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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

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Number 9

### EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

### *New Titles for Children and Young People*

- R Baker, Augusta, ed. The Talking Tree;  
2-5 Fairy Tales from 15 Lands; illus. by  
Johannes Troyer. Lippincott, 1955.  
255p. \$3.

A selection of twenty-eight stories gathered from out-of-print collections originally published by Stokes or Lippincott. Selection was made on the basis of continued enjoyment of the stories by Story Hour audiences, as evidenced by an examination of Story Hour report files. There are old favorites such as "Tom Tit Tot" and "Cinderella" that are easily obtainable, and there are others that are to be found in the out-of-print volumes only. The stories are grouped by country or culture; twelve countries are represented by two stories each; two countries have one story each, and there are two Jewish stories. The stories represent varying degrees of appeal and usefulness, but on the whole this is a very good collection and an outstanding contribution to the shelf of story-telling literature.

- Ad Bate, Norman. Who Fishes for Oil?; A  
K-3 Picture Story. Scribner, 1955. 46p.  
\$2.50.

In much the same vein as his Who Built the Highway? and Who Built the Bridge?, the author tells how oil is obtained from off-shore wells. As in the earlier books the machines are personified in the text but not in the illustrations, which are attractive and informative. There is an occasionally coy tone to the writing, although not enough to seriously affect the reader's pleasure, and the episode in which the well comes through as a gusher, while dramatic, is the exception in modern drilling practice rather than the rule. The text is too difficult for individual reading below the fourth grade but could be used for reading aloud to primary grades where there is interest in the subject.

- NR Beim, Jerrold. Thin Ice; pictures by Louis  
2-4 Darling. Morrow, 1956. 47p. \$2.  
Seven-year-old Lee could not read and he dreaded the reading session each day when he had to stand before the class and be laughed at because of his stumbling efforts. Nor did it help any that his younger brother, Bobby, could read more words than he could. Then one day Lee was goad-

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ed into reading a sign, and its warning, "Keep Off, Thin Ice", helped him save his brother from a possible dunking. After that Lee had no trouble with his reading. As too often happens in purposive books of this type, the problem and its solution are over-simplified to the point of being valueless for the children who might be undergoing similar experiences. Also the lesson of the book is more appropriate for the teacher, who was at fault for putting the boy into a position where he would become the butt of class ridicule, than for the child who is in such a position and can not help himself. The primer size type makes the book look easier than it actually is.

NR Blanch, Lesley. Around the World in 7-12 Eighty Dishes; The World Through the Kitchen Window; Good Food from Other Lands and How To Cook It, Told to Young America. Harper, 1955. 172p. \$3.

A collection of recipes from around the world, with an emphasis on dishes from Northern Europe. Many of the recipes have been changed, ostensibly to cater to American tastes (peanut oil is frequently substituted for olive oil), although from some of the statements that are made, the author seemingly knows little about American cooking or tastes. The sections between each recipe describe the traditional foods of the country, but recipes for these foods are seldom included, or else have been drastically revised. Some of the changes are difficult to understand, as when veal is substituted for the much better tasting—and the authentic—chicken marengo, or when a supposedly simplified version of paska is included, with just the eggs and butter omitted. The inclusion of Chop Suey as a typical Chinese dish, and of such statements as "In France, people drink very little tea"; "most people we know drink tea with milk and sugar"; and Japanese "food is less easy for us to appreciate than that of the Chinese" (with no mention of Sukiyaki) makes the book suspect, even without the errors that appear in the recipes themselves. The connecting passages, describing the author's experiences in the country detract from the effectiveness of the book as a cook book.

Ad Bough, Glenn Orlando and Campbell, 4-6 Marjorie H. When You Go to the Zoo; illus. with photographs. Whitelsey House, 1955. 128p. \$2.75.

An introduction to some of the animals most likely to be found in a city zoo. Includes how animals are obtained by zoos; the housing,

feeding and care of animals, including medical care; how animals react to zoo life; and some famous zoo characters. In spite of a tendency to talk down to the reader, the authors have presented interesting material in a book that could have usefulness in preparing individual children or class groups for zoo visits, or to stimulate discussion after such trips.

