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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

April, 1956

Number 8

### EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

### *New Titles*

#### *for Children and Young People*

Ad Amrein, Vera R. A Cabin for the Mary  
5-7 Christmas; illus. by Peter Spier.  
Harcourt, 1955. 183p. \$2.75.

The same children who participated in Sudden Voyage, are once again involved with boats. The action this time is set during the Christmas season at Kewanaka Bay, Long Island. The Brice children and their friends are busy building a cabin on the sloop, Mary Christmas, practicing a Christmas pageant, and solving a mystery. The activities are interesting and fun, but the story is weakened by the very obvious, contrived mystery and the typed characters who are involved in it.

M Barr, Cathrine. Sammy Seal of the Circus.  
K-2 cus. Oxford, 1955. 32p. \$2.  
Mild, inconsequential story of a sad seal who was afraid to go into the circus ring because he could not perform as well as the other seals. The clown began teaching him a new trick and one day persuaded him to enter the ring. The act was a success, and after that the seal was happy. Cartoon-type illustrations.

NR Beim, Jerrold. A Vote for Dick; illus.  
5-7 by Don Sibley. Harcourt, 1955.  
117p. \$2.50.

Dick Cooper, a C-average student, wanted an English racing bike, but his parents would not let him have one until he had earned an A in each of two subjects for two consecutive grading periods. Dick knew that an A in one subject at a time was the limit of his ability, so he cheated in order to get the second A. His conscience would not allow him to accept the bike and forced him to confess to his family, teachers and schoolmates. His schoolmates gave him a vote of confidence by retaining him as their student council representative, and his parents, realizing the error they had made in forcing him into such a position, gave him the bike after all. Dick seems almost too good to be true, and the book is more of an object lesson for parents than a story for children.

Ad Brindze, Ruth. The Story of Gold; illus.  
5-7 by Robert Bruce. Vanguard, 1955.  
65p. \$3.

A brief story of man's search for gold and some of the results which the search has had on the spread of civilization. The emphasis is on ancient times and on the California gold

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rush, with brief mention of other gold finds in this country, in Australia, and in Alaska. An interesting presentation, although less complete than the Coy, Real Book About Gold (Garden City Books, 1954).

NR Brown, Gladys Everets. Two-Bow Bill; 2-3 pictures by Jay Hyde Barnum. Morrow, 1955. 48p. \$2.

Pointless story of a ferry boat that almost acquired a neurosis over the fact that it could not tell one end from the other. Just as matters reached a climax, it heard a small boy describe himself as Two-Gun Pete, and it thereupon decided to be Two-Bow Bill and not worry about which end was which. Poorly handled personification. The primer size type makes the text look easier than it actually is.

NR Brown, Slater. Spaceward Bound. Prentice-Hall, 1955. 213p. (A Lodestar Book) \$2.75.

A story devoted to the first attempts at space travel. The setting is an island in the Caribbean where a group of young scientists have established a college and are trying to build a space ship that will take them to the moon. Their work is hampered by one of the professors who wants to build a satellite instead of a space ship and to use it to gain control of the entire world, either for himself or for a foreign country. In spite of the cloak-and-dagger aspects of the story there is little suspense and the few episodes that might give the book appeal are lost in the welter of information that is included. Every time the action builds up to what might be an interesting point, the character who is narrating the story breaks off to read his next day's class lecture. In the end the would-be dictator is killed and the work continues on its dull and dreary way.

R Butters, Dorothy Gilman. Papa Dolphin's Table; illus. by Kurt Werth. Knopf, 1955. 89p. \$2.

Light and whimsical tale of the Dolphin family and their troubles with the housing shortage. Matters had been bad enough when the five Dolphins were forced to live in one room and the prospects were bleak, indeed, when the landlord decided he needed that room for his married daughter. Then Papa Dolphin had the brilliant notion of moving to the nearby park and setting up housekeeping under the large, fifteen-foot-long table he had bought in the hope of someday finding a house to fit it. What happened then, and how the Dolphins finally found a house their size makes an amusing story for reading aloud.

