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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

NR Adrian, Mary. The Junior Sheriff Mystery;
4-6 illus. by Lloyd Coe. Ariel, 1955. 119p.
\$2.50.

An unsuccessful attempt to combine information and a mystery story. Ten-year-old Sparky White joined the local organization of Junior Deputy Sheriffs and set about solving all the mysteries that were baffling the regular sheriff. These included a jewelry store robbery, a chicken theft, and an act of vandalism in connection with a new housing development. Sparky has a friend and helper, Benjamin Day, a Negro, in whom the author exemplifies all of the more objectionable aspects of racial stereotyping. The informational side of the book relates to weather forecasting, and serves only to clutter the story.

R Adshead, Gladys L. Brownies—It's Christmas!; with pictures by Velma Ilsley.
K-1 Oxford, 1955. 72p. \$2.

The Brownies are back again. This time to help Old Grandmother and Old Grandfather trim their Christmas tree. In return the couple trim a tiny tree in the forest for the Brownies.

A pleasing story for reading aloud at Christmas time.

R Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women; or
5-8 Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy; illus. by
Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1955.
555p. \$3.50.

A new, unabridged edition of Little Women, complete in one volume. Barbara Cooney's illustrations reflect the humor and the quaintness of the story and help to make this an attractive edition.

Ad Avery, Kay. All for a Horse; illus. by
5-7 Aldren A. Watson. Crowell, 1955.
165p. \$2.50.

Thirteen-year-old Tom Hayes yearned for a horse—not a work horse such as were fairly plentiful in the farm country where he lived, but a thoroughbred riding horse such as he had seen at the circus the summer before. His efforts to earn enough money to buy a horse brought him into conflict with Andy Simpson, who also needed money, but for a different reason—to help his mother and grandfather. In time the two boys resolved their differences, and it was through Andy that Tom finally got his horse. The story has some good pictures

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of life in a small town in Vermont and of a young boy's perseverance. The conversations, especially between Tom and his young sister, are often forced, and most of the adults are caricatures rather than real people.

Ad Blough, Glenn Orlando. Lookout for the Forest; A Conservation Story; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1955. 48p. \$2.25.

A semi-fictionalized account of how scientific "forest farming" is carried on, the value of trees both for use as lumber and for their part in soil and water conservation, and the work of the forest ranger in preventing and controlling forest fires. The story element, involving a small boy whose father is a forest farmer, is too slight to add much interest to the book, but does not materially detract from the book's usefulness as informational material.

Ad Bothwell, Jean. The First Book of Roads; pictures by W. R. Lohse. Watts, 1955. 65p. \$1.95.

A brief history of roads and road making, from earliest paths to modern super-highways. Contents include the reasons why specific roads have been built in the past, early paved roads in Europe and the part they played in the spread of civilization, and a fairly detailed history of roads in this country. The effects of new types of transportation—such as bicycles and automobiles—on road making; the kinds of machines that are used in building roads; and the materials used for roads are also considered. The final section contains brief histories of some famous roads: Los Caminos Reales, the Boston Post Road, the Pan-American Highway, the Alaska Highway, the Grand Trunk Road in India, and the Burma Road. The illustrations are attractive and informative, but there is one double page spread showing a map of the United States where the text is almost impossible to read because of the heavy black lines of the drawing that are superimposed on it.

NR Brown, Marion Marsh. Broad Stripes and Bright Stars; illus. by Lyle Justis. Westminster, 1955. 208p. \$2.75.

No source is given for the author's picture of Francis Scott Key as a man who bordered on the fanatic in his love for his country's flag and whose entire life was colored by his obsession with the idea that he must do something great to honor the flag—an obsession that was finally resolved by his writing of the "Star Spangled Banner". The picture of the non-military aspect of life in and around Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812 is interesting, but

the book is weakened by its lack of documentation. Some of the facts do not agree with adult biographies of Key. The writing is uneven; the illustrations picture Key as a grown man even when the text describes him as a school boy.

NR Brown, Paul. Daffy Taffy. Scribner, 1955. 2-4 32p. \$2.50.