Ad Boylston, Helen (Dore). Clara Barton, 6-8 Founder of the American Red Cross; illus. by Paula Hutchison. Random House, 1955. 182p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.50.

An interesting and well-paced, although rather superficial biography of Clara Barton, emphasizing her work as an army nurse during the Civil War rather than her work as the founder of the American Red Cross. Nolan's Story of Clara Barton of the Red Cross (Messner, 1941), although somewhat more difficult reading, has more depth of characterization and gives a better rounded picture of the woman and her times.

NR Brooks, Walter Rollin. Freddy and the 4-6 Baseball Team from Mars; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1955. 241p. \$3.

Freddy and his friends once again go through their usual routine. This time one of the "men" from Mars has been kidnapped and his captor is forcing the other Martians to use their spaceship to help him execute a series of robberies. Freddy puts on a disguise, organizes a baseball team, solves the mystery, and helps his team of animals win the crucial ball game. It all more or less fits together although several sub-plots get dropped along the way. There are some inconsistencies in the characterizations, and more than usual of the author's spleen against the human race, the final chapter being a diatribe against people in general and children in particular.

Ad Broun, Emily. A Ball for Little Bear; 3-5 An Ojibway Legend; illus. by Dick Mackay. Aladdin, 1955. 42p. \$2.25.

Re-telling of an Ojibway legend of how the bear stole the sun to give to his young cub as a ball. The story, told with a quiet humor, is suitable for storytelling, and children reading at a beginning third grade reading level could handle it independently. The rather slap-stick illustrations detract from the quality of the book.

M Brown, Margaret Wise. The Little Brass 2-4 Band; pictures by Clement Hurd. Harper, 1955. 27p. \$2.50.

Slight story based on the Young People's record of the same name. Early in the morning members of the little brass band come over the hill to

gather in the village, where they play a concert and then go their separate ways as night falls. The pictures show details of the instruments, all of them ones that were used in medieval times. A mood story that will have little meaning except, perhaps, to children who are acquainted with the record.

Ad Buck, Margaret Waring. In Ponds and 4-6 Streams. Abingdon, 1955. 72p. \$3. Following the same pattern as her In Wood and Fields and In Yards and Gardens, the author presents a brief overview of the plants and animals most commonly found in and near fresh water ponds and streams. The brevity of the text and the lack of color in the illustrations, make the book more satisfactory as an introduction to the subject than as a reference book for use in identifying specific plants and animals. A bibliography at the end suggests titles for youngsters wanting more details about the plants and animals that are mentioned here.

R Butterworth, Oliver. The Enormous Egg; 5-7 illus. by Louis Darling. Little, 1956. 186p. \$2.95.

Nate Twitchell, a twelve-year-old boy living in Freedom, New Hampshire, took over the care of an enormous egg laid by one of the family's hens and helped the hen turn it regularly during the six weeks it took to hatch. Everyone except a visiting paleontologist was surprised when the egg finally hatched and a baby Triceratops emerged. The problems arising from trying to rear a dinosaur in modern times—climaxed when members of Congress attempted to rule the animal un-American—make a very funny story, as told with Nate's straight-faced, understated humor. There is one major discrepancy between the text and an illustration, but this becomes a minor weakness when the book is taken as a whole. This is a story to take its place with Homer Price in the much too small collection of truly humorous stories.

NR Carden, Priscilla. Young Brave Algonquin; 4-6 illus. by M. A. Reardon. Little, 1956. 147p. \$2.50.

The story of how two boys, one Indian and one white, brought peace between an Indian tribe and the white men of the nearby settlement through an act of bravery that almost cost them their lives. The white boy had been kidnapped as a baby and reared as a brother to the Indian boy, and the act that brought the peace also restored him to his real family. The plot seems forced and unconvincing, and the white boy is inconsistently portrayed.

M Carse, Robert. The Winner; illus. by 7-9 Charles Hand Geer. Scribner, 1955. 184p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old Jarvis Meckly had never thought much about tennis until his father built a court on their island farm and began to teach him to play. At first he had moments of great determination to try to match his father's record, interspersed with periods when it seemed more fun to go swimming or to play baseball with the boys on the mainland. In time, however, he became fired with his father's love for the game and determined to become a champion player. The way was opened when a wealthy uncle helped him gain a scholarship to an exclusive boys' prep school where tennis was the major sport. Even though Jarvis did not reach the point of trying for the Davis cup, giving up his amateur standing to turn pro in order to earn the money needed to tide his family over a drought year, he did achieve enough fame to satisfy himself and his father. The descriptions of the tennis matches are excellent; the characterizations are poorly handled, lacking depth and reality, and the plot is labored.

