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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

September, 1955

Number 1

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

1955/86-1956/87

- 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 Ansley, Delight. The Sword and the Spirit; A Life of John Brown; illus by Robert Hallock. Crowell, 1955. 266p. \$3.

An unimpassioned, yet moving biography of John Brown, the man who has been called saint and religious fanatic, traitor and patriot. Well-documented, this account emphasizes the underlying motives of the Brown family and their abolitionist associates in the turbulent days preceding the Civil War. The author's approach to her subject is well expressed in her comment about the constitution which Brown wrote for his proposed colony of forcibly freed slaves: "The constitution was perfectly characteristic of John Brown in its noble, unselfish purpose and in the utter confusion of all practical details." The book is carefully indexed and includes an annotated bibliography.

NR Baldwin, James, ed. Favorite Tales of Long Ago; illus. by Lili Réthi. Aladdin, 1955. 150p. \$2.

Twenty-nine stories retold from well-known myths, legends and poems. The stories are all

taken from Baldwin's Fifty Famous Stories Retold (American Book Co., 1924). There is no indication as to which of the stories are based on fact and which are pure fancy, and this becomes a real weakness with such legends as that of George Washington and the cherry tree. There is little originality to the tellings, and in most instances, especially where the stories are re-told from ballads or poems, the original form is much to be preferred. The stories are easy enough for most third grade readers to handle alone; they are not particularly suited to reading aloud or for story telling.

M Ball, Zachary. Bar Pilot; drawings by 7-9 Arthur Shilstone. Holiday House, 1955. 220p. \$2.50.

Jim Yordy arrived in New Orleans, virtually penniless and suffering from amnesia. After several days of vainly trying to find work and to regain his memory, he achieved both when he found his grandfather, the captain of a fleet of boats operating as bar pilots from the Gulf of Mexico into the Mississippi River. Grat Yordy was not impressed by his grandson at first, but Jim eventually proved his worth and ability as a bar pilot. The account of Jim's training and of his experiences during the Civil War makes a moderately interesting story. There is not

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.

much plot and the characterizations are never fully developed. The primary appeal of the book will be in its unusual setting and the descriptions of the work of the bar pilots.

NR Bannon, Laura. Burro Boy and His Big Trouble. Abingdon, 1955. 47p. \$1.50. Burro Boy is blond and light-skinned, and when he rides his dark donkey, there is trouble. In the bright desert sunshine, Burro Boy is invisible, and in the cool dark night, the boy seems to be riding on an invisible donkey. The wise woman solves this problem by telling Burro Boy to wear a loud shirt and to paint white stripes on his animal. The story does not have enough imaginative humor to be a tall tale, and the unanswered question of why little Burro Boy has no one in the world but his donkey is not handled in a manner to make this a satisfactory realistic story. The appealing black and white illustrations are more convincing than is the text.

NR Barker, Melvern J. Country Fair. K-2 Oxford, 1955. 34p. \$2.50. Slight story of a small boy who becomes so engrossed in the local fair that he forgets to milk his cow, Minnie, until she finally follows him to the fair and reminds him. They both thereupon enter a milking contest—and win the prize. A semi-fanciful tale that will prove more amusing to city children who are unacquainted with cows than to country children who will be aware of the pain that Minnie would have suffered from going so long without being milked. Neither realistic nor good fantasy.

NR Bauer, Helen. Good Times at the Circus. 2-4 Melmont, 1955. 32p. \$1.35. Full-page photographs and text tell of the coming of the circus from the first advance posters, through the unloading of the trains and erecting of tents, to scenes from the actual performance. The photographs are better than the very contrived story that accompanies them, and they give very little actual information about the circus. The text is written at an upper second grade reading level, but there is too much text to a page for children reading at that level.

Ad Bentel, Pearl Bucklen. I'll Know My Love. 7-9 Longmans, 1955. 218p. \$3. The story of a young Finnish girl, Sirkka Raita, and her brother, Jaakko, both of whom dream of someday coming to the United States—Sirkka as an actress and Jaakko as an engineer. The story takes them through the war years in Finland, during which time their

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father is killed and their home destroyed. After the war, Sirkka realizes her ambition to become an actress and is given an opportunity to attend an American drama school for one year. At the end of the year she has a chance to remain in this country but decides instead to return to her own country and to the romance that had started there before she left. The title is somewhat misleading since the romance is a very minor part of the story. The plot is rather patterned, but there are moments of realism in the descriptions of the war years. The characterizations tend to be slight and to show little originality.

R Berry, Erick. Green Door to the Sea. 7-9 Viking, 1955. 192p. \$2.75. An entertaining although somewhat purposive story of a young girl's recovery from polio. The setting is Jamaica and the story is primarily concerned with sixteen-year-old Letty Mitchell's struggle to regain confidence in herself and interest in the world about her as she first begins to walk by herself after her illness. Interest in the marine life in the nearby bay and her discovery that she can paint under water help to forward both projects. The book gives an interesting picture of life on the island and could be used to stimulate interest in projects such as Letty undertakes. It is less successful as a story for other polio patients since not many of them will be likely to have the quite substantial financial backing of Letty's family.

X R Berton, Pierre. Stampede for Gold: The Story of the Klondike; illus. by Duncan Macpherson. Knopf, 1955. 177p. \$3. An exceedingly readable, factual account of the discovery of gold in the Klondike and of the fabulous gold rush that followed. The author paints vividly realistic pictures of the country and of the grim struggle that hundreds of men and women went through to reach the Klondike and to stay alive once they got there. An attractive book and one that will make a good companion volume to Jack London's stories of this same period.

M Biak, Elisa. Giant of the Rockies: A Story About John Colter. World, 1955. 217p. \$2.50.

Highly fictionalized account of the adventures of John Colter, as a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and during his years in the Rockies, during which time he discovered what is now Yellowstone Park. The writing is just average, and not always wholly accurate—as when the author states that the Lewis and Clark men were the first white men to trek across

country to the Pacific (Alexander Mackenzie preceded them by about ten years). In a note at the end the author justifies her introduction of fictional elements—an Indian boy whom Colter ransoms and returns to his own tribe, and a horse that Colter loves and whose loss to the Blackfoot Indians is Colter's reason for remaining in the mountains—on the ground that children are more interested in a story than in facts. Since Colter's life, without embellishments, was almost more exciting than fiction can be and still remain plausible, such additions do little to enhance the story and serve to weaken Colter's characterization by giving him unrealistic motivations.

Ad Blanton, Catherine. Hold Fast to Your Dreams. Messner, 1955. 187p. \$2.75. (Values: Intercultural understanding).

A problem novel for teen-age readers. Emmy Lou Jefferson, fifteen-year-old Negro girl, is a talented dancer, but is unable to get full benefit from her dancing in her home town of Blossom, Alabama, where she is not allowed to attend the same classes or dance in the same recital with white girls. She learns of the non-segregated schools in Blue Mesa, Arizona, and persuades her father to let her go there to live with her aunt and uncle during her senior year. Even there she meets with discrimination, but she is able to rise above it, to win a featured role in the city-wide annual pageant, and to gain a scholarship in the New York School of the Theater and Dance. There are some good insights into Emmy Lou's problems, and some of the characterizations are well-done. The plot is contrived and is further weakened by its unrealistic, Hollywood-style ending. However, the book has much to offer the thoughtful reader, and could be used as a starting point for discussions of the kinds of problems it raises.

W Ad Bleeker, Sonia. The Pueblo Indians: Farmers of the Rio Grande; illus. by Patricia Boodell. Morrow, 1955. 155p. \$2. (Values: Intercultural understanding).