R Chalmers, Mary. Here Comes the Trolley Car. Harper, 1955. 34p. \$2.50. yrs.

Not much happens along the way, but the pleasingly detailed description of each person who gets on the trolley car, what each one is carrying, and where each one is going, added to the charm of the rather old-fashioned pictures, will provide good fare for the very young who, in real life, like to know who everyone is and where each person is going. There is a slight increase in tempo when the trolley car breaks down and the passengers all get out to have a picnic while repairs are being made. The last three pages are somewhat anticlimactic but not enough so to spoil the pleasure of the first part. For reading aloud.

R Clark, Ann (Nolan). The Little Indian Pottery Maker; illus. by Don Perceval. Melmont, 1955. 32p. \$2.25.

In somewhat the same vein as her In My Mother's House, the author tells of the way in which a young Pueblo girl and her mother make pottery bowls. The simple, rhythmic text has a clarity and dignity that make for easy, pleasant reading whether individually by a beginning reader, or aloud to a group of children. The rather drab illustrations detract from an otherwise pleasing book.

NR Clason, Clyde B. Ark of Venus. Knopf, 7-9 1955. 181p. \$2.

Science fiction, with a setting in the year 2135. The world, completely reorganized since the Atomic Wars, is facing a problem of overpopulation and a shortage of food production. Eighteen-year-old Tal Roberts has little interest in the problem even though his father is one of the designers of a space ship that is soon to take off for Venus in the tenth attempt to establish a colony there. When Jarvis Roberts is murdered by fanatics who want to stop the project, Tal becomes interested and joins the colonists. He solves the problem of what happened to the earlier ships in time to save his own from a similar fate, and he helps to overcome the monkey tribe that controls the one habitable spot on Venus. The science aspects of the book are more acceptable than the fiction. None of the characters is portrayed with any depth, and Tal is neither very believably nor consistently developed. The ending is completely flat. The whole purpose of the expedition was to find a means of solving earth's problems, but the expedition is left at the end with no means of contacting earth by radio or of ever returning.

M Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Not Too Small After All; pictures by Tom O'Sullivan. Watts, 1955. 56p. \$2.50.

A purposive story dealing with a fairly common problem of childhood. Eight-year-old Joey was delighted when his family moved to the house next door to his eleven-year-old cousin. Jim was Joey's hero and the younger boy looked forward to spending all of his time with his idol. It didn't work out quite that way, since Jim and his friends considered Joey much too young for most of their activities. Eventually he persuaded them that he could be useful in many of their games, and so was allowed to join their group. There is no indication of why Joey has no friends of his own age or any suggestion that it might have been well for him to spend some time with boys his own size.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Park Ranger; The Work, Thrills and Equipment of the National Park Rangers. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$1.25

Brief text and photographs show the varied aspects of the work of National Park Rangers—helping tourists to enjoy the parks, fighting forest fires, promoting conservation, etc. There are also hints as to how tourists should act in order to help preserve National Parks and Forests. An interesting book for general information on the subject or for use as vocational guidance material.

M Coolidge, Olivia E. Cromwell's Head; 8-12 illus. by Edward A. Wilson. Houghton, 1955. 262p. \$3.

Young Jamey Gilroy, apprentice to a Tory doctor in Boston, was torn between his loyalty to the doctor and his belief in the future of the colonies as a free government completely independent of England. Boston in 1775 was a city of tensions and great unrest where the slightest incident was likely to lead to violence, and Jamey's youthful high spirits led him into escapades that brought down the wrath of both sides on his head. In time he made his peace with the rebel forces and the book ends as he is on his way to join the aroused Minutemen. The events that lead up to Jamey's decision make an exciting story, albeit one that frequently becomes tangled in the same chaos that marked the times, and the story ends with several threads left dangling. For all its weaknesses of organization, the book gives an interesting picture of the temper of the times.

NR Disney, Walt. Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier; told by Irwin Shapiro;

pictures by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Mel Crawford. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Brief, uninspired story of Crockett's life. Stresses the legendary rather than the authentic events of his life and is too superficial to do justice to Crockett or his times.