Slight, only moderately amusing story of a Welsh pony, Taffy, who wants to be like other animals. His attempts to hatch eggs, climb trees, dive in water, etc., have a certain slap-stick humor, but little originality. As usual with Brown's pictures, the animals are much more realistic than the children. The text is too difficult for independent reading below the fourth grade.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Harvest of the Sea. 5-7 Morrow, 1955. 96p. \$2.50.

An interesting, although rather superficial account of commercial fishing and of the kinds of fish that are used for food. The emphasis is on commercial fishing off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, with a very brief look at fishing on the Great Lakes. In one instance the author describes in the text and gives a picture of an illegal fishing device but he does not indicate that it is illegal. Full page pictures of the different types of fish are included.

Ad Bullough, William Sydney and Helena. 5-7 Introducing Animals-with-Backbones. Crowell, 1955. 72p. \$2.50.

A companion volume to Introducing Animals. In brief text and black and white drawings the authors present the development of fishes, reptiles, birds, and a few mammals from earliest to modern times. Men and their related species are left for fuller treatment in a future volume. The material is interestingly presented, although the time sequence of the development of the various types is difficult to follow because of the way in which the material is organized.

NR Coombs, Charles Ira. Sleuth at Shortstop. 6-8 Lantern, 1955. 190p. \$2.50.

Young Steve Marshall plays second base on his Babe Ruth League team, and works as a bat boy for the major league Redbirds. He has troubles on both teams as he overcomes the jealousy of his team mates and helps to capture some gamblers who are trying to ruin the Redbirds. Melodramatic, confused, and unrealistic.

R Corbin, William. Golden Mare; illus. by 5-7 Pers Corwell. Coward-McCann, 1955. 122p. \$2.85. (Values: Adjustment to Handicaps—Chronic Illness; Family Relations).

A sensitively told story of a young boy and his

horse. Robin, suffering from rheumatic fever, finds an outlet for his desire to be like his older brothers in the fantasies he weaves around his horse, Magic. The mare is too old for regular riding or ranch work, but to Robin she is still young, beautiful and vigorous. The family worried about the relationship and the shock that Robin would face when Magic died, but by that time the boy had worked out an adjustment, in part, through a dream of Magic in a kind of horse paradise. There is action and suspense to the story, especially in one episode involving a mountain lion, although it is rather introspective for the average horse-story fan.

Ad Cormack, M. Grant. Animal Tales from
4-6 Ireland; illus. by Vana Earle. Day,
1955. 64p. \$2.50.

Eight original stories based on Irish mythology and history. The quality is uneven, but the author occasionally achieves the flavor of real folk lore. There are touches of humor to some of the tales that make them fun to read aloud.

NR Craig, Margaret Maze. Marsha. Crowell,
8-10 1955. 248p. \$2.75.

Marsha Whitney had lived her life in the shadow of her older and more glamorous sister, Diane, accepting without question the fact that Diane always had the best of everything while Marsha put up with what was left. Not until Steve Holliday came along, bringing her her first taste of love, did Marsha begin to see her sister and her mother for the frivolous, greedy persons they were and to put up a fight for her own rights. The story is weakened by the very average, occasionally careless, writing and the superficiality of the characterizations.

SpC Crampton, Gertrude, comp. The Golden
K-1 Christmas Book; illus. by Corinne
Malvern. Simon & Schuster, 1955.
56p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.

A collection of poems, stories, carols, riddles and activities (including "Thank You" notes) all relating to Christmas. The material is not new, and because some of the activities require marking or coloring in the book, it will be of value for home collections only. For the most part the selections are good ones, and the book will be acceptable for homes where this type of collection is enjoyed.

Ad Cumming, Marian. Clan Texas; illus. by
5-7 Peter Burchard. Harcourt, 1955. 117p.
\$2.50.

Texas in 1873. Young Karl Zorn was bitterly disappointed when his father bought him a Scotch Glengarry cap instead of the cowboy hat he so desperately wanted. However, after a

Scots boy moved into the neighborhood and told Karl something of the history and traditions of the cap, he began to regard it with more respect. In time the other boys at school also got Scotch caps so that they could become members of the Clan Texas organized by Karl and Jock. Even the local bully was won over to the group. A pleasant piece of regional, period fiction but a very ordinary plot.

Ad Doane, Pelagie, comp. Poems of Praise.
1-4 Lippincott, 1955. 144p. \$2.75.