Following the same pattern as her earlier books, the author tells, in semi-fictionalized style, of the life, customs, and religion of the Pueblo Indians in the days before the coming of the white man. The last two chapters tell of the conquest by the Spanish and of present day conditions among these Indians. The material is well-presented and will be useful for units on the Indians as well as for general reading where there is interest in the subject. Marriott's Indians of the Four Corners (Crowell, 1952), although somewhat more difficult, has more detailed information and is a more useful book for reference purposes.

R Bloch, Marie Halun. Dinosaurs; illus. 3-5 by Mason. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

Readable, interesting account of prehistoric life, with emphasis on the dinosaurs. Less technical than the Zim, Dinosaurs (Morrow, 1954), this book tells the story of the development of animals and the type of world in which they lived, including what they ate and how they were affected by the changing climatic conditions. Pronunciation aids for most of the names are included in the text. There is neither index nor paging. The material is well-organized and will serve as a good introduction to the subject.

NR Blyton, Enid. The Laughing Kitten; 1-3 photographs by Paul Kaye. Roy, 1955. 54p. \$1.75.

A contrived story built around a series of photographs of a kitten and two pups. The photographs vary from natural, amusing shots, to obviously posed, unnatural looking scenes. The text has no verve and little originality.

SpR Bontemps, Arna Wendell. Lonesome Boy; 9- illus. by Feliks Topolski. Houghton, 1955. 28p. \$2.

Bubber's Grandpa warned him not to play his trumpet when he was lonesome, but Bubber would not listen and went right on playing until he found himself playing at a Devil's Ball. The poetic, folk-tale quality of the writing makes this short story meaningful for adults and older children. The sophisticated drawings and the haunting, melodic theme of the story will make their greatest appeal to fairly mature, sensitive readers. The story is excellent for storytelling or reading aloud to high school and college groups, or for groups studying creative writing.

Ad Bothwell, Jean and Sowers, Phyllis. Ranch of a Thousand Horns; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 152p. \$2.50.

A story of ranch life in Alta California in 1835, at the time that the mission lands were taken over by the Mexican government and divided among the Indians who lived on them. Twelve-year-old Felipe del Mar and his young sister, Clara, lived with their parents on a ranch that had been in their family through several generations. The story of their everyday life is heightened by the suspense of a search for the lost deed to the ranch, and by the less serious concern of the two children for the changes that will be made in their lives by the coming of their cousin who is to serve as their tutor. Not outstanding writing but an interesting picture of the period.

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. The Big Inning. 7-10 Lothrop, 1955. 183p. \$2.50.

Young Lou Sanders, star center fielder in the major leagues, has his promising baseball career ruined when he is injured in a street accident. After a long convalescence, Lou tries to escape from his despair by spending his severance money from the team to travel around the world, but he soon realizes that he cannot run away from his unhappiness. Lou's story, told in a journalistic style, becomes excessively melodramatic as he finds his place in the world as the coach on a farm for homeless boys. There is not enough baseball to make this a sports story, and the writing is too uneven for it to qualify as a good novel.

NR Boyton, Neil. Circus at Madison Square Garden; illus. by George Pollard. Bruce, 1955. 136p. \$2.50.

A story of circus life based on the activities of Ringling Brothers Circus at Madison Square Garden. A thin plot revolves about young Paul Conway, son of the Equestrian Director and the lady Snake Charmer. The numerous characters are never very clearly depicted. The conversations are repetitious, and the humor seems forced.

M Bright, Robert. I Like Red. Doubleday, 1-3 1955. 31p. \$1.50.

A small girl, the only one in her family with red hair, spots all the red objects around her. One day she follows a red kite, finds that a red-haired boy is flying it, and the two play happily together. A very slight story told in the first person.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Treasure; The Story of Money and Its Safeguarding. Putnam, 4-6 1955. 64p. \$2.50.

A straight-forward, factual history of money from the days of barter to modern times. The material is simply and interestingly presented in easy text and graphic drawings. Not as complete as the Floherty Money-Go-Round (Lippincott, 1944) but easier reading. No index.

R Carlson, Natalie Savage; Wings Against the Wind; pictures by Mircea Vasiliu. Harper, 1955. 63p. \$2.50.

Jacot, a young Breton fisherman, found a sea gull's egg that had rolled from its nest, put it in his picket and walked on down the beach to his boat where he discovered, to his amazement, that the egg had hatched. With a feeling of paternal pride, he named the gull Fripoun, taught it to swim and made it the mascot of his boat. The gull was wrongly accused by the other fishermen of stealing fish from their boats, but was vindicated when the real theft—a cat—was discovered in the act. The story

has the freshness and flavor of the salt sea air, and the illustrations capture the humor and suspense of the tale. Fun to read aloud.

M Chastain, Madye Lee. Fripsey Fun. 4-6 Harcourt, 1955. 198p. \$2.75.

The Fripsey family, with its eight children and numerous pets, expects to have a dull year until the children begin taking lessons on the recorder. With their friend Patty from next door, the children organize the musical Fripsey Fluters. They star in the school Christmas pageant, celebrate a real old-fashioned Christmas in the country, and have much more fun than anticipated at the beginning of the school year. The incidents are amusing, and the family has fun together. There are, however, so many characters that none of them is developed sufficiently to seem real, and the uneven, often pedestrian, writing is not strong enough to build the plot into more than a very average family-school story.

Ad Cheesman, Evelyn. Charles Darwin and His Problems; illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. 7-9 Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 192p. (Story Biography Series). \$2.50.

An uneven, but generally interesting biography of Darwin, with an emphasis on his work and its importance rather than his own personality. The author has borrowed freely from Darwin's own writings, especially from the account of the voyage of the Beagle, and her attempt to cover all of the important points of that work in a short space lead to some abrupt transitions and occasional non sequiturs that are somewhat confusing. The book has real value in that it gives the reader an understanding of the importance of Darwin's contribution to scientific knowledge and the development of the scientific method, and may help resolve some questions concerning his theory of evolution. The format of the book is very poor; the inking is quite uneven and many of the pages are difficult to read because the ink has come through from the opposite side.

R Chute, Marchette Gaylord. The Innocent Wayfaring. Dutton, 1955. 199p. \$2.75. New edition of a book first published by Scribner's in 1943. A light-hearted romance set in England during the time of Chaucer. Anne Richmond, deciding that she does not like the prospect of marriage, runs away from the convent school and heads for London, with vague notions of joining a minstrel troupe. Instead she meets young Nick Ware, a would-be poet who has left home rather than enter his father's vintner business, and the two wander over the English countryside for two days before returning to the Richmond estate where they declare their love

and Anne decides to return to the convent to learn to keep house for Nick. All very gay and very innocent.

R Clark, Leonard F. Explorers' Digest; 7-9 illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton, 1955. 256p. \$3.

Six stories of modern explorers in various parts of the world. Included are: McGovern's journey into forbidden Tibet, Helfritz's search for the kingdom of Sheba in Arabia, Sheean's experiences with the Riffi during their war with Spain in 1925, Leahy's explorations in central New Guinea, Hubbard's disastrous journey into the western section of Labrador, and Byrd's flight over the North Pole. The material is interestingly presented, although in the case of Helfritz it would have been more valid had the author given some indication of the conflict in agreement among modern archeologists as to the validity of Helfritz's findings instead of accepting them as absolute. Chicago readers will take exception to the author's attributing to New York the first skyscraper.

Ad Clark, Mary Lou. The True Book of 1-3 Dinosaurs; illus. by Chauncey Maltman. Childrens Press, 1955. 47p. \$2.