NR Evans, Edward Everett. The Planet Mappers. Dodd, 1955. 242p. \$2.50. The Carver family, planet explorers, are faced with a serious crisis when Mr. Carver is injured by a piece from a meteor that penetrates their ship two days before they are due to reach a new solar system. However, through the combined ingenuity of his two sons, eighteen-year-old Jak, a doctor and naturalist, and sixteen-year-old Jon, a mechanic, Mr. Carver's life and the expedition are saved. There is, of course, the typical "bad" man to be overcome before the expedition is a success. A cliché-ridden style, poorly developed characters, unnatural dialog, and a contrived plot deprive the book of any value or appeal it might have had as science fiction.

M Evans, Eva (Knox). The Adventure Book of Shells; illus. by Vana Earle. Capitol, 1955. 93p. \$2.50.

A rather superficial introduction to sea shells designed to encourage young readers in the hobby of shell collecting. The book could serve to stimulate an interest in shells, although it does not have enough specific information to be of much value once that interest is aroused. The condescending tone of the writing will discourage older readers who might otherwise be interested in the subject. The most useful parts of the book are the section of quite good photographs of shells and the bibliographies and other sources of information that are given at the end.

Ad Evers, Alf. The Three Kings of Saba; 7-12 with pictures by Helen Sewell. Lippincott, 1955. 31p. \$2.50.

A story of the Three Kings of the East, based on a fragment of a legend found in Marco Polo's account of his travels to China. The story tells of the three Kings of Saba: Balthasar, Melchior, and Jaspas, who were each jealous of the power of the other two. They decided to resolve their difficulties by journeying to Bethlehem where, they had heard, there was a new prophet who would be able to say which of them should rule. At Bethlehem they found the Baby Jesus and in His presence realized that they should be-

come as brothers and share their kingdom with each other. The story and highly stylized illustrations are more suited to older readers than to young children since the characterization of the three kings is so entirely different from the traditional picture of the three "wise" men who came to pay homage, not for personal aggrandizement.

R Friedman, Frieda. The Janitor's Girl;  
5-7 illus. by Mary Stevens. Morrow,  
1956. 159p. \$2.50.

Another in the author's series of stories about family and neighborhood life in New York City. This time the action centers around the Langer family: twelve-year-old Sue, nine-year-old Jimmy, sixteen-year-old Steve, fourteen-year-old Laura, and their parents. Mr. Langer is the new superintendent of an apartment house on Riverside Drive, and each of the children reacts to the new job and the new way of living in his own individual way. Sue eagerly awaits the friends she is certain she will find in the apartment building and at school; Laura openly rebels and is equally certain she will not find any new friends but will be looked down on as the "janitor's kid"; Steve is interested in the possibilities of odd jobs as a means of earning extra pocket money; and Jimmy approaches the new life with a nine-year-old's uninhibited interest in all that goes on around him. Making friends is not as easy as Sue had anticipated, nor as difficult as Laura predicted, but there is a mixture of good and bad times as the two girls learn to accept the many different types of people who live in the building and to find a sound basis for each friendship. The story has many elements of appeal for pre- and early adolescent girls as well as picturing an interesting aspect of life in a large city.

M Goldin, Augusta R. My Toys; illus. by  
1-3 Esther Friend. Rand McNally, 1955.  
yrs. 30p. (A Junior Elf Book) 15¢.

A recital, in rhymed text, of a list of toys that children enjoy. Not especially noteworthy in either text or illustrations.

Ad Hahn, Emily. The First Book of India;  
5-7 pictures by Howard Baer. Watts,  
1955. 63p. \$1.95.

A brief semi-fictionalized introduction to India. Because of the vast size of the country and the wide variation in ways of living that are to be found there, the author has been able to give only a superficial look at some of the more important aspects of the country and its people.

Her facts, such as they are, are occasionally obscured by the awkward sentence structure. The illustrations are decorative, but meaningless.

NR Hoff, Syd. Patty's Pet. Abelard-Schuman,  
K-1 1955. 42p. \$2.50

A slight, pointless story of a small girl who could not make up her mind as to the kind of pet she wanted. She found a kitten one day and decided it was just what she wanted. That night as she watched TV, an announcement of the loss of a tiger cub frightened her until she learned that the cub had been found and was not her kitten after all. Comic book caliber illustrations.

