Cinderella story retold and illustrated by

Marcia Brown. The version follows rather closely that of other standard translations and is adequate for storytelling. The illustrations, in soft pastel colors, capture the fairy tale quality of the story. Weak stitching.

- R Rapaport, Stella F. A Whittle Too Much.
2-4 Putnam, 1955. 46p. \$2.

Henri was a small boy whose mind was more likely to be on his whittling than on his chores. One day as he sat on his cart at the top of a hill he became so absorbed with his whittling that he failed to notice until too late that the cart was in a position where a gust of wind could send it speeding down the hill. That is just what happened. As Henri sped down the hill he called to people along the road for help, but they all misunderstood and thought he was warning them that the fishing fleet was in danger. They rushed to the beach and were just in time to help bring in the catch before a storm came up. Henri had, meanwhile, stopped his cart by steering it into some feather quilts one of his neighbors was airing. He was hailed as a hero, but he was too busy whittling to notice. The story is enhanced by the black-and-white drawings that add drama and humor to the tale, and also give a good picture of life in a French Canadian fishing village.

- M Reynolds, Quentin James. The F. B. I.
5-7 Random House, 1954. 180p. (A Land-
mark Book). \$1.50.

Using as a framework the experiences of a young man from the time he applies for entrance into the F.B.I., through his interviews, tests, and training, the book presents a dramatic account of the work of this agency. The author tends toward broad generalizations and superlatives—"the most frightening words in the world," "the hardest service in the world," the F. B. I. "always" succeeds in catching the criminal it is hunting. In the case of Klaus Fuchs the author attributes to Fuchs thoughts and reasonings for which there is no basis other than Reynolds' own surmising. The book is not as detailed as Floherty's Our F. B. I. (Lippincott, 1951), but aside from the weak style its information will be useful.

- R Robertson, Keith. Three Stuffed Owls;
7-9 illus. by Jack Weaver. Viking, 1954.
198p. \$2.50.

Once again Neil and Swede, sixteen-year-old heroes of Mystery of Burnt Hill, are involved in a mystery. This one starts innocently enough when a small girl comes to the two boys for help in locating her brother's stolen bicycle. With a minimum of coincidence, they find the bicycle, trace the man who stole it to a taxidermy shop where he had once worked, and eventually aid

the police in recovering \$ 50,000 in smuggled diamonds that had been hidden in one of three stuffed owls that were in the shop. For a mystery story, the plot and characterizations are not too far-fetched, and there are touches of humor that add to the appeal of the story.

M Rowe, Viola Carson. Oh, Brother;
7-9 decorations by Genia. Longmans, 1955.
214p. \$ 2.75.

Although they were twins, Peter was one year ahead of Penny in school, having skipped one grade at the same time that Penny was suffering from a broken leg and was barely keeping up with her class. Penny had always followed where Peter led and she found herself at a loss during her senior year when he joined the army. With the help of her parents and the boy next door, Penny became more independent and learned to make decisions for herself. Nothing new here—the characters are types: the omniscient older brother, the unappreciated boy-next door, the handsome but shallow young man with whom the heroine is temporarily infatuated, the blond who almost steals the boy-next-door. The plot follows a well-ordered pattern, and although there are some realistic aspects to Penny's problems and their solutions, the whole is pretty weak.

R Rugh, Belle Dorman. Crystal Mountain;
6-8 illus. by Ernest H. Shepard. Houghton,
1955. 208p. \$ 2.75.

The delightful story of a summer in the lives of three children, two American boys and an English girl, living in the Lebanon mountains high above Beirut. The three share the secret of a cave and a tumbled-down house near their home, make friends with a Lebanese boy who herds goats, and help reform another American boy whose spoiled ways almost ruin the summer at first. There is, in addition, one of the most entertaining governesses to be found in a realistic story for children. The story is told with a warmth of characterization and with an unusual setting that make it pleasant for reading aloud in family groups as well as for individual reading. Although no dates are given, the period is evidently early twentieth century.

R Samachson, Dorothy and Joseph. Let's
8-12 Meet the Theatre; with an introduction
by John Gassner. Abelard-Schuman,
1954. 255p. \$ 4.

An introduction to the modern theatre by the people who are most concerned with making it what it is. The material is divided into 10 sections: How a Play Is Produced, Actor and Audience, The Producer, The Director, The Scene and Costume Designer, The Actor, The Stage Manager, Music and Dance in the Theatre,

The Off-Broadway Theatre, and The Nature of Our Theatre. For most of the sections the authors give a brief over-view of the subject and then reproduce an interview with one or more persons of importance in that particular aspect of the theatre. Among those thus interviewed are: Arthur Miller, John Golden, George Abbott, Howard Bay, Helen Hayes, Ruth Mitchell, Leonard Bernstein, and many others. The emphasis throughout is on what can be done to insure a vital, live theatre in the future. The authors have unfortunately succumbed to the current misinterpretation of Shakespear's "Merchant of Venice" as anti-semitic, but this is one of the few flaws in an otherwise interesting book.

R Sanders, Margaret Webb. The Year of the
6-8 Mintie May; illus. by Robert G.
Henneberger. Putnam, 1954. 182p. \$ 2.50.

Kerry Hill, a small Pennsylvania oil town in the 1870's, is the scene of this story of Arny Shull, a young boy with a passionate interest in oil wells. How Arny manages to obtain a part-ownership in the well "Mintie May", and to retain his interest in oil wells even after the "Mintie May" proves to be a dry well, makes an interesting story, with nice family relations and an interesting picture of the period.