A very simple introduction to prehistoric animals. The book is most useful for its good illustrations and the brief descriptions of several of the most commonly recognized dinosaurs. In the two short sections at the end of the book there is an attempt to discuss pre-dinosaur life and fossils and mammals. This information is crowded into too little space and in too unorganized a manner to be clearly understood. A few of the dinosaur names are translated into their descriptive meanings; for example, "Brontosaurus means Thunder Lizard." Although there are no pronunciation aids for the technical names, the material is readable at the second grade level. The type is primer size.

NR Crump, Irving. The Birdsong Boys; with 6-8 illus. by Cyrus Le Roy Baldrige. Friendship Press, 1955. 137p. \$2.

A highly contrived story of the problems faced by two modern Indian boys, living on a reservation in western New York State and attending a nearby high school. In spite of the fact that Hal and Billy Birdsong (cousins) are top students scholastically, they suffer from the thoughtless teasing of the other students who make fun of their name and their race. Hal leaves school in a fit of anger and becomes involved with a group of hot-rodders on the reservation. Billy stays in school and through his prowess on the track team wins respect for himself and the other Indian students. The ex-

cessively didactic, moralistic tone of the writing detracts from any appeal the book might have had as a sports story.

Ad De Leeuw, Cateau. William Tyndale, 7-9 Martyr for the Bible. Association Press, 1955. 125p. (Heroes of God). \$2.

An account of the efforts of William Tyndale to translate the Bible into English and to have the English translation accepted by the church and state. This is not a complete biography of Tyndale, since it begins with his college years, and the emphasis is on his work rather than on his own personality. The book does give a vivid picture of the period and of some of the difficulties men have faced in the cause of intellectual freedom. The conversations are stilted, but the author succeeds in showing the important issues of the day and their effect both then and for modern generations.

NR Disney, Walt. Lady and the Tramp; based K-1 on the story by Ward Greene; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio, adapted by Claude Coats. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.

A saccharinely sweet story of Lady, the cocker pet of Jim Dear and Darling. Life is beautiful until the advent of the baby, and of Darling's aunt, who banishes Lady to the doghouse. The Tramp comes along, champions Lady, and helps her kill a rat that has crept into the house for the express purpose of attacking the baby. Thereupon the aunt is deposed and the Lady and the Tramp, plus their offspring, reign happily forever after.

Ad Dobson, Millicent. Hero: The Biggest Cat 3-5 in the World; illus. by Terry Gorman. Coward-McCann, 1955. 126p. \$2.50.

Hero is a big cat who keeps order in the neighborhood. He watches over abandoned kittens, welcomes visiting cats and keeps wayward cats, like Rascal, from becoming too troublesome. The three episodes involving the cat neighbors are well written. They will appeal especially to cat enthusiasts who do not object to some over-personification. The text is accompanied by imaginative black-and-white drawings.

R Dorian, Edith M. and Wilson, W. N. Trails 6-8 West and Men Who Made Them. Whittlesey House, 1955. 92p. \$2.50.

Factual accounts of the history of eight major trails in this country's development: the Golden Trail (Southwest); the Water Trail (French-Canadian); the Wilderness Road; the Natchez Trace; the National Road; the Sante Fe Trail; the Oregon Trail (with its branches into California and Utah); and the Chisholm Trail. The material is not new, but the presentation is in-

teresting and there is some value to having all of the trails described in one book. Indexed.

Ad Downer, Mary Louise. The Flower; pictures by Lucienne Bloch. Scott, 1955. 32p. \$1.75.

A simple account of what happens to a flower seed planted by a small boy and girl. The process is shown from the preparation of the flower bed and planting of the seed, through the process of sprouting and growing—the bud, the flower, and finally more seeds for next year's planting. The book has some value for nature study, although it will need to be expanded. The method of planting, for example, is too general to be useful for all types of seed. There is not much detail about the development and growth of the seed, and the statement at the end that the boy and girl in the story will grow older as the child re-reads the book is misleading. The text is easy enough for beginning readers, and could be used as supplementary reading material.

SpC Dudley, Nancy. Linda Travels Alone; K-1 pictures by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$2.

Linda, the young heroine of Linda Goes to the Hospital, is off on a new experience. This time she travels from her home in the north to Florida. Before she leaves, her father explains to her all that is involved in traveling overnight by train, and then she is off on her own. As in the earlier book, there is some useful information, most of it more useful as a guide for parents than for the children themselves. Linda is too self-reliant and too much that is out of the ordinary happens to her for the story to have much reality.

NR Duka, Ivo and Kolda, Helena. Martin and His Friend from Outer Space. Harper, 1955. 96p. \$2.50.

Another attempt to combine fantasy and trick photography. This time Martin has constructed a play-radio set, and to his amazement tunes in one of Saturn's moons. He contacts a young girl there who not only speaks perfect English so that she is able to tell him all about the fabulous moons of Saturn, but also manages to be transported to this planet where she and Martin spend a day exploring New York, including a trip to Coney Island. They have an adventure with an unsavory character who tries to get the girl's gold hair (it is real gold), but the children manage to evade him and start the girl safely on her way back to her Saturnian moon. The story is fantasy rather than science fiction and not very successful fantasy at that. The illustrations are more interesting as examples of trick photography than successful at interpreting the story.

R Eager, Edward McMaken. Playing Possum; K-2 pictures by Paul Galdone. Putnam, 1955. 32p. \$2.50.

Amusing story of a possum that gets caught in a barrel and creates a furor among the adults who all think that he is a rat. Only the small boy realizes that he is just a possum "playing possum", and helps him to escape. Both the text and Galdone's illustrations sympathize with the possum and poke fun at the adults.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. The Octopus. Morrow, 4-6 1955. 64p. \$2.

A straight-forward, factual presentation of one of the more unusual, and most frequently misrepresented animals in the ocean. In clear, precise text and excellent drawings the author describes the physical structure and way of living of the octopus, and relates it to other sea animals. A useful book for all nature study collections in home, school or public library.

R Felton, Harold W. Fire-Fightin' Mose; 6-9 illus. by Aldren A. Watson. Knopf, 1955. 174p. \$2.75.

Big Mose, the hero of the New York Volunteer Fire Department during the rugged fire-fighting years from 1830 to 1870, has a story which is more than legend. His is a tall tale, made even taller by the grand manner in which Mr. Felton brings to life the fearless Bowery B'hoys and their famous fire-fighting exploits. The author brings his own storytelling wit to add to the already fabulous exploits of Mose, Sykesey, the beautiful Liza Stebbins, Linda the Segar girl, and the famous fire engine nicknamed the White Ghost. This is a fuller, more difficult, and even funnier re-telling than Katherine Shippen's Big Mose (Harper, 1953).

Ad Forster, Logan. Desert Storm; illus. 7-9 by Frank Hubbard. Dodd, 1955. 218p. \$2.75 (Values: Pride in background and heritage; Intercultural understanding).

A typical boy-horse story, with the racial background of its hero (Apache Indian) as its chief claim to originality. Ponce, the Indian boy, has lived for several years on the sheep ranch of Gabe Stuart. The boy longs for a good horse and his chance comes when an expensive race horse is injured in a car wreck near the ranch and is given to the boy by its owner, who thinks the horse cannot be saved. With the help of the local medicine man, the horse's broken leg is healed, whereupon a neighbor conveniently offers to help train the horse for racing. Needless to say the filly ends by winning the major race at Santa Anita. The book has interest in its unusual setting and its picture of the Indian boy's growing appreciation of his own culture to compensate somewhat for the trite plot and typed characterizations.

R Françoise. Springtime for Jeanne-Marie.
5-7 Scribner, 1955. 32p. \$2. 50.
yrs.