SpC Horwich, Frances R. Our Baby; illus.  
2-4 by Priscilla Pointer. Rand McNally,  
yrs. 1955. 28p. 25¢.

Sentimental story of a small boy who helps his grandmother prepare for the time when his mother and the new baby will come home from the hospital. There is no literary quality to the writing and the only value of the book will be for homes where parents want this type of material to help young children accept the arrival of a new baby.

R Irving, Robert. Hurricanes and Twisters;  
4-6 foreword by Ernest J. Christie; illus.  
by Ruth Adler and with photographs.  
Knopf, 1955. 146p. \$2.50.

A simplified explanation of the cause of hurricanes and twisters, with detailed drawings showing how they come into being, and the usual paths followed by hurricanes. Some of the more spectacular of such storms are described in terms of the total amount of damage they caused in loss of lives and of property. Much of this same information is available in the Schneider, Everyday Weather and How It Works (Whittlesey House, 1951), although the Schneider has less about individual storms.

Ad Justus, May. Surprise for Peter Pocket;  
4-6 illus. by Jean Tamburine. Holt, 1955.  
101p. \$2.25.

More about Peter Pocket, the small mountain boy who lives with Granny Messer and the Pickle Pup. This account is somewhat less episodic than the earlier books and is primarily concerned with the discovery of some songs left by Peter's father, the Song-maker. Peter takes the songs to school where the new teacher becomes interested in them and has them published, thus giving Peter a source of income as well as a permanent memento of his father.

There is no plot to the story and the action is too slight to have very strong appeal, although the easy style and occasional bit of humor will attract some readers. Words and music for some of the songs are included.

Ad Kingman, Lee. Mikko's Fortune; pictures 2-4 by Arnold Edwin Bare. Ariel, 1955. 48p. \$2.75.

Mikko, a young Finnish boy, does not quite understand his mother's strong desire for a cow, but because she wants one, he sets about trying to get it for her. His resolve is helped immensely by his good fortune in being on the scene at the appropriate time to save the children of a nearby wealthy farmer from drowning. Mikko's reward is, of course, a cow. A pleasant story in spite of the "Dreams of Glory" solution to the problem. The book will need to be read aloud to most children since it is written at about a fourth grade reading level.

R Lenski, Lois. A Dog Came to School; A K-2 Davy Book. Oxford, 1955. 47p. \$1.50.

Simply told story of a small dog who comes to school one day and is allowed to visit the first grade as long as he is good. He spends most of the day with the children and when he becomes restless is put outdoors to wait until his owner, Davy, is through for the day. Beginning readers will be able to handle the story with ease and will enjoy the situation as one with which they are familiar.

M Long, Laura. Joseph, Slave and Prince. 5-7 Association Press, 1955. 126p. (Heroes of God) \$2.

A biography of Joseph, taking him from the time of his mother's death, at the birth of his brother Benjamin, until his own death in Egypt many years later. There is no real depth to the characterization of Joseph, and the people around him have more reality than he ever achieves. The account reads easily although it does not have the vitality of King's Coat of Many Colors (Lippincott, 1950). The format is unattractive and will add nothing to the book's appeal.

M McCabe, Lee. T-Shirt Tourists. Dodd, 6-8 1955. 170p. \$2.75.

A highly contrived mystery story involving a group of youth hostellers in New England and a jewel thief. Sally Rowan and her friend, Charlotte Cooper, starting on their first hosteling trip become involved with the thief when they

accidentally switch packages with him in a drug store. From the moment they realize that his package contains an expensive diamond brooch, the trip takes on added excitement as they try to evade their pursuer, and finally help the police to capture him. The hosteling angle is interesting, but the mystery is too contrived to have much realism.

R Mirsky, Reba Paeff. Seven Grandmothers; 4-6 illus. by W. T. Mars. Follett, 1955. 191p. \$2.95.