A collection of 220 poems selected to "tell of God and His love and give to little children a sense of His presence in everything about them." The quality is uneven, with some examples from the work of great poets, and some verse that is quite mediocre. The illustrations are sweetly sentimental.

NR Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. One Thousand
3-5 Christmas Beards. Knopf, 1955. 32p.
yrs. \$1.95.

Santa becomes incensed one year at all his imitators and goes around snatching off their beards. Then Mrs. Santa convinces him that the men are merely trying to be helpful because they know that he cannot be everywhere at once. He returns the beards and all is serene once more. All that the book succeeds in doing is divesting Santa and his helpers of any vestige of Christmas spirit. Walters' The Real Santa Claus (Lothrop, 1950) is a better book for helping young children to understand why there are so many Santas around at Christmas time.

NR Farley, Walter. The Island Stallion Races;
7-9 illus. by Harold Eldridge. Random
House, 1955. 256p. \$2.

In an unsuccessful attempt to satisfy both horse story and science fiction fans, Mr. Farley introduces two creatures from outer space in his most recent book about the island stallion, Flame. Steve Duncan has gone alone to Azul Island (his friend Pitch is in New York) to spend his vacation with Flame. On the way he sees an announcement of an International Race to be held in Havana, and dreams of entering Flame. His dream comes true when a space ship lands near the island and one of its occupants, Jay, decides to help Steve and Flame. Needless to say, they win the race, and then put on a disappearing act that baffles the race officials and newsmen. Steve later thinks that he has dreamed all this, but its truth is verified when Pitch reads about the mysterious race horse in the New York papers. Melodramatic and implausible.

M Frick, C. H. Five Against the Odds.
7-9 Harcourt, 1955. 210p. \$2.75. (Values:

Overcoming Handicaps—Lameness).

Tim Moore, high school student, is stricken with polio during the summer preceding his senior year. His physical recovery and emotional adjustment are slow, and painful for him and his family. He almost wrecks the high school basketball team on which his twin brother Jim and his younger brother Denny both play, by refusing to listen to basketball talk or even to attend the games. The story of Tim's readjustment is good; it is weakened by a contrived mystery involving an arsonist that Tim solves in a highly improbable manner.

NR Gardner, Lillian S. Somebody Called Booie; 3-4 pictures by Don Sibley. Watts, 1955. 56p. \$2.50.

Eight-year-old Booie Baker was good at all sports except baseball. Whenever he was forced to play ball he tried to hide his weakness as a batter by complaining of the way in which the ball was thrown, the wind, or the sun in his eyes. To add to his troubles two new children enrolled in his school and Booie became convinced they were making fun of his inability to bat and of his babyish nickname. All was resolved however with a new pair of glasses that improved his vision (and also his batting average) and with his decision to persuade his friends to call him Dick (his real name) rather than Booie. Very mild, rather pointless story. The author has over-simplified Booie's sight problem and its solution in a manner that could prove more harmful than helpful to children in similar situations.

Ad Gillen, Michael. Tony's Good Luck. 2-4 Whittlesey House, 1955. 47p. \$2.

Tony is a small Italian boy who helps his father at the market one day. After selling their wares, they buy a donkey and with its help take on a series of jobs that bring them a cart, a barrel full of oil, a pig, and a scarf for Tony's mother. Rather slight, but pleasing picture of a young boy's activities. The style of writing and the use of Italian terms make this a book for reading aloud to children rather than one for them to handle independently.

NR Grant, Bruce. Six Gun; A Story of the Texas Rangers; illus. by Jacob Landau. World, 1955. 223p. \$2.75.

A sequel to Warpath. Brick Burnett is now a Texas Ranger on the trail of some train robbers. Brick complains of the boredom of his work, which consists mostly of sitting around his home town and watching some suspects who never seem to do anything. The reader is equally justified in complaining of boredom after sitting through chapter after chapter in which nothing happens.

M Grider, Dorothy. Back and Forth. Lip-K-1 pincott, 1955. 31p. \$2.

Brief text and illustrations show the interchangeability of town and country. The farmers, the commuters, the shoppers, all go from the farm into the city. The trucks, the mailman, the telephone repairman, the fire engine, and the vacationers go from the city to the country. At the end of the day they all go back home again. The farm pictures are simplified to the point of being misleading and will not be of value in primary grades that have studied units on chicken, dairy or vegetable farming. The text is too difficult for independent reading but is satisfactory for reading aloud to young children.