A new adventure of little Jeanne-Marie, her white duck Madelon, and her pet sheep Patapon. When Madelon wanders too far from home, Jeanne-Marie finds her with the help of the little boy Jean-Pierre. Now there are four good friends to enjoy the springtime. Charming details of the French countryside are pictured with the author-illustrator's characteristic style. She makes good use of pastels, emphasized by rich browns and heavy black outlines. The rhythmic text is easy enough for most second grade readers to handle with ease and makes pleasant reading aloud for younger children.

R Freeman, Ira Maximillian. All About the Wonders of Chemistry; illus. by George Wilde. Random House, 1954. 148p. \$1. 95.

A clearly written introduction to the field of chemistry. A well-illustrated explanation of the molecular composition of compounds adds to the value of the book. There is a description of the making of steel and the processing of other metals, and one chapter is devoted to fibers and plastics, including textiles made from synthetic fibers. There is also brief information about careers in the field of chemistry. Less formally written and more up to date than Perry's The Chemical Industry (Longmans, 1944). However, the photographic illustrations in the Perry book give a better picture of the industrial uses of chemistry than do the simple sketches in this book.

R Freeman, Mae (Blacker) and Ira. Fun with Your Camera. Random House, 1955. 55p. \$1. 50.

Clear, easy-to-follow instructions for taking pictures with a box camera. The basic principles of photography are explained, followed by directions for loading a camera, choosing a subject, focusing, planning the picture, making trick pictures, and mounting and filing pictures. Examples of poor shots are given and their faults analyzed. A less detailed, but better organized book than the Hoke, First Book of Photography (Watts, 1954).

M Friendlich, Dick. Baron of the Bull Pen.
7-9 Westminster, 1955. 184p. \$2. 75.

Jim Baron, a Stannard University senior, made such a good impression on Buddy Streeter, big-league pitching coach, that he was signed on as a bonus rookie with the Generals even though all that he could pitch was a fast ball. After part of a season with the Class A team, Jim was brought up to the major league in September

to work as a relief pitcher. All went well until the crucial game of the season when a rival batter hit one of Jim's pitches for a home run and cost the Generals a chance at the pennant. At the beginning of the next season, Jim had difficulty regaining confidence in himself until he faced that same batter and struck him out. A quite average baseball story, somewhat slow-moving, and many of the game descriptions sound repetitious.

R Gaul, Albro. The Pond Book; with photographs by the author. Coward-McCann, 1955. 136p. \$2. 75.

A year round exploration of the plant and animal life to be found in or near a typical pond in the mid-west or north-east sections of this country. Beginning with the first signs of life in the spring, the reader follows the seasons through the freeze and snows of winter to the start of another spring. At the end is a section giving the life story of the pond itself and telling of the many uses of ponds. A well-written book, illustrated with many photographs. These are interesting, but unfortunately are occasionally too fuzzy to be very informative.

M Goodenow, Earle. Angelo Goes to the K-2 Carnival. Knopf, 1955. 32p. \$2.

Angelo, a small boy living in an Italian fishing village, longs for a costume so that he can participate in the local carnival. While out in his father's boat one day he so charms the fish with his beautiful singing voice that they take him to the bottom of the sea and provide him with a costume just like that worn by Columbus. There is a moral to the story (money isn't everything and cannot buy the important things in life) but neither it nor the fantasy is wholly successful, and the book's chief value will lie in its colorful pictures of the Italian town.

M Gottlieb, William P. A Pony for Tony.
K-2 Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Excellent color photographs have been used to illustrate a trite, poorly-rhymed verse-story about a small boy who visits his uncle's ranch and learns to overcome his fear of a pony.

NR Gropper, William. The Little Tailor. Dodd,
9-12 1955. 96p. \$2. 75.

The little tailor is happily creating fine suits and dresses in his small village in Europe, when he receives a letter from relatives in the United States urging him to come to a new land of opportunity. He packs up his family and arrives in this country to find that he is just one of many garment workers in an assembly line production of clothes. Later, he discovers that he can have identity in America if he is ambitious; and he

plans to become an important and famous designer. This picture story is obviously intended to show the plight of the immigrant craftsman as he adjusts to American big-city life at the end of the 19th century. The author-illustrator is more successful with his artwork than with the text, which is cumbersome and generally too adult for a children's book. The book is interesting as an example of the artist's work, although it is by no means typical of his best drawings. Many of the pictures are satirical and more suited to adults than to children.

M Harrison, Crane Blossom. Tomorrow for Patricia; illus. by Susanne Suba. Little, 1955. 250p. \$2. 75.

Fifteen-year-old Patricia Holland rebelled at the thought of growing up and even more at the traditional pattern of life for girls in the early-twentieth century small town in which she lived. However, during her fifteenth year she came to an understanding of why her mother wanted her to act like a "lady"; reluctantly, but not unhappily, packed away her jeans, and accepted her role in life. Her growing up process makes a mildly interesting story, although it slips occasionally into the excessively sentimental. The characters are all typed and have little individuality. Woodward's The Pink Rose (Lothrop, 1955) is a more mature handling of the same subject.

M Headley, Elizabeth Cavanna. Diane's New Love. Macrae, 1955. 223p. \$2. 50.

Further adventures in the life of Diane Graham (A Date for Diane). This can scarcely be called a novel since it is little more than a series of episodes, loosely strung on the thread of Diane's growing love for her new dog, Honey, and her interest in two boy friends, Jim Roberts (the boy-next-door) and Toby Cook (a newcomer to the field). Several of the episodes originally appeared as short stories in The American Girl and their form as short stories has been retained without there being adequate transitional sentences or paragraphs to the following chapters. The result is a choppy style more suited to the soap opera type of writing than to good fiction.

M Hogner, Nils. Jean's Whale. Abelard-K-2 Schuman, 1955. 42p. \$2. 50.

When Jean, a fisherman, starts out one morning, he laughingly promises his wife he will bring her a whale. He and his partner have bad luck during the day; their catch is small and as they are returning home a blue whale tips their boat so that even their few fish are lost. Jean quickly calls the other fishing boats

around and they drive the whale on to the beach—and so his promise to his wife is fulfilled. Slight story with garish red and green pictures that do not always succeed in creating the desired effects.

Ad Holden, Raymond. Famous Scientific Expeditions; illus. by Lee Ames. Random House, 1955. 144p. \$2. 75.

Brief accounts of five famous scientific expeditions: The Beebe-Barton Bathysphere; The Conquest of Mt. McKinley; The Discovery of the Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen; The Burden Expedition to Komodo Island, and The Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18. The accounts will serve more to whet the reader's interest and lead him on to more detailed descriptions of these same expeditions than to satisfy his interest in the subject. No bibliography is given, although the books from which the author's information was taken are named in the acknowledgements at the front of the book.

R Hull, Eleanor. The Turquoise Horse; 6-8 illus. by Cyrus LeRoy Baldrige. Friendship Press, 1955. 135p. \$2.

A well-written, convincing story of a teen-age Navaho boy's adjustment to a mission school. The boy's parents are Christian, and his mother attempts to keep him from accepting the old Navaho customs which his father's own relatives still practice. Through the friendship of a Navaho medicine man, and the kindness of the mission teacher, Yazi and his parents grow to appreciate the contributions of both traditions. An interesting minor incident involves Yazi's young sister, who, quite independently of her parents' encouragement, plans to weave a handsome blanket to enter in a craft show. The well-defined characters and smoothly paced action are combined into an effective story.

R Ivens, Bryna, ed. Stories from Seventeen. 9-12 Lippincott, 1955. 214p. \$2. 75.

Fourteen short stories taken from Seventeen Magazine. Although the stories vary in quality, they are generally well-written and deal with fairly mature themes, ranging from the hazards of pick-ups to the facing of death, with a leavening of love and dates. A useful book for units studying the short story as well as for general reading.