Another story about Nomusa, the young Zulu heroine of Thirty-One Brothers and Sisters. This time Nomusa, now a year older, is considering her future. At first she thinks she wants to be a witch doctor, but then she meets a trained nurse, and the story ends with her father's promise that she may go to the city to attend school and later to study nursing. Once again the author has drawn a vivid, warmly sympathetic picture of life in a typical Zululand kraal.

R Moody, Ralph. Kit Carson and the Wild Frontier; illus. by Stanley W. Galli. 6-8 Random House, 1955. 184p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A very readable biography of Kit Carson, covering the events of his entire life from birth to death. The excitement and adventure of Carson's life are given full play, and, in addition, he emerges as a real personality. Although no sources are indicated, the facts about Carson's life agree, in the major details, with other, documented biographies of the man.

Ad Morin, Micheline. Everest; From the First Attempt to the Final Victory; with many illus. in colour and black-and-white and maps. Day, 1955. 205p. \$3.50.

A chronological account of the various attempts to explore and climb Mount Everest, including several of the smaller expeditions that are omitted from the Wibberley, The Epics of Everest (Ariel, 1954). Through the use of several diaries of members of the expeditions, the author is able to include numerous details about the experiences of the men and about their feelings. Two of the informational chapters, "The Sherpas" and "The Abominable Snowman," interrupt the chronology and might have been more effectively placed at the beginning or end of the book.

Ad Norton, Mary. The Borrowers Afield, 11-4-6 illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, 1955. 215p. \$2.50.

In this sequel to *The Borrowers*, Pod, Homily and Arrietty, having fled in terror from their home under the kitchen floor of the old English country house, are on their way across the fields in search of some relatives who are believed to be living in a badger set. They find the set, but it is occupied by a family of foxes, so the three "little people" make a temporary home in an old boot while they try to plan their future. The story of their experiences as they try to find food, clothing and some household equipment has the same type of appeal as the earlier books. Unfortunately the beginning and ending of the book are weak. The first three chapters deal with young Kate and Mrs. Mays—the same human characters who introduced the borrowers in the first book. The preliminary section is overlong and is quite dependent on a knowledge of the first book for understanding who the characters are or what they are talking about. The ending too obviously paves the way for another story about these same characters.

NR Otto, Margaret Glover. *Mr. Magic*; illus. 4-6 by Susan Knight. Holt, 1955. 201p. \$2.50.

A very slight, episodic story of two children and their pair of pet rabbits. In true rabbit style, the pair multiply until there are enough rabbits for the whole neighborhood—and more than enough to satisfy any reader. This is not a fantasy, Mr. Magic being simply the name given to one of the rabbits. Pedestrian style and not enough action to have much reader interest.

R Palazzo, Tony. *Noah's Ark*. Garden City K-3 Books, 1955. 90p. \$2.50.

The story of Noah's Ark and the flood, told through simple, rhythmic text and large full-color pictures. The size of the book (12-1/2 x 9-1/4) gives the artist full scope for his animal pictures, and for conveying an idea of the size of the ark and the immensity of the flood. Some adults may feel that the introductory sections are not in keeping with the rest of the story. Third grade readers could handle the text with ease and it is well-suited to reading aloud to younger groups.

R Perera, Lydia. *Frisky*; illus. by Oscar 2-4 Liebman. Holiday House, 1955. 48p. \$2.25.

Shortly after moving to his new home in the city, young Otto discovered the nearby park and a wonderful merry-go-round. One horse in particular pleased him, and the story of how

he earned rides on the horse makes a slight but pleasant story.

R Rapaport, Stella F. *Reindeer Rescue*. 5-7 Putnam, 1955. 120p. \$2.50.

An exciting, well-written account based on an actual event—the movement of two herds of reindeer across the frozen north to rescue the crews of a whaling fleet caught in the winter ice at Point Barrow, Alaska. The story of the 800 mile trek is told through the experiences of young Ahtok who went with the expedition in order to help care for his beloved reindeer. Although Ahtok is a fictional character, the main events of the story are told as they actually happened in 1898.

NR Richard, James Robert. *The Purple 5-7 Palomino*. Lothrop, 1955. 189p. \$2.50.