R Cavanna, Betty. The First Book of Sea 4-8 Shells; pictures by Marguerite Scott. Watts, 1955. 39p. \$1.95.

An introduction to the study of sea shells, giving in clear, precise terms information on how shells are found, some of the more common varieties of shells, how and where they live, and how to build a shell collection or a salt-water aquarium. Some shells are pictured, but the chief value of the book will be to stimulate interest in the subject rather than for use as a book on shell identification. An attractive and useful book for home and library collections.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. First Bow and 9-12 Arrow; How to Use It Skillfully for Outdoor Fun. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$2.

An excellent book for a beginner who wishes to take up archery seriously or for an experienced archer who wishes to improve his skill. There is a wealth of accurate detail on selecting, caring for and using equipment both for target practice and hunting. The style of writing and the abundance of fairly technical detail make the book most useful for older boys or adults.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Tall Timber; 6-9 The Work, Machines and Men of the U.S. Forest Service. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$1.25.

Brief text and photographs tell of the work of the men in the U.S. Forest Service. Typical events in the day of a Forest Service Ranger

are included, plus an overall view of the importance of National Forests in the nation's program of conservation. An interesting and useful book for vocational guidance and for units on conservation.

R Courlander, Harold, ed. Ride with the Sun;  
4- An Anthology of Folk Tales and Stories  
from the United Nations; illus. by  
Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House,  
1955. 296p. \$3.50.

A collection of sixty folk tales, one for each of the countries which were members of the United Nations when the book was published. Several of the stories, such as the Mullah tale from Iran, the legend from Yugoslavia, and the story from Poland, are available in other collections. Since the majority of the stories have never before been included in an anthology for English-speaking children, the book will make good source material for storytelling programs. The editor's brief notes will be of interest to adults and older children.

R Crowley, Maude. Tor and Azor; pictures  
5-7 by Veronica Reed. Oxford, 1955. 123p.  
\$2.75.

Tor Vang is a young boy from Norway who is spending a year with his aunt in Marblehead. Tor is not at all certain he likes his new way of living until he makes friends with Azor, the owner of the famous cow, Clara (Azor and the Blue-Eyed Cow), and wins the respect of the boys who had jeered at him because he was from Away. A warmly humorous story of New England life.

NR Dawson, Carley. Dragon Run; illus. by  
7-9 Lynd Ward. Houghton, 1955. 282p.  
\$2.75.

A third story of Christopher Mason, a modern boy who has the power to transport himself back in time to the eighteenth century and to practice magic feats there. This time Chris and his friend, Mr. Wicker, go to a plantation in the Shenandoah Valley where mysterious events are taking place and the neighborhood is being terrorized. Once again they encounter their old enemy, Claggett Chew, who is involved with a gang of zombies, some African witch doctors, and the lost Dauphin of France (who turns out to be John James Audubon). As in the earlier books the solutions to the problems raised here are solved by magic rather than by any skill or ingenuity on the part of the main characters. This story is especially distasteful in its emphasis on black magic and its portrayal of the Negro characters.

Ad de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. Was It a  
K-2 Good Trade?; drawings by Irène Haas.  
Harcourt, 1956. 31p. \$1.95.

Nonsense rhymes built on the pattern of the traditional swapping song. There is humor in the items involved in each trade and in the illustrations of each. Some of the humor of both the text and illustrations is quite adult although there is much that children will enjoy. Both the verses and the illustrations are highly derivative and have little originality.

NR Disney, Walt. Davy Crockett and Mike  
2-4 Fink; adapted by Irwin Shapiro from  
the Disneyland Television Production;  
illus. with color photographs by the  
Walt Disney Studio. Simon & Schuster,  
1955. 46p. (Walt Disney Library) \$1.

A story of Davy Crockett and Mike Fink based on an episode from the Disneyland Television Production. The story is a poor imitation of folk lore and the illustrations are too obviously posed and unnatural.