R Jones, Gwyn. Welsh Legends and Folk Tales; illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Oxford, 1955. 230p. \$3.

A collection of traditional Welsh tales, many of them taken from the Mabinogion. The stories are re-told with all the flavor and romance of the Welsh language and imagery, and will make

an excellent addition to storytelling collections. A section at the end gives help in pronouncing the Welsh names. The illustrations are quite in keeping with the forceful, yet somewhat brooding quality of the tales and help make this an attractive piece of bookmaking.

NR Kinsey, Elizabeth. This Cat Came to Stay!
K-1 pictures by Don Sibley. Watts, 1955.
157p. \$2. 50.

Patsy Tucker, a small girl who is visiting her great-aunt, and her friend William Jones, who lives next door, are playing together one day when a large grey cat appears in William's yard. The children name her Mrs. McGinis and persuade Mrs. Jones to let her stay. The story of how Mrs. McGinis teaches William's baby brother George to refrain from pulling her tail, and of how the two children help care for her babies and find her original owner, has many of the elements of a good cat story, but does not quite come off. Both Patsy and William are unfortunately pictured as pre-school children, thereby lessening the appeal of the story for the third grade readers who would be able to handle the text, and the style of writing is not especially suited to reading aloud to younger children. William's parents are radio-comedy caricatures rather than real people.

NR Klyce, Laura (Kent). The Tree-House
5-7 Watch; illus. by Rus Anderson. McKay,
1955. 165p. \$2. 50.

A mystery story set in the Arizona mining country of the early 1900's. The three Thorpe children looked forward eagerly to the coming of the Price family to their neighborhood, but they were disappointed when Mrs. Price turned out to be a nervous, unfriendly woman who would not let her children out of her sight. In time her fears were overcome enough that she would allow the children to play together although everyone was soon aware that there was some mystery surrounding the Price family. Finally, through the efforts of the Thorpe children, a bank robber was caught and Mr. Price was cleared of the false charge of robbery that had been raised against him and that was, in part, responsible for Mrs. Price's attitude. A poorly written, melodramatic story, with weak characterizations.

Ad Knight, Frank. Mudlarks and Mysteries;
6-8 illus. by Patrick Jobson. St. Martin's,
1955. 263p. \$2. 50.

An English story of Chichester Harbor and of two children whose favorite pastime is "messing about in boats." In pursuit of this hobby, they stumble on to a local mystery which they help to solve in fine style. There is nothing very original about the story, which is more

mudlarks than mystery, but there are some excellent descriptions of the boats and of the fun of boating. The story is told in the first person by twelve-year-old Brenda Partridge who, with her brother Derek, helps to solve the mystery.

SpC Krauss, Ruth. Is This You? by Ruth
K-2 Krauss and Crockett Johnson. Scott,
1955. 40p. \$1. 50.

A nonsense picture game for the 5-7 year-olds. The book is divided into sections: your family, where you live, what you eat for breakfast, your name, your friend, how you take your bath, etc., with each page asking one or more questions of the child. The cartoon-like illustrations by Crockett Johnson suggest silly answers to each question. "Is this you?" is answered by a picture of a rag doll, a clown, a sphinx, a TV artist, a face on a nickle, a face in the moon, a mouse, a knight in armour. At the end of each section of questions, the author suggests that the "reader" draw a picture representing his own answer to the questions. All of the drawings may then be fastened together to make a book. Several of the pictures would probably have little or no meaning for the very young child. However, there is a rollicking type of humor in the combination of picture and text which will appeal to the older pre-school child, especially if the family joins in the fun. An excellent book for use on auto or train trips.

M Kyle, Elisabeth. Carolina House. Nelson,
7-9 1955. 192p. \$2. 50.

After the death of her father, Caro Meldrum found herself with no possessions other than a hand-carved model of her great-grandfather's tobacco ship, the Savannah Breeze, an antique silver bracelet, and a run-down mansion in one of the worst slum sections of Glasgow. She moved into the mansion, Carolina House; got a job with one of the local newspapers; fell in love with one of her tenants; and solved the mystery of her lost inheritance. The characters in this story are older than those of Kyle's earlier mysteries and there is not the breathtaking suspense and swift-pace of the earlier books, which may make this a disappointing story for mystery fans. It could serve as a bridge between mystery stories and teen-age romances.

R Lansing, Elisabeth Carleton (Hubbard).
5-7 Deer River Raft; illus. by Marc Simont.
Crowell, 1955. 191p. \$2. 50.

Another story of Hank Roberts and Fred Summers, erstwhile heroes of Deer Mountain Hideaway; of Fred's sister, Janey; and of the boys' friend Joe Patches, lazy, come-easy-go-easy game warden. The boys once again stumble onto and help solve a mystery. This time it involves

some stolen heifers, and once again Joe Patches is wrongly accused and is cleared by the boys and Janey (or by Janey and the boys, depending on whose version you take). The story has the same humor of characterization and situation of the earlier book, and if it sometimes reads much like the same story in a slightly different setting, is nevertheless an appealing story with a plausible mystery.

M Larsen, Egon. The Young Traveler in Germany; illus. with photographs and map sketches by Charles H. Geer; ed. by Georgia Lingafelt. Dutton, 1955. 228p. \$3.

Jim and Ginger Watkins travel with their journalist father to Germany, where Mr. Watkins is collecting material for a series of magazine articles. Ginger does not speak German, and she finds that she must depend on her father and Jim to plan the tour around central Germany. Jim proves to be very adept at improving his vocabulary, especially when Mr. Watkins leaves the children pretty much on their own while he takes a business trip to Berlin. Following the written itinerary which Mr. Watkins leaves for them (but with an occasional unplanned side-trip), the children learn a great deal about the country and the German people. The information seems to be up to date, and the detailed index and glossary are helpful to the reader. There is a tendency for the thin plot to get in the way of the travel information.

Ad Lippincott, Joseph Wharton. Persimmon Jim, the Possum; illus. by George F. Mason. Lippincott, 1955. 123p. (American Wildlife Series). \$2.

A new edition of a book first published in 1924. The story tells of the adventures of a wise old possum who lives in the woods near Goose Creek. He is blamed for every chicken and duck theft in the neighborhood, whether he is actually to blame or not, and the farmers try every means they know of to catch him. The story, with its plea for the conservation of wild life, follows the pattern of Lippincott's other "American Wildlife Stories." The style is fairly easy and the book will have value where there is interest in this type of nature story.

R Lippincott, Joseph Wharton. The Phantom Deer; illus. by Paul Bransom. Lippincott, 1954. 192p. \$3.

A story of the Florida Keys and of one man's efforts to save the miniature Key deer from extinction at the hands of poachers. Old Hickey had lived on the Keys for most of his seventy years, with little human company, until

one summer when his great-nephew, Jack, came out from Miami to stay with him. The two became fast friends and thereafter Jack spent every minutes of each vacation time on the Keys. The account of their efforts to save the deer makes interesting reading, with occasional moments of suspense, although the story is quite slow-paced.

NR Mace, Katherine. Let's Dance a Story; 1-3 illus. by William D. Hayes. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 44p. \$2. 50.

The reader is introduced to Janet as she attends dancing class. The black and white drawings show Janet in her leotard practicing several different steps and exercises. As the dancing teacher tells the class a story about Homer, the baby elephant, the boys and girls act out the parts of Homer and the other jungle animals. The text and pictures switch back and forth between the children and the teacher's story. The result is a confusing picture book with two unimaginative stories. The illustrations of the children are very unattractive.

NR MacKellar, William. Kickoff. Whittlesey 7-9 House, 1955. 185p. \$2. 50.