M Sawyer, Ruth. A Cottage for Betsy; pic-
5-7 tures by Vera Bock. Harper, 1954.
120p. \$ 2.50.

A sentimental fantasy, in a quite obviously British setting, about a queen and her prince consort who find court life so wearing they have to go away for a month's vacation each year in order to keep their marriage from breaking up entirely. They find a secluded cottage where they live happily for one month as just an ordinary couple. The setting closely parallels modern England and the fantasy is not adroitly enough handled but that many children will think they are reading a real story of Queen Elizabeth and Phillip.

M Scherman, Katharine. The Slave Who
7-9 Freed Haiti; The Story of Toussaint
Louverture; illus. by Adolf Dehn.
Random House, 1954. 182p. (A World
Landmark Book) \$ 1.50.

The story of Toussaint Louverture and of his work during the rebellion that brought Haiti its freedom. There is no real depth to the characterization of Toussaint, which pictures him in a wholly favorable light, and the basic causes for the rebellion and for some of the events that took place during the rebellion are touched on only lightly. The book will be satisfactory as an introduction to the subject, but will not satisfy mature readers.

M Schlein, Miriam. Heavy Is a Hippopotamus;
K-1 pictures by Leonard Kessler. Scott,
1954. 32p. \$ 1.75.

Another title in the author's series of books that are intended to help a young child's concept building. This time she is showing that weight is a characteristic that can be measured accurately and is, more or less, steady, but that "heavy" is a relative term depending on what is being picked up and who or what is trying to do the lifting. The results are generally acceptable, although there undoubtedly will be some children who will misinterpret the coal example and think that the author is saying there are always 8,347 pieces of coal to a ton. The illustrations are quite uneven. The book is written at an upper second grade reading level, but youngsters of that age will generally have already developed such concepts.

Ad Seymour, Alta Halverson. Kaatje and the
4-6 Christmas Compass; illus. by W. T.
Mars. Follett, 1954. 128p. \$ 2.50. (Values:
Brother-sister relations; International
understanding).

Another in the author's series of stories about everyday life in other lands, with the climax of the story coming at the Christmas season. This time the story centers around Kaatje, a young Dutch girl, and her efforts to prove to her older brother, Karel, that she is not as totally incompetent as he thinks her to be. The writing is not outstanding, but the book does give a good picture of life in modern Holland, and is also appealing for its very realistic treatment of a fairly common brother-sister relationship.

NR Smith, Nancy Woolcott. The Ghostly Trio;
4-6 illus. by Dorothy Marino. Coward-
McCann, 1954. 182p. \$ 2.50.

Two young boys and a girl form a club called the Ghostly Trio and set about hunting for a mystery to solve. They find one in a supposedly deserted house where they track down a letter, written by George Washington to a former owner of the house, and sell it to help the family of an ex-forgery. A poorly written, far-fetched mystery.

R Snow, Dorothea J. Jeb and the Flying
4-7 Jenny; illus. by Joshua Tolford.
Houghton, 1954. 43p. \$ 2.

Another story of the southern mountains of Tennessee by the author of Come Chucky Come. This time the story involves young Jeb Davis whose relatives think he is no-count because he spends so much time whittling. One day Jeb meets a man from Nashville who owns a shop where he sells hand carved objects. The two team up and produce the idea of using wooden

animals on the fly-around (forerunner of the merry-go-round). One of the animals they carve is a jenny and from it the name, Flying Jenny, is derived. The story, based on a real character who lived in that section of the country and made such animals, is told with a folk flavor that makes it fun to read aloud.

Ad Sorensen, Virginia Eggersten. The House
7-9 Next Door; illus. by Lili Cassel.
Scribner, 1954. 223p. (The Strength of
the Union). \$ 3.

A story of Utah's struggle for statehood. The account is told from the point of view of sixteen-year-old Gerry McGill, a Virginia minister's daughter who goes to Salt Lake City with her father to visit an aunt who is crusading against the Mormons. Much to the aunt's distress, Gerry makes friends with the family next door—a large family in which there are three wives and innumerable children. Through her friendship with the Mormon family, Gerry is able to bring her aunt to the point where she is willing to promote a compromise between the Mormon and Gentile forces. The story, told in the form of a journal, has some interesting moments, although several of the characters are simply types obviously introduced to show the reader all of the kinds of people who were involved in the controversy.

R Stuart, Jesse. A Penny's Worth of
4-6 Character; illus. by Robert Henneberger.
Whittlesey House, 1954. 63p. \$ 1.75.
(Values: Honesty; Value building).

Shan, a young boy living on a farm in Kentucky, takes some paper bags to the nearby country store to sell. He has only nine good bags so he slips in one defective bag to make the dime's worth that will buy his favorite treat, a candy bar and a lemon soda pop. Somehow the treat does not taste as good as usual and the day loses some of its sparkle until Shan takes another good bag to the storekeeper to make up for the bad one. The moral is there but not too obtrusively so, and the description of the countryside is vividly drawn.

R Syme, Ronald. Henry Hudson; illus. by
5-8 William Stobbs. Morrow, 1955. 190p.
\$ 2.50.

A forceful, dramatic account of the four voyages of Henry Hudson in search of a Northwest passage across the American continent to China. In terse, vivid style, the author draws a realistic picture of Hudson, with all his strengths and weaknesses, and brings to life an often neglected figure in American exploration. Stobbs' vigorous drawings add to the appeal of the subject.