R Dyer, Louisa A. The House of Peace;  
8-12 illus. by Larry Toschik. Longmans,  
1956. 191p. \$3.

A history of the settlement of the Hudson River Valley in and around Albany, told primarily through the everyday life and customs of the peoples who inhabited the region; the Mahican Indians, the Dutch and the English. There are detailed descriptions of the houses, food, community life, social customs, holidays, etc., of both the Indians and the white men. The descriptions of Dutch life tend to be on the glowing side, i.e., everyone was well-fed, happy and had numerous servants to do any unpleasant work, but aside from this limitation the material is interesting and well-handled. The title of the book is taken from the name given to Albany by the Indians in token of its position as the scene of many peaceful negotiations between the Indians and the white men, and the major importance of the book lies in its emphasis on the peaceful side of Indian-white man relationships. Although the material is interesting and will be useful for American History classes, there is not enough verve to the writing to give it much appeal for the more casual, general reader.

NR Ecuyer, Lee. Zippy's Birthday Party; A  
3-5 Real Live Animal Book. Rand McNally,  
yrs. 1955. 26p. (An Elf Book) 25¢.  
Contrived, very slight story written around a series of color photographs of Zippy, the chimpanzee pet of Lee Ecuyer. The illustrations are not especially good examples of color photography and the story has nothing to recommend it.

NR Emery, Russell Guy. Rebound. Macrae,  
7-9 1955. 190p. \$2.75.  
Another story about Larry Warren and his

friends and classmates at West Point. Except that Larry is now a yearling instead of a plebe, this might almost be Warren of West Point under a new title. The incidents are different, but there is no noticeable change in Larry's mental or emotional development since the previous book. He is still supersensitive about his excessive height, and his reactions are still self-centered and adolescent, to the point where he almost gets himself expelled by going AWOL just because his girl friend dares him to. At the end of the story he has re-instated himself with his friends and teammates (the story is also more or less about basketball) but he has still shown little sign of growing up.

Ad Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. The First Book of Mexico; pictures by Bernice and Lou Meyers. Watts, 1955. 63p. \$1.95.

A semi-fictionalized introduction to Mexico. Through the activities of Juan, a young boy living in Mexico City, the reader is given a brief view of typical Mexican family life in the city and in a small village where Juan visits. Bits of Mexican history, places of interest, culture, and religion are also woven into the account as Juan visits famous monuments and takes part in festivals and holidays. Interestingly presented, although somewhat superficial.

M Fearon, Ethelind. Little Dog; illus. by Howard Simon. Lothrop, 1955. 194p. \$2.50.

An English story, told in the first person, of a farm family and their pet dog, a Shetland sheep-dog. Although the ages of the main characters are said to be fifteen, fourteen, and seven, the actions and conversations seem more suited to those of nine or ten year olds. The style is somewhat disjointed, and the account often reads more like a personal reminiscence of earlier days than a piece of modern fiction. The arch tone of what is supposed to be humor and an excess of British phrases whose meaning will be obscure to most American children will deter many readers in this country.

NR Ferguson, Ruby. Jill Enjoys Her Ponies; illus. by Caney. Dodd, 1955. 160p. \$2.75.

The fourth story about Jill, the young English girl with little or no manners and a great love for horses. Like the earlier books, this one is also told by Jill, and has all of the faults of the others—a labored humor, a total lack of consideration for other people on the part of the main character, and an infatuation with the memory of her own work that leads to incessant references to the earlier books and events in them.

Ad Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Off to the Gold 4-7 Fields; illus. by R. M. Powers. Nelson, 1955. 158p. \$2.75.

A story of the days of the Colorado gold rush. Eleven-year-old Joel Hutton was doubly excited at the prospect of traveling with his Uncle Luke from their farm in Iowa to Colorado. He dreamed of making a rich strike, but he was also curious to know what his uncle was taking in the mysterious barrel that was fitted into the middle of their wagon. The story deals primarily with the adventures of the trip, running the usual gamut from Indians to buffalos, and ends with their arrival at the Gregory diggings where Joel finds a nugget and his uncle opens the barrel—eggs packed in lard. Not an exceptional story, but well-paced and easy reading.