Angus Fraser, a young Scots boy, was brought to this country as a good-will student, and enrolled in Drake, a small Long Island college. He was welcomed by the student body on the strength of his reputation as a football player, but their welcome cooled considerably when they discovered that he did not play the American version of the game. During the course of the year Angus redeemed himself with the students by learning to play American football; he practiced a successful bit of psychotherapy on the team's star player; and he was involved in an unpleasant scandal involving a theft of money. The mystery of the theft was finally solved by the player who had previously benefitted from Angus's amateur psychiatry. There is not much about the actual games that were played, and both the plot development and the characterizations are improbable and poorly handled.

Ad Malcolmson, Davis. Yipe; The Story of a Farm Dog; with pictures by Morgan Dennis. Little, 1955. 115p. \$2. 75.

Entertaining, although over-sentimental story of Yipe, part collie and part terrier, who is abandoned by her city owners and adopted by a farmer and his wife. The story of how Yipe learns to fit into farm life is obviously based on real happenings, and makes good reading where it is not marred by the excess of sentimentality and by an over-personification of the dog.

SpC Mara, Thalia and Wyndham, Lee. First Steps in Ballet; Basic Exercises for Home Practice; illus. by George

Bobrizky. Garden City Books, 1955. 64p. \$2.

Twelve elementary ballet barre exercises explained in easy text and pictured in clear drawings. The authors state firmly that this is a book to be used in conjunction with good ballet school teaching and is not a book for the would-be dancer to use alone with no additional instruction. In the introductory section to parents hints are given as to how to select a good ballet teacher. Although libraries where there is great interest in ballet may want to add the book to their collections, its major use will be for home libraries of ballet students.

Ad Mother Goose. Lavender's Blue; sel. by K-3 Kathleen M. Lines; pictured by Harold Jones. Watts, 1954. 180p. \$6.

A good selection of more than 160 nursery rhymes, play-party games, and finger plays. The drawings vary in quality. Some of the pictures are gay and expressive, others are awkward and crude. In general the color pictures are better than the black-and-white. Some of the pages seem crowded, with too much art work and with more than one rhyme. Directions for playing the rhyme games are given at the end of the text, however, since there is only a first-line index and the references to the rhymes are not always given by the first-line, it is difficult to match the rhyme with the game. Not as successful a piece of book-making as the DeAngeli, Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes (Doubleday, 1954).

NR Musgrave, Florence. Trailer Tribe; illus. 6-8 by Genevieve Vaughan-Jackson. Ariel, 1955. 244p. \$2.75.

Young Lucinda Jane and her brother Dave looked forward to a real splurge when their father suggested a trip to New York City as the family's summer vacation. Coal had recently been found on the Weiler's Ohio farm, and the children could see no reason for not spending the money it brought freely and indiscriminately. They were not too happy, therefore, when their father appeared with a small, somewhat battered trailer and announced that they would use it for the trip. They were even more unhappy when he insisted on stopping on the way at a number of Lincoln memorials. Finally arrived in New York City, Mr. Weiler allowed each member of the family to choose the way to spend one day each, and then he took over the rest of the time for some sociological sight-seeing (Harlem, Chinatown, the Bowery, and some of the worst of the slum areas). By the end of the trip Lucinda and Dave had become reconciled to their father's ideas of how to spend the coal money, and had even decided

that their father looked like Lincoln. There is little reality to the characterizations, and the book is more tract than story.

R Norton, Andre. Star Guard. Harcourt, 7-12 1955. 247p. \$3.

By 3956 A. D. some of the people of earth were beginning to rebel against the powers of Central Control who had for generations relegated them to the position of hired mercenaries to fight the battles of the various planets. Arch Swordsman Kana Karr, just out of training school, became involved in the rebellion without at first understanding what it was all about, although he was soon giving it his fullest support. The story of his part in the early days of the revolt makes good fare for science fiction fans.

NR O'Connell, Alice L. The Blue Mare in the 5-7 Olympic Trials; with illus. by Paul Brown. Little, 1955. 225p. \$2.75.

Pamela Paget and her friend, Bill, are enthusiastic about the training they undertake in order to compete in the preliminary trials for the National Equestrian Team to the Olympic Games. Pam's enthusiasm is disturbed by equestrian and personal rivalry from the sophisticated, blond Mary Atwater. A great deal of information about the rules of horsemanship and the technical regulations of Olympic competition is crammed into a very slight story. The conversations are trite, and the setting and descriptions of riding are presented in an uninteresting manner.

R Paton, Alan. The Land and People of 7-12 South Africa. Lippincott, 1955. 143p. (Portraits of the Nations Series). \$2.75.

In travelogue style, the author takes the reader on a tour of South Africa, with a detailed look at some of the major cities and the more important points of interest, such as the Kruger National Forest. Interwoven into the descriptions are accounts of the various racial and national groups that make up South Africa; the part that each group has played in the development of the country, and a serious, objective discussion of the problems that the people of South Africa are facing today. The author makes no effort to conceal or in any way minimize his own views on the racial problem, although he is also scrupulously fair in stating the point of view of the opposition. The result is a thought-provoking book that is much more than just a geography or travel book and that will greatly aid young people in this country to understand the South African situation as they read of it in newspapers and magazines.

R Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Trees; 1-3 illus. by Richard Gates. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

A brief, simply written introduction to trees, giving a description of the parts of trees, the two main groups of trees and some of the better known examples from each group, and ending with a section on the use and conservation of trees. The text is well-written; the illustrations vary in quality, the pictures of leaves being better for identification purposes than are the pictures of whole trees. The book will have value as a beginning guide to tree identification and to the study of conservation.

R Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Weeds
1-3 and Wild Flowers; pictures by Mary
Gehr. Childrens Press, 1955. 48p. \$2.

In brief text and illustrations several familiar weeds and wild flowers are described along with their uses and their harmful characteristics. The first section discusses weeds—what makes a plant a weed; the various weeds of the dooryard, the roadside, the garden, the fields, and the woods; and weeds that do harm. Part two considers the plants that are wild flowers, wild flowers of early spring, and wild flowers of summer and fall. The book ends with a plea for the preservation of wild flowers. The color illustrations will be useful for weed and flower identification; the black-and-white pictures are not much use for anything. The text is written at about a second grade reading level, and the book will be of value in the primary grades as an introduction to nature study.

R Ravielli, Anthony. Wonders of the Human
5-7 Body; illus. by the author. Viking,
1954. 125p. \$2. 50.

An exceptionally clear, interesting presentation in simple text and graphic illustrations of the way in which the body works. Contents include the framework, the muscles, the brain and nervous system, and the digestive system. The author uses simple, easily understood analogies to describe each part of the body and its functions. An excellent book for health and hygiene classes.

SpR Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. The Secret
3-5 River; illus. by Leonard Weisgard.
Scribner, 1955. 59p. \$2. 50.

When hard times come to the Florida forest, a small girl sets out with her dog to find the secret river where there are reported to be quantities of fish. She finds the river, catches a large string of fish, and returns home. Her father sells the fish to the people of the community, who regain their strength once they have eaten a good meal and are again able to work and bring prosperity back to the forest. The little girl searches for but never again finds the secret river. A beautifully written

fantasy that will appeal to the more sensitive reader. Weisgard's illustrations, in black and white on brown paper, capture the mystic tone of the story.

M Reynolds, Helen. "Karen Presents . . .";
7-9 decorations by Evelyn Urbanowich. Funk
& Wagnalls, 1955. 218p. \$2. 75.