M Hawthorne, Dorothy. A Wish for Lutie; 4-6 illus. by Kathleen Voute. Longmans, 1955. 117p. \$2.50.

At first young Lutie and Will Rollins had been excited at the thought of moving, with their family, from their Missouri home to Texas, but after a few weeks of living in a dugout on the prairie where there were no other houses in sight and life was a constant struggle to get fresh water, Lutie was tired of Texas and ready to go back to Missouri. Her adjustment to the new country was not easy, but in time she came to be satisfied with her new home. A pleasant period story that gives a feeling of the starkness and loneliness of prairie life in the late nineteenth century, but that is weakened by a pedestrian style.

R Hays, Wilma Pitchford. Pilgrim Thanksgiving; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. 3-5 Coward-McCann, 1955. 45p. \$2.50.

A fictional account of the first Thanksgiving as seen through the experiences of Damaris, a young girl living in the Plymouth colony. Damaris was unhappy over the celebration because she was afraid of the Indians who were to attend, but by the end of the day she had come to realize that these Indians wanted to be friends of the white men. A well-told story, with illustrations that capture the feeling of the period and the day.

R Heinlein, Robert Anson. Tunnel in the Sky. 9- Scribner, 1955. 273p. \$2.50.

An absorbing science fiction tale for older boys and girls. As the story opens, Rod Walker, one of the most alert students in his high school graduating class, is about to take the final exam in "Advanced Survival". The exam consists of having the students spend a specified amount of time in a totally strange environment on an unknown planet in an unknown galaxy. There follows a story of suspense and adventure which is highlighted by the organization of a

colony of boys and girls who have managed to survive during the allotted time for the test but who, for a reason unknown to them, are not recalled to Earth. The challenge of providing food, shelter, and protection from "stobors" is met with an ingenuity to rival the best desert island romance. Mr. Heinlein has turned the "solo" survival experience into one of group organization and cooperation enlivened by personality rivalries as well as physical hardships. The author tells a good story, one that will be of interest to the new reader of science fiction as well as the fan.

M Horwich, Frances R. Jingle Bell Jack;
3-5 illus. by Katherine Evans. Rand
yrs. McNally, 1955. 28p. 25¢.

When Jean and her mother return from the circus, they decide to make a clown doll and dress it in a costume like the one worn by the real clown. They do. A very slight story, but one that could be used by parents for its directions for making the doll.

R Hurd, Edith (Thacher) and Clement. The
K-2 Cat from Telegraph Hill. Lothrop,
1955. 32p. \$2.

The story of a small yellow cat who lived with an artist at the top of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. One evening she set forth to prove herself a "tough little, rough little" cat, and succeeded in upsetting several people on Fisherman's Wharf before returning home, just in time to greet her owner with an innocent wave of her tail and blink of her eyes. Fun for cat or San Francisco fanciers.

Ad Hutton, Clarke. A Picture History of Great
5-7 Discoveries. Watts, 1955. 62p. \$3.95.

An outline, in brief text and illustrations, of some of the great voyages of discovery from the early Cretans' search for new ports of trade to Byrd's flights to the Antarctic. The brevity of the text will limit the book to use as an introduction to the subject. The format is that of a picture book, but the style of writing and the arrangement of material on the page are for older readers. The pictures are colorful and generally informative, although the maps will need to be supplemented. Some pictures are included without labels and with no obvious relationship to the text.

M Jackson, Caary Paul. Shorty at the State
6-8 Tournament; illus. by Kevin Royt.
Follett, 1955. 159p. \$2.50.

Another story of Danny Cleary and his sports problems. This time Danny, sometimes referred to as "Shorty", has added several inches to his height, but with the growth has come an awkwardness that is worse than his short stature,

mostly because he does not understand its cause. When he fails to make the high school varsity, he refuses to play with the reserve team, but does finally agree to serve as student and teachers, there is no evidence on the part of ports to show good relationships between pupils teachers, there is no evidence on the part of any of the teachers, even the coach, of an attempt to help Danny understand that his awkwardness and changing voice are simply a part of his growing up process. The story has a monotonous similarity to the previous books about Danny.