Ad Frank, Janet. Happy Days; What Children 3-5 Do the Whole Day Through; pictures yrs. by Eleanor Dart. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.

A simple recounting of some of the activities of young children throughout a day. The activities are familiar ones and the rhymed text gives adequate explanations of what the children are doing. The book could be used to promote discussion of a child's own daily activities.

M Fritz, Jean. 121 Pudding Street; illus. 4-6 by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1955. 219p. \$2.75.

The children who lived on Pudding Street looked longingly at the wonderful tree that stood in the backyard at 121 and that promised such enticing possibilities for climbing or building tree houses. Unfortunately 121 was occupied by Miss Pursey who disliked all her fellowmen—and especially children. The account of how the children achieve permission to play in and around the tree is based more on wishful thinking than reality, although the children do emerge as fairly real individuals.

M Gard, Robert Edward. A Horse Named Joe; 7-9 illus. by C. W. Anderson. Little, 1956. 237p. \$2.75.

Sammy McRae returned to the J-Bar ranch after two years in Reform School, knowing that he would not be welcomed by his uncle, but determined to do everything possible to redeem himself in the community. On the way to the ranch he found a sadly mistreated colt and took it along. The story of the re-habilitation of the boy has many flaws: Sammy was framed and so he has no basic personality or character problems to overcome; the men who framed him are stereotypes bordering on the melodramatic in their actions, and completely unrealistic. The great-

est appeal and value of the book lies in its vivid, suspenseful account of a 500-mile horse race through the ranch country near Edmonton, Canada.

**R** Goldman, Irving and Hannah. First Men;  
7-9 The Story of Human Beginnings; illus.  
by John Bradford. Abelard-Schuman,  
1955. 180p. \$3.

A much more informative book than the title would indicate, since it not only discusses man's beginnings in pre-historic times, but also traces his development to the present day, with special emphasis on primitive cultures of today. The book is divided into three sections: In the Beginning, Mastering Their World, and Exploring and Settling. A brief bibliography at the end suggests other books that could be read by students who have enjoyed this one. The interesting style should give the book appeal for the general reader as well as for the student who is beginning to have an interest in anthropology.

**Ad** Govoni, Ilse Hayes and Smith, Dorothy Hall,  
K-3 comps. The Golden Picture Book of  
Poems; To Read and To Learn; pictures  
by Grace Dalles Clarke. Simon &  
Schuster, 1955. 48p. (A Fun-to-Learn  
Golden Book) \$1.

A collection of eighty poems for young children, over half of them by well-known poets. The illustrations are in no way outstanding, but the book will be satisfactory as an inexpensive collection for home or library use.

**M** Gowdy, George. Young Buffalo Bill; illus.  
6-8 by Howard Simon. Lothrop, 1955. 201p.  
\$3.

A fairly readable, but rather sketchy biography of Buffalo Bill Cody. The author has taken a few episodes from Cody's early life and expanded them until he makes them seem to be the events of an entire life time. There are not enough dates mentioned for the reader to have any very clear idea as to when the events took place in terms of history, or when they happened in relation to Cody's entire life. The accounts do not always agree with those of adult, well-documented biographies of Cody, and no sources are given. The book makes exciting reading as an adventure story of the period, but is not satisfactory as biography.

**M** Hader, Berta (Hoerner) and Elmer. Home  
K-2 on the Range; Jeremiah Jones and His  
Friend Little Bear in the Far West.  
Macmillan, 1955. 39p. \$3.

Jerry, a young boy who has long dreamed of being a real cowboy, goes to visit his grandparents on their ranch. He is disappointed to find life there just a round of chores and activities not too unlike his life back home. Then one day he meets

Little Bear, a young Indian boy who becomes his friend and tells him stories of the early days of the Indians. Jerry and Little Bear decide they would like to change places, Jerry to live in the Indian camp and Little Bear to live on the ranch. One night is enough to convince each boy that he prefers his own way of living. The story has little point, the pastel illustrations lack vitality, and there is no explanation of why Little Bear, a modern Indian boy, is dressed in the style of Indians of the past century.