A poorly written, melodramatic story of robbery and murder on a ranch. Billy and Jack, twin sons of the owner of Hunter's Ranch almost lose their lives several times as they unwittingly become involved with the outlaws who are seeking the money that is supposed to have been hidden near the ranch by members of the Larson Gang. A junior type Spillane mystery.

M Rudomin, Esther. *Let's Cook without 1-3 Cooking*; with pictures by Lisl Weil. Crowell, 1955. 118p. \$2.50.

Technically this book can scarcely be called a cook-book, its purpose being to eliminate all cooking. Since all of the meals are cold ones, the book is best suited to summer time use, although some of the special menus are intended for winter holidays. For the child who is wanting to learn to cook, the book has small value, since it requires little ability other than the manipulation of a can opener and a measuring spoon. As a collection of hot weather recipes the book will be useful. In spite of the fact that the recipes are supposed to be for family consumption, most of the concoctions will have greater appeal for children than for adults.

R Rukeyser, Muriel. *Come Back, Paul*. 4-7 Harper, 1955. 32p. \$2.50. yrs.

Rhythmic, poetic text and rather stylized pictures tell of a fairly common experience for young children in which they become separated from the adult who is supposed to be accompanying them. The style of writing and the illustrations will be beyond the understanding of most three-year-olds, but will have meaning,

and considerable humor, for four-to-six-year-olds. The simply written text can be handled by beginning readers. The humor of the situations and the reassuring ending will make the book meaningful and enjoyable for many children who have gone through similar experiences.

M Sanders, Stella. Flying Horseshoe Ranch; 4-6 illus. by Barbara Latham. Viking, 1955. 88p. \$2.75.

A Western-fantasy in which a young boy happens to be in "the right place at the right hour on the right day and in the right mood" to discover the fabulous Flying Horseshoe Ranch. On the ranch he meets Dee, the cowboy-owner; tosses the magic flying horseshoe to try for a ringer that will bring him his wish; learns to play the guitar and sing cowboy songs; and eventually gets the palomino colt that was the object of his wish. Not altogether satisfactory as either fantasy or a cowboy story.

R Scheib, Ida. What Happened?; The Science 5-7 Stories Behind the News. McKay, 1955. 117p. \$2.75.

The author quotes ten news stories, purportedly as they were published in the newspapers, and then discusses the scientific angles behind each story. Included are: the seeding of rain clouds; the dust bowl; the explosion of a Japanese ship; power failure in a suburb; peaceful use of atomic energy; a report on the use of gas refrigerators; an eclipse of the moon; eye examinations for school children; blood transfusions; and the use of new aqua-lung and other homemade diving equipment. The material is interesting and the book could be used to promote classroom discussions of similar news stories.

Ad Schlein, Miriam. Oomi, the New Hunter; 4-6 illus. by George F. Mason. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 110p. \$2.50.

Oomi is a young Eskimo boy who longs to prove himself capable of doing a man's work and joining in the annual hunt for seals. Instead he must stay at home and do the work that is assigned him by his mother and the other elders of the village. In due course of time his wish does come true and he learns to be a hunter. There is no originality to the plot or the characterizations. The book is an acceptable picture of Eskimo life and will have value where additional material of this type is needed.

R Sears, Paul McCutcheon. Barn Swallow; 3-5 illus. by Walter Ferguson. Holiday

House, 1955. 45p. (A Life-Cycle Story) \$2.

Attractively illustrated, well-told account of the life of a barn swallow from the time it first learns to fly through its first migration and mating season. As in his other nature books, the author gives the bird individuality without resorting to personification, and tells a story that makes interesting as well as informative reading.

NR Shannon, Terry. At Water's Edge; illus. 4-6 by Charles Payzant. Sterling, 1955. 40p. \$2.50.

A superficial, poorly organized introduction to the plants and animals that are to be found along the sea shore and in or near fresh water ponds and streams. Over simplifications, plus the author's labored attempts at humor, result in several instances of statements that are misleading or meaningless. The illustrations are, in general, better and more useful than the text.