Ad Kipling, Rudyard. The Elephant's Child;
K-1 or How the Elephant Got His Trunk;
A "Just So" Story; illus. by Katherine
Evans. Rand McNally, 1955. 28p.
(An Elf Book). 25¢.

The complete text of Kipling's story, illustrated with coy, comic-book type pictures.

R Lindquist, Jennie Dorothea. The Golden
3-5 Name Day; pictures by Garth Williams.
Harper, 1955. 248p. \$2.75.

Nine-year-old Nancy was staying with the Bensons while her mother was in a hospital. Although she was not related to them, Nancy had spent most of her summers with the Bensons and called them Grandma and Grandpa as did the Carlson children, who actually were their grandchildren. Nancy arrived on Grandma Benson's Name Day, and immediately began hoping someday to have a share in this Swedish celebration. She was unhappy to find no provision in the Swedish Almanac for a "Nancy" Day, but before the summer was out the Benson's had found a way for her to have a Name Day of her own. A warm, friendly period story that will be read with pleasure by many fourth grade girls and will make good reading aloud for younger girls.

Ad Lloyd, Norman ed. The New Golden Song
1-3 Book; 74 Nursery, Cradle, Folk, and
Patriotic Songs, Hymns, Carols,
Rounds, and Singing Games; pictures
by Mary Blair. Simon & Schuster, 1955.
96p. \$1.95.

New edition of a book first published in 1945. The collection includes 74 songs: nursery songs, singing games, hymns and carols, cradle songs, folk songs, rounds, and patriotic songs. Most of the words are familiar and the arrangements are easy enough for use with primary grades.

R Lovelace, Maud (Hart). Betsy's Wedding;
7-9 illus. by Vera Neville. Crowell, 1955.
241p. \$2.75.

The tenth book in the Betsy-Tacy series. This one takes Betsy from her reconciliation with Joe on her return from Europe, through their wedding and first year of marriage. The story

ends with Joe's enlistment during the First World War. The story will have the same appeal for Betsy-Tacy fans as the earlier titles.

R Marino, Dorothy. The Song of the Pine Tree Forest. Lippincott, 1955. 40p. \$2.

Johnnie, Francie and Davy lived on a farm at the foot of the mountain. They would often sit on their porch at night and listen to music that seemed to come down from the mountain. They called it the Song of the Pine Tree Forest. One day as they were playing on the mountain, Davy disappeared and the two older children set out to find him. They followed a succession of small animals up the mountain until they came to a small house where Davy and the animals sat listening to an old man with a long beard singing the Song of the Pine Tree Forest. Simply written and equally suitable for reading aloud or for beginning readers to handle alone.

W Ad Mills, Lois. Three Together; The Story of the Wright Brothers and Their Sister; illus. by William Moyers. Follett, 1955. 160p. \$2.95.

A biography of the Wright Brothers that seeks a new slant by emphasizing the part played in their lives by their sister, Katharine. The account takes them to the height of their success and makes an adequate addition to biographies of the two men.

NR Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas; A Visit from St. Nicholas; illus. by Elizabeth Webbe. Rand McNally, 1955. 28p. (A Giant Book). \$1.

Moore's well-loved poem illustrated with calendar type pictures that are as sugary-sweet as the sugar plums in the children's dreams.

NR Powers, Alfred. True Adventures on Westward Trails; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Little, 1954. 216p. \$2.75.

Fifteen stories of adventure in the West and of some of the men who explored and helped to settle the country. The emphasis throughout is on the sensational, the writing is slangy, and the book adds little to the many that have already been written on the subject.

NR Pringle, Patrick. When They Were Boys; Sixteen Boyhood Stories of Famous Men; with sixteen plates in half-tone. Roy, 1955. 224p. \$3.

Brief biographical sketches of sixteen famous men, from Leonardo da Vinci to Marconi, with the emphasis on the boyhood experiences of

each. In some instances the accounts include an indication of the adult activities for which the individuals became famous. In other instances the accounts end abruptly, with little or no hint as to why the man is worth remembering. The author uses the text to air many of his own prejudices, and employs a kind of "second sight" intolerance that gives the book an opinionated rather than an objective tone.