**NR** Hale, Sarah Josepha. Mary Had a Little  
2-4 Lamb; illus. by Gavy. Rand McNally,  
yrs. 1955. 30p. (A Junior Elf Book) 15¢.  
Saccharinely sweet illustrations for a favorite nursery rhyme. The entire rhyme is included, but there still is very little substance for the price.

**Ad** Hastings, Evelyn Belmont. All Kinds of  
1-2 Days; illus. by Joy Dorris Karr.  
Melmont, 1955. 24p. \$1.50.

Hot days, rainy days, windy days, cold days, and snowy days are described, with indoor and outdoor activities suitable for each day presented in brief text and black-and-white, textbook style pictures. The text is simple enough for beginning readers to handle with ease, and the chief value of the book will be as supplementary reading material at the primary level.

**R** Hays, Wilma Pitchford. The Story of Val-  
3-5 entine; illus. by Leonard Weisgard.  
Coward-McCann, 1956. 55p. \$2.50.

A fictionalized account of an episode in the life of Valentine, the Roman Christian whose life is supposed to have been the inspiration for Valentine's Day. The episode concerns Valentine's friendship for a group of Roman children whom he allowed to play in his garden and to whom he sent messages by carrier pigeon when he was imprisoned because of his religious beliefs. One of the children risked his own freedom to get a scroll Bible smuggled in to the prison to Valentine and was thereby partially responsible for the miracle that restored the eyesight of the jailer's young daughter who had aided him. A well-told story that will have appeal for general reading in addition to its seasonal interest.

**R** Hill, Marjorie Yourd. Look for the Stars.  
8-10 Crowell, 1956. 244p. \$2.75.

The Mitrevic family, Latvian DP's, came to Waukaunee, Wisconsin, feeling that they had stepped over the threshold from a dark past into the promise of a brighter future. Their way was still not easy. There were expressions of

prejudice from some members of the community; Mrs. Mitrevic's job in a restaurant kitchen was hard and their living quarters cramped. Marta suffered from the ridicule, real and imagined, that her strange clothes and speech brought forth from her classmates, and dreamed of finding a rich uncle who could give the family economic security and a respectable place in society. Peter made the most rapid adjustment of the family, but even he had troubles brought on by his participation in the gang activities of the neighborhood boys. Over the entire family hung the worry caused by Elina, the talented member of the family, who had withdrawn into a protective shell that often shut out her own family as well as all strangers. As each member of the family makes his own adjustment, the reader comes to know them as real people. The characters are drawn with depth and understanding, and their reactions to the problems of building a new life are objectively, but sympathetically portrayed.

R Hofsinde, Robert. The Indian's Secret World. 5-7 Morrow, 1955. 96p. \$3.95.

Brief introductions to some of the customs and religious beliefs that have affected the everyday lives of the various Indian tribes of North America. Includes such things as the choosing of designs to be painted on tepees; the making and using of a medicine pipe, a war bonnet, owner sticks, masks, moccasins, robes, medicine shields, and Kachinas; and the use of picture writing. The book gives an authentic picture of life among the different tribes and will be useful in developing an understanding among modern youngsters of the ways in which cultural mores develop. The illustrations help explain the text and add beauty to the book, although the color pictures tend to be more artistic than realistic.

Ad Houston, Joan. Jump-Shy; illus. by Paul 6-8 Brown. Crowell, 1956. 261p. \$2.75. Twelve year old Tamora Wade, her mother and her older sister, Cynthia, were spending a summer at her Uncle Peter's country home in Vermont. Cynthia had been there the summer before and had learned to ride so well her uncle bought her a show horse. Tam was allowed to take riding lessons and was promised a horse the next year if she learned to ride well enough during the summer. She learned to ride, but she also fell in love with a jumper, Merlin, who had been mistreated and made jump-shy. Her efforts to re-train the horse and to persuade her uncle to buy him for her make a fairly routine horse story, but one that is well-told with plausible characters.

Ad Hoyland, Rosemary. Ethelbert: The Tale of a Tiger. Knopf, 1955. 32p. \$2. Amusing tale of a tiger who goes against normal

tiger nature by having a passionate love for swimming. When Ethelbert is barred from using the nearby water holes, he leaves home, joins a scientist on a raft and floats down the river to the ocean. There he joins a company of seals and goes to the North Pole. Finding that climate too cold for comfort, he floats back down south on an ice pan, makes friends with a whale, and discovers an island that is ideally suited to his needs. The illustrations are much funnier than the occasionally labored text, and they carry the story quite well. For reading aloud.