R Sherman, Jane. The Real Book About 6-8 Snakes; illus. by Harper Johnson and E. Russell Payne. Garden City Books, 1955. 224p. \$1.95.

A detailed, interesting discussion of the world's snakes, how they came to be, their habits and behavior, how they may be identified, and their value or danger to mankind. Many myths concerning snakes are explained and refuted, and throughout the book the value of non-poisonous snakes, especially in rural areas, is stressed. Suggestions are given for the care of snakes in captivity.

NR Sterling, Dorothy. The Brownie Scout 3-5 Mystery; illus. by Reisie Lonette. Doubleday, 1955. 190p. \$2.50.

When Susie's pet poodle, Herman, disappeared one day, none of the adults in Winterton, including the local police, would pay much attention to the matter. None, that is, except Eddie, owner of the Brownie troop's favorite ice cream stand. Eddie gave the girls their best clues, and encouraged them to hunt for Herman themselves. This they did and succeeded in bringing about the arrest of the dog thief, the owner of the Canine Beauty Parlor in the nearby town of Rockton. The fairly implausible plot; the poor attitude toward the police; and the actions of the girls in trying to solve the problem with little or no adult help, especially their going to the shop in the next town to confront the thief, all tend to weaken the value of the book.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Rosemary. Harper, 10- 1955. 214p. \$2.50.

A mature, perceptive, and warmly sympathetic treatment of a problem faced by the young people of any town that is centered around a college. Twenty-year-old Rosemary Reed, a tense, emotionally immature girl, bases all of her resentment toward her department store job, her drab home, and her vaguely dissatisfying relationship with her boyfriend, on her bitterness over being a "town" girl in a college community. She envies the glamor of college life and resents the snobbery which she anticipates in all college girls. Rosemary's sister, Lenore, a high school senior, understands how Rosemary feels, but she is a more secure person, happy in her plans for marriage, and more mature in realizing the real values of a college education, which she too wants and cannot have. The girls' father is a hard working, rather grumpy, ineffectual person who does not quite realize how dependent he has become on his daughters to fill his loneliness since their mother's death. Into the Reed household, as a boarder, comes a college student who is doing a master's thesis on the town-gown problem. Through him the girls gain a better understanding of the college students, and some of the college students gain a better perspective toward the townspeople. The characters are all exceptionally well-drawn, and consistent throughout and the book ranks high among Mary Stolz's best offerings for young people.

R Stuart, Jesse. Red Mule; illus. by 5-7 Robert Henneberger. Whittlesey House, 1955. 124p. \$2.25.

Twelve-year-old Scrappie Lykins had worked for two years with Red Mule (Gabriel Gullet), and had come to love the man and his team of mules even though Scrappie's family and neighbors tended to take a dim view of the whole affair. Although Scrappie was forced to admit in time that mules were out-dated in a town such as Blakesburg, he joined Red Mule in trying to find a means of saving as many of the animals as possible from extinction. This they were able to do by contacting a government agency that was interested in buying mules for use in under-developed sections of this and other countries where mules were of more use than tractors. A warm, friendly story that will give young readers a new perspective on modern technological progress.

R Tunis, Edwin. Wheels; A Pictorial History. World, 1955. 96p. \$3.95.

A readable, beautifully illustrated history of the use of wheels in transportation. The book is more a history of transportation than a history of wheels, since no mention is made of the use of wheels in industry. There is an emphasis throughout on private vehicles, with infrequent references to public conveyances of earlier days, and nothing about trains and airplanes of modern times. As a history of the development of carriages, wagons, and automobiles, the text is satisfactory, and the excellent pictures would give the book value even without the text.

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 director 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.

NR Wilcox, Don. Basketball Star; illus. by 7-9 Don Sibley. Little, 1955. 242p. \$2.75.

Ernie Abbott looked forward to being the star player on his college basketball team during his sophomore year. However, worry over his older brother, who was imprisoned on a charge of mishandling company funds, caused Ernie to lose his playing ability and even to temporarily leave school until he could get a better perspective on his own and his brother's problems. A mediocre style, with typed characterizations and not very much basketball.