After a winter in the city, where she had lived with her aunt and attended high school, Karen Neislen was gloomy at the prospect of a summer spent at the salmon cannery which her father owned. She refused to invite her friends to visit her because of the fish smell, and on arriving home settled down prepared to sulk the summer away in boredom. Before very long she was caught up in a whirl of entertaining two boys who sailed up the coast in their Comet, and in giving puppet shows to earn enough money to buy a rowboat for a nearby camp for handicapped children. By the end of the summer she was well on the way to a career as a puppeteer. Very neat, tidy and romantic.

NR Rush, William Marshall. Lumberman's
7-9 Dog; decorations by Donald W. Lambo.
Longmans, 1955. 244p. \$3.

When Ken Rogers graduated from Forestry School the only job that was open to him was a temporary job surveying a timber tract that had been recently purchased by a wealthy railroad man. On arriving at the tract, Ken learned that an additional job—the care of a thoroughbred but wild Irish terrier—was included. The terrier, aptly nicknamed Wreck, lived up to his name many times before Ken finally gained his confidence. In the end, however, the boy had done such a good job that the dog's owner gave him Wreck and also gave him a permanent job as the operator of a small lumber-mill that was opened on the tract. There are also several encounters with some moonshiners, and Ken's actions here are anything but admirable, since he takes the attitude that as long as the men are operating on government property he has no responsibility for reporting them, but that it is the duty of the law enforcement officers in the vicinity to keep up with such activity. The story is told in an episodic style and is not especially unusual in either plot or characterizations.

M Selsam, Millicent Ellis. How the Animals
1-2 Eat; illus. by Helen Ludwig. Scott,
1955. 91p. \$2. 50.

An attempt to tell in simplified form how animals eat, what they eat, and how their choice of food and method of eating are suited to their natural environment and way of living. The chain of life is pictured showing how all animals are eventually traced back to the plants that are so necessary to the continuance of life. The material is

interesting, although marred by an occasional, unnecessary over-simplification—i. e., plankton is called "sea soup" throughout. Bears are listed with carnivorous animals, and at no place does the author indicate that for most bears meat is a relatively small part of their diet. The tone is too condescending to have much appeal for general reading.

Ad Sterling, Dorothy. The Story of Mosses, Ferns and Mushrooms; illus. by Myron Ehrenberg. Doubleday, 1955. 159p. \$2. 75.

Some of the more elementary forms of plant life described in clear, simple text and photographs. The author uses an unfortunately condescending tone, especially noticeable at the beginning and end, that could limit the book's appeal for casual browsing. There is, however, interesting and valuable information for the reader who is sufficiently interested in the subject to over-look the tone in which it is presented.

R Taylor, Alice. Iran; illus. by Rafaello Busoni. Holiday House, 1955. 28p. (Lands and Peoples). \$1. 75.

A brief over-view of Iran, its people, its past, and its present geographic, social and economic conditions. The troubles over oil are presented objectively, if briefly, and no attempt is made to evaluate the events that brought on the troubles or the present situation. The book will be useful as an introduction to Iran, and to use as a basis for discussion of current world problems.

NR Turner, Audry. Betty Starling, Private Secretary. Lantern, 1955. 223p. \$2. 50.

A melodramatic career story set against a background of a railroad freight office. Betty Starling invades the big city determined to get a job as a private secretary. After the usual unsuccessful round of employment agencies, she wins the sympathy of two men who live in the boarding house where she is staying. They tell her of an opening at the freight office where they both work, she applies, is given the job, and proceeds immediately to outshine all of the other girls in the office. There is the usual romance, first with the wrong and then with the right man. The story does not have enough about office routines to be of any great value as career information, and the characters and plot are too stereotyped for the book to have value as a piece of creative fiction.

R Uchida, Yoshiko. The Magic Listening Cap; More Folk Tales from Japan. Harcourt, 1955. 146p. \$2. 50.

Fourteen folk tales from Japan adapted by the author of *The Dancing Kettle and Other Tales*.

Like the stories in the first collection, these are told with charm and humor and display those universal elements of folk lore that will give them wide appeal. Several of the stories have counterparts in other folk lore. The stories are suitable for reading aloud, or for telling, and will also be of interest to students of comparative folk lore.

Ad Verral, Charles Spain. The King of the Diamond. Crowell, 1955. 180p. \$2. 50. Another story about Pierre "Frenchy" Beaumont, sports hero of Pineville High School. The baseball team of which Frenchy is the captain loses its sponsor just before the opening game of the summer series. Frenchy's Uncle Leo, in his customary interfering and persuasive manner, bribes Papa Beaumont into sponsoring the team for the sake of publicity for the Beaumont Garage. Young Glen Jennings, who finds bird-watching far more interesting than sports of any kind, is persuaded by his father to join the team with the promise that his father will build a bird sanctuary on part of their property if Glen turns in a credible performance. Mr. Jennings also bribes the Beaumont Garage by offering Mr. Beaumont his business if Glen is allowed to play on the team. After many mishaps, everything turns out well, and Frenchy even comes to understand Glen's preference for a bird sanctuary over a trip to the World Series, which is the team's award for winning the local championship. The book is more successful for its description of the games than for the plot involving both Uncle Leo's and Mr. Jennings' questionable tactics.

R Voegeli, Max. The Wonderful Lamp. Oxford, 1955. 230p. \$2. 75.

An adventure story in the time of the Arabian Nights when Haroun al-Raschid was the caliph in Baghdad. Ali, the beggar boy has heard tales of Aladdin's wonderful lamp and he learns that only one who is loyal and honest can find the magic in the lamp. No longer willing to be a thief and a beggar, Ali sails as cabin boy with Sinbad and is involved in court intrigue while he is searching for the lamp. This modern fantasy is melo-dramatic in parts; however, the writing and illustrations capture the spirit of the setting. Unrealistic as the adventures are, especially when at the end Ali changes from beggar boy to prince, there are some well described scenes and some very exciting episodes. This is not a substitute for the Arabian Nights stories; it could serve to arouse a child's interest in reading more of the legendary tales.

M Wallace, May Nickerson. Hunter's Hill; illus. by William D. Hayes. McKay, 1955. 208p. \$2. 75.

Thirteen-year-old Peter Wood, faced with the

prospect of having to earn \$150.00 or give up all hope of attending the Scout Jamboree, reluctantly took on a paper route. It was the most difficult route in the city and no one thought that Peter would be able to handle it for long, or that he would save his money after he earned it. Peter did succeed with the route, however, and even became involved in the lives of his customers to the extent of helping to catch a robber, restoring a blind sculptor's confidence in himself, and reconciling an eccentric brother and sister with their tyrannical father. He had less success in saving his money, although he managed to keep enough for the Jamboree. The story has some interesting moments and some value in Peter's lessons in saving and in understanding of other people. The probability that so many weird characters would congregate in one section of town or that they would allow a newsboy to become so involved with their personal affairs is very slight.

Ad Watkins, Richard. Sailor Rudd. Nelson, 7-9 1955. 191p. \$2.50.

Sandy Rudd was supposed to spend just one week-end at Pequonnet Cove, while he waited for his father, a newspaper correspondent, to send word as to where he was to enroll in prep school. During the week-end he unintentionally wrecked the sail boat belonging to one of the local boys, and in trying to solve the financial problem thus raised, persuaded his father to let him remain at the Cove, where he planned to get a job and attend the local high school. His difficulties in paying off the debt and in gaining the respect of the neighborhood boys, plus a considerable amount about sail boats and sailing, will give the book interest. The characters are rather typed but the story is well-paced, with a minimum of coincidence in the unravelling of the plot.