Ad Hurd, Edith (Thacher) and Clement. Mr. K-1 Charlie's Gas Station. Lippincott, 1956. 33p. \$2.

Mr. Charlie, the man who built a chicken house but forgot to make a door, is embarked on a new career. This time he has bought a new gas station. All goes well until he tries to take Mrs. Charlie for a ride in his new service truck, and forgets to put any gas in it. A simple story for reading aloud to young children.

M Jackson, Caary Paul and O. B. Star Kicker; 6-8 illus. by Robert Henneberger. Whittlesey House, 1955. 160p. \$2.50.

Ron Jensen was the star kicker on his high school team, but he was unhappy because the coach reserved him for kicking only and would not let him play an entire game. To add to his confusion and unhappiness the coach and Ron's mother were planning to marry, and Ron could not quite adjust to this idea even though he knew that the coach and his father had been good friends for years before his father's death. Eventually Ron gains a better perspective on his problems and accepts his place on the team. Ron's growing understanding of himself is well-handled; the manner in which the coach and Ron's mother handle him is not very psychologically sound. Most of the other characters are types rather than real people.

NR Jemne, Rosemary. Martin's Friends. 3-5 Viking, 1955. 32p. \$2. yrs.

A small boy, who has had no playmate except his own reflection in the mirror, is delighted when spring comes and he finds a small girl with whom to play outdoors. The illustrations attempt to show the boy and his mirror image, but the results are not clear enough to have meaning for young children.

M Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Larry of Snowy Ridge. Morrow, 1956. 93p. \$2.25. Larry is a great Pyrenees dog who is born in New Hampshire, loaned to Dogs for Defense for service in Alaska during the war, and finally ends up the property of the soldier who

trained him and worked with him in Alaska. The pedestrian style keeps even the Alaskan episodes from having any vigor and the text is much more difficult than the format of the book would seem to indicate.

R Johnston, Johanna. Sugarplum; illus. by K-3 Marvin Bileck. Knopf, 1955. 40p. \$2. An enchanting story of Sugarplum, a doll so tiny she is constantly being lost and being derided by the other dolls as nothing but a trinket or a bangle. One day Sugarplum is left in the kitchen and falls, unnoticed, into a newly filled glass of jelly, where she remains undetected for months. She is finally discovered in time to cheer up Susie, her young owner, who has been ill, but who perks up at the sight of her long lost doll standing in a mound of jelly. With her mother's help, Susie makes a dress for Sugarplum, and the other dolls no longer dare call her a trinket. Bileck's illustrations will add to the delight of the story for young readers or listeners.

NR Keating, Lawrence A. False Start. Westminster, 1955. 192p. \$2.75. Ted Stannard was expelled from the exclusive Weldon Preparatory School for Boys at the beginning of his senior year, for a prank that he was accused of having played the preceding spring. He entered the public high school in his home town certain that it had nothing to offer him in either his favorite sport, track, or in his chosen field of work, journalism. He soon realized his error, but the snobbery he displayed during his first few days made it difficult for him to convince his classmates that he had changed his attitude. Neither Ted nor his classmates emerge as real or very worth while characters. Ted gives up his snobbery, but he continues to be motivated by a desire to occupy a place in the spotlight rather than by any real interest in the school or in his own personal development as an athlete or a scholar. His classmates are suspicious and illiberal to a degree that is unrealistic and unhealthy.

NR Kent, Louise (Andrews). The Brookline Trunk; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Houghton, 1955. 306p. \$3.

When young Susie and Andrew came to Brookline to visit their grandmother, she was ill and could not entertain them. At first she sent them on exploring trips around town and then she spent the remainder of their visit regaling them with tales of Brookline's history, beginning with 1955 and going back by thirty year intervals to 1630. After they returned home she wrote down all that she had told them, and this book is the result. The account may be meaningful for Brookline-ites, but it will be slow-paced and

rather dull for readers not already acquainted with the events being discussed. The author's plan of going back thirty year intervals, and bringing events up to date within each thirty year period, results in considerable repetition and confusion as to just when some events occurred. The time sequence becomes even more confusing when the narrator attempts to relate an event, person, or place to other periods. It does not help matters that the author herself seems to become occasionally mixed up as to whether the grandmother is talking to the children on their original visit or whether a bit of information is something that was added later in the writing of the book. Individual chapters might be used by Massachusetts teachers and librarians for units on regional history, but the book is too disjointed to have much appeal for general reading.