NR Protheroe, Ruth Hepburn. Little Chief of the Gaspé; illus. by Nils Hogner. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 115p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Jacques LeGrand lived with his mother in a small fishing village on the Gaspé. The two had had a hard struggle ever since Jacques' father was lost at sea, but they were always cheered by the presence of their good luck piece—a small carved figure of an Indian chief in a canoe—that had been in their family for several generations. One day Jacques was playing with the figure, lost it, and in the effort to find it again showed to his mother and to himself that their luck lay, not in the carving, but in their own strength and courage. A highly sentimental, rather improbable tale.

R Richards, Laura Elizabeth (Howe). 4-8 Tirra Lirra; Rhymes Old and New; foreword by May Hill Arbuthnot; with illus. by Marguerite Davis. Little, 1955. 194p. \$3.

A new edition of a long-time favorite collection of poems by Laura E. Richards. The only changes are in the preliminary pages—a new title page, and a foreword by May Hill Arbuthnot to replace the one by May Lamberton Becker. The page size is slightly larger in this edition, and the quality of the paper is somewhat better.

R Schwartz, Julius. Now I Know; pictures K-2 by Marc Simont. Whittlesey House, 1955. 32p. \$2.

In simple, rhythmic text the author describes and explains some of the natural phenomena with which a young child is likely to have some experience: the reflection of light on windows at night, the sounds made by the wind, the sounds that may be heard in a house at night, rain, vibrations caused by trucks or trains passing by, thunder and lightning, shadows, darkness, and dreams. A useful book to help a young child understand and become aware of the world around him, and one that could be of help in overcoming a child's fears.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). The Plants We Eat; illus. by Helen Ludwig. Morrow, 1955. 126p. \$2.50.

A brief history of man's use and cultivation

of plants, followed by detailed discussions of the kinds of plants that are used for food, how each type grows and produces food, and the importance of each one to mankind. The sections are divided according to the part of the plant that serves as food: the root, the stem, the leaves, the flower, the fruit, and the cereal grains that we eat. A very readable book and one that should have wide interest and use.

Ad Seymour, Alta Halverson. The Top o' Christmas Morning; A Story of Ireland; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 1955. 128p. \$2.50.

In somewhat the same vein as her other "Christmas Around the World" books, the author gives a picture of present day life in rural Ireland, ending with a typical Christmas celebration for this part of the country. The story involves twelve-year-old Kevin Donohoe and his ten-year-old sister Nora, the oldest of eight children who live with their parents on a farm in Ireland. The children make friends with Sheila Courtney, granddaughter of the local Squire, and with her help solve the mystery of some stolen sheep. The action is slight, and the greatest value of the book will be for its picture of rural Ireland and of the Christmas celebration.

NR Shapiro, Irwin. J. Fred Muggs; pictures 3-5 by Edwin Schmidt. Simon & Schuster, yrs. 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Pointless story of the TV character and of his experiences one day at playland, where he enjoys the merry-go-round and the cotton candy. The book misses all of the humor of the TV program.

Ad Smith, William Jay. Laughing Time; K-2 illus. by Juliet Kepes. Little, 1955. 56p. \$2.50.

A collection of nonsense verses and rhymes many of them reminiscent of the work of Krauss and Milne. Young children will find the use of nonsense words and sounds amusing, but the meanings of the verses are wholly adult.

SpR Spykman, E. C. A Lemon and a Star. 5-7 Harcourt, 1955. 214p. \$2.75.

The four Cares children organize their own fun while their widowed father tries (in a pre-occupied manner) to keep them severely disciplined. The scene is a Southern country home in the early 1900's. Despite an occasional condescending tone, the writing is smooth, and the children's adventures are interesting. Theodore, the oldest, proves to be a menace to fun and family harmony when he is in a bad

humor, but he grows into manhood following a crisis in which he at first rejects and then accepts his father's unexpected second marriage. An interesting story of brother-sister relationships that will have its strongest appeal for mature, perceptive readers.