NR Wells, Helen Frances (Weinstock). A Flair for People. Messner, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

Twenty-year-old Ann Roberts, just graduated from college, finds her first job as personnel assistant in a doll factory. She has phenomenal success with one of the workers who has baffled all of Ann's predecessors, but Ann herself leaves the job at the end of the summer because the factory owner will not immediately put into effect all of her ideas concerning personnel. She then gets a job in a large department store, and is more successful here. In less than a year, she and her boy friend have revolutionized the store's personnel policy, with the blessing of both the store owner and the other employees. Ann's habit of talking over the problems of her new job in the store with the personnel direc-

tor from the doll factory would scarcely meet with the approval of most employers. There are, typically, the two romances that have come to be the hall-mark for this type of book—first with the wrong man and then with the right one. The cliché-ridden style adds further weakness to a story that is already suffering from trite characterizations and an unrealistic plot.

SpR White, Bessie (Felstiner). On Your Own 4-6 Two Feet; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Ariel, 1955. 96p. \$2.75.

Tor and Gunda Pedersen live happily with their parents on a steep mountainside farm in Norway until one night an avalanche carries away their house and leaves them homeless and orphans. The story of their struggle to make their own way in the world—with some help from friends and neighbors—makes a rather grimly realistic story, brightened by the hopeful ending. The story may be too stark for very sensitive young readers, although it has much to offer as a picture of initiative and perseverance in the face of serious trouble. The author explains in a preface note that the situation described pertained in 1910 Norway and could not happen today when there are agencies set up to care for children in such situations.

M White, Dale. The Wild-Horse Trap; illus. 6-8 by Richard Bennett. Viking, 1955. 192p. \$2.50.

A story of ranching, rustling, and stagecoach robbery in Montana in the 1880's. Fifteen-year-old Rob Norwood's father disappeared following a stagecoach robbery and both the man and his son were suspected of having helped plan the crime. Rob was told to leave the country, but instead he obtained work with Mr. Thomas, a newcomer to the country who planned to raise and train thoroughbred race horses. In a spectacular, occasionally melodramatic manner, Rob managed to clear his father's name and bring his murderers to justice. A well-paced adventure story, with the emphasis on action and with little originality to the characterizations or the plot development.

R Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Mystery of the Isle of Skye; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Westminster, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

A somewhat misleading title and a wholly misleading dust jacket picture. The "mystery" involves a series of packages that Cathy MacLeod's grandmother gave her just before the twelve-year-old girl set off with her aunt, uncle and two cousins on a visit to the Isle of Skye. Each package contained an object, or objects, designed to help Cathy understand Skye and learn something of her family's background there, and also to help her make friends with her rela-

tives. This latter was especially important since Cathy's grandmother could no longer take care of her, and they both hoped that the aunt and uncle would be willing to add Cathy to their family. The packages were successful in all ways—Cathy came to know Skye and her relatives came to love her. A pleasing story despite its misleading title.

R Whittam, Geoffrey. The Whale Hunters. 6-10 World, 1955. 182p. \$2.75.

An account of the past two hundred years of whaling, told through the fictionalized chronicle of the Oakley family. The book begins with the story of young Jonathan Oakley, who in 1731 joined a whaling crew operating out from Nantucket to the Arctic waters off Greenland, and traces his descendants to the twentieth century where another Oakley serves aboard a modern whaling factory-ship in the Antarctic. The story is told in diary form as each succeeding generation of Oakleys records his experiences. The plot and the thread of family history are less important than the exciting descriptions of whaling methods as they developed from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Although there is some repetition (not every method changed with each succeeding generation) the information is never boring. The author, through his excellent drawings and effective descriptive writing, succeeds in giving life and reality to the whalers and the whales. Not as well-plotted or as unified a story as Mays' Fast Iron (Houghton, 1953), but contains more factual information on the subject.

NR Williams, Charles. The Rolling Pin; 4-6 illus. by Abner Graboff. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 174p. \$2.50.

Uncle Fritz is given a sparkling stick-pin which rolls away from him. In his attempts to chase it down before the giver, Aunt Sammy, notices that it is missing he has many strange adventures. The park bench on which he is sitting travels of its own accord as if it were a locomotive; Fritz meets up with an ex-banker turned hobo who has a pet talking frog; Mittens, the dachshund who paints pictures, helps the others to rescue a little girl who has been kidnapped by some dangerous characters. The fantasy is strained and the humor seems more what an adult thinks a child should like rather than being spontaneously funny. The episodes have a nightmare quality which is distasteful at times. There is no underlying logic as in Alice in Wonderland, which this story seems to be imitating in some ways.

Ad Williams, Garth. Baby's First Book. 2-3 Simon & Schuster, 1955. 23p. (A Golden Book). \$1.
Colorful pictures printed on heavy cardboard

depict common articles that a young child is likely to recognize. The text is superfluous, and since much of it is written in the first person would need to be interpreted by the adult who is using the book with the child. In spite of the weak text, the pictures will have appeal and the format is sturdy enough for young children to handle the book alone.

NR Willis, Priscilla D. The Race Between the 7-9 Flags; illus. by Carl Kidwell. Longmans, 1955. 177p. \$2.50.

In this sequel to Albert and the Saint, the boy and his horse are in Georgia, where they are to start the Saint's training for steeple-chase races. From the very beginning they meet trouble in the form of a trainer who has no confidence in the horse and a jockey who is out to ruin both the boy and the horse. After a series of mishaps, Albert proves the horse's ability and wins the big race. A patterned story lacking any of the warmth of characterization or relationships that were noted in the first book.

NR Wing, Helen. Playtime Poodles; A Real 3-5 Live Animal Book; photographs by yrs. Albert G. Westelin and Jack Schmidling. Rand McNally, 1955. 24p. (An Elf Book). 25¢.

Color photographs of dressed-up poodles in uncomfortably stiff poses. The accompanying story is equally stiff and made-to-order, and is wholly without literary merit.

Ad Witheridge, Elizabeth P. Mara of Old 4-6 Babylon; illus. by Lucille Wallower. Abingdon, 1955. 128p. \$1.50.

A story of Babylon in the days immediately preceding the return of the Hebrews to Jerusalem, and of a young Hebrew girl who helps a slave boy escape to Jerusalem with the other Hebrews. The story is rather slight, but gives an interesting picture of the period.

R Woodward, Elspeth Cutler and Roberts, 10-12 Edward. The Pink Rose; A Novel of Manners; with decorations by Helen Stone. Lothrop, 1955. 217p. \$2.50.

A novel of manners set in Hartford in 1902. Peg Lloyd wants to go to college much to the dismay of her mother who has planned for her a brilliant coming out followed by an equally brilliant marriage. Peg learns the necessity for compromise, gives up the idea of college and has the debut. However, she secretly enters the catering business (serving as a silent partner) and she marries the man she loves even though he is not her parents' choice. In the end she moves to Boston and continues her catering business there in order to help her husband through law school at Cambridge. A pleasant love story and a good picture of social customs

and morals at the beginning of this century.

R Zim, Herbert Spencer. Monkeys; illus. 3-5 by Gardell D. Christensen. Morrow, 1955. 64p. \$2.

An interestingly written introduction to monkeys. Beginning with a description of the entire group of primates and showing structural similarities and differences, the author then discusses the various types of monkeys and how they resemble, or differ from, each other. The detailed drawings add interest and information to the book. There is helpful material on choosing and caring for a monkey as a pet. A useful book for nature study or hobby groups, as well

as for general reading.

R Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). One Step, 3-6 Two . . .; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. yrs. Lothrop, 1955. 30p. \$2.

A mother and her little girl take a walk in the spring. The little girl notices a bird, a cat, the milkman, and other familiar things which she points out to her mother. The pictures express the feeling of companionship between mother and child as they take their walk, but are unfortunately reproduced in rather drab tones. In spite of the poorly reproduced pictures, this is a direct and satisfying picture-story book for the pre-school child.