NR Knight, Frank. Clippers to China; illus. 7-9 by Patrick Jobson. St. Martin's, 1955. 269p. \$2.50.

A swashbuckling, melodramatic tale of the days of the China clippers. Young Timothy Royall sailed from London on the Camberwell Beauty to learn seamanship and to try to find out more about what had really happened to his father's prize ship, the Cleopatra, that had been lost on a reef in the Natunas the season before. He succeeded in both projects in spite of a series of adventures that ranged from his attempted murder by a deranged First Mate to marooning on an island inhabited by a cannibal tribe. The adventures are hair-raising, but the whole plot is too dependent on coincidence to make a really good story, and the characters lack depth or originality. There are several objectionable references to the Negro cook and the native islanders throughout.

NR Lane, Frederick A. Westward the Eagle; 7-9 illus. by E. Harper Johnson. Holt, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

Historical fiction set in California in the year 1845. Ben Adams, a cabin boy on a whaler, is put ashore at Monterey to recover from an attack of scurvy. At first his only thought is to get well enough to continue his journey home to Boston. However as he becomes involved with the political affairs of California he changes his mind and ends by persuading his parents to move to Monterey. The author shows no sympathy and little understanding of the Mexican side of the fight for California's independence. He implies that a term such as "gringo" is insulting when applied to Americans, but that "greaser" is a perfectly good word for the Mexicans, and he oversimplifies situations so that the American forces appear to be always

in the right, or at least justified in their actions. The characters are not well-defined and the weak writing further detracts from any value the book might have had as history or fiction.

R Lewellen, John Bryan. The Mighty Atom;  
3-8 foreword by Glenn T. Seaborg; illus.  
by Ida Scheib. Knopf, 1955. 59p. \$2.

A clear-cut, simple explanation of the nature of atoms, how they are built, how they function, and man's use of atomic power both for peaceful and for wartime purposes. The drawings will help the young reader to understand the text. The author has a slight tendency to talk down to his audience, but the subject interest plus the relatively easy style should give the book some value as remedial reading material for older readers.

M Lindman, Maj Jan. Flicka, Ricka, Dicka  
1-3 Bake a Cake. Whitman, 1955. 27p.  
\$1.50.

The three little Swedish girls solicit the help of a neighbor when they decide to bake a birthday cake for their mother. They forget to watch the time on the first cake and it burns, but the second one is a success. Very slight story written at a beginning third grade reading level.

R Loder, Dorothy. The Land and People of  
8-12 Spain; illus. from photographs. Lippincott, 1955. 117p. (Portraits of the Nations Series) \$2.75.

With an emphasis on the history of the country, the author takes the reader on a tour of Spain, showing the major cities, the political and geographic areas, and the cultural, climatic, and language differences that make up this varied and colorful country. An especially interesting aspect of the account is the introduction of outstanding writers and artists, with a discussion of how their work reflects the section of the country in which each lived or the temper of the times in which each one worked.

NR Longstreth, Joseph. Penguins Are Penguins;  
3-5 pictures by William D. Hayes. Abelard-  
yrs. Schuman, 1955. 42p. \$2.50.

Mildly amusing story of a young penguin who wants to grow up to be a polar bear. When his family tell him that this is impossible, he goes off to see for himself, makes friends with a walrus and a polar bear, and learns that each kind of animal has certain things it can do that no other animal can do. Thereafter he is content to be a penguin. In spite of its moments of humor, the ending falls completely flat.

NR Low, Alice. Out of My Window; pictures by  
2-4 Polly Jackson. Simon & Schuster, 1955.  
yrs. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.

A small girl recounts all the things she sees out her bedroom window. It is a right remarkable window in that it faces east and west simultaneously, and the houses it overlooks change position and structure with amazing agility. (The book is not intended to be fantasy.) The