NR Summers, James L. Operation ABC. 7-9 Westminster, 1955. 190p. \$2.75. A treatise on reading problems, thinly disguised as a teen-age novel. The story centers around Tom Riordan, a high school senior, who has bluffed his way through school without having anyone guess that he is too slow a reader to keep up with a normal school load. Being the top athlete of the school has helped him get by, but when the showdown comes Tom realizes that he will no longer be able to bluff. At that point he gets some much needed moral support from his girl friend, whose psychiatrist father has diagnosed his case sight unseen. It is difficult to know to whom the author is directing his book since he employs an equally sarcastic tone toward his teen-age characters, their parents and everyone connected with the public schools. His diatribe on reading problems and methods of teaching reading would have no appeal for young readers, and is too full of errors and half truths to be of any use in giving young people an understanding of such problems. The author's unremittingly negative attitude toward every character and every subject touched on in the book makes it one that could do no good and much harm even for mature readers.

SpC Unnerstad, Edith. Pysen; tr. from the 3-5 Swedish by Inger Boye; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Macmillan, 1955. 172p. \$2.50.

When the Larrison family of The Saucepan Journey (Macmillan, 1951) settled down in an old house in northern Sweden, Pysen was two years old and much more adventurous than in his paper-eating days. The incidents are humorous, especially for boys and girls who have younger brothers and sisters or who remember their own pre-school fun. The extreme youth of the main character will limit the book to use in the home where it can be read aloud. In translating the story from the Swedish, Pysen's older brother Lars has been given the name Laase.

R Voight, Virginia Frances. Lions in the Barn; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Holiday House, 1955. 95p. \$2.25.

Clay Baldwin was the most enthusiastic member of his family over the idea of renting their extra barn to a circus as winter quarters for some of the lions and tigers. He was especially

pleased when the animal trainer not only allowed him to help care for the animals but also gave him a part in the training of the lion cub, Chaka. The story covers the events of one winter and early spring. The book will have its greatest appeal in the unusual situation that is described, rather than in the slight plot.

M White, Bessie (Felstiner). The Strange Man and the Storks; illus. by Ursula Koering. Knopf, 1955. 114p. \$2.25.

A story of Denmark in the 1880's. The Holbek children and their mother were having a hard time after Mr. Holbek's death during a storm at sea, until one day the Strange Man appeared. He seemed to have an unusual attraction for the Holbek children, and with his coming their life began to take on new hope and happiness. The storks that had heretofore ignored the Holbek roof, built a nest there and hatched the first and largest family of all the village storks. The Strange Man helped Knud Holbeck plow the family's farm land and gather amber from the nearby beach. In time he was disclosed as being their father's cousin from Canada, and at the end of the story he married Mrs. Holbeck. There are some interesting pictures of Danish village life at this period, but the mystery of the strange man's identity seems to have been exaggerated much more than the situation warranted.

M Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). His Indian Brother; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Abingdon, 1955. 188p. \$2.50.

In 1809 young Brad Porter and his father traveled from their home in Boston to the Maine woods on the Penobscot River where they planned to start a new home. After building a cabin, Mr. Porter returned to Boston for the rest of the family, leaving Brad to finish clear-

ing land and planting a garden. Brad nearly starved when his father failed to return at the specified time, but was saved by a friendly Indian and his son. By the time Mr. Porter and the rest of the family returned, Brad was an expert woodsman and almost an Indian in his ways of living and thinking. It was with some difficulty that he decided to remain with his family rather than going to live with his Indian friends. The story has its interesting moments, but the characters never seem quite real and there are melodramatic elements introduced that have little bearing on the main plot.

Ad Woolley, Catherine. Ellie's Problem Dog; illus. by Ursula Koering. Morrow, 1955. 159p. \$2.50.

Ellie befriended a stray dog that appeared in her neighborhood, and found herself its sometimes reluctant champion and owner. The story of her efforts to make the dog acceptable to her family and the neighbors is told with an understanding of nine-year-olds and dogs, but with a rather heavy-handed style. In the process of training Brownie, Ellie learns some valuable lessons herself in self-discipline.

R Zim, Herbert Spencer and Ingle, Lester. Seashores; A Guide to Animals and Plants along the Beaches; illus. by Dorothea and Sy Barlow. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 160p. (A Golden Nature Guide). \$1.95.

A pocket-size guide book to plants, animals, shells and birds to be found along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The book is intended as a general guide to identification of fairly common species and references are given for more detailed books to be used in an intensive study of any one species. Well illustrated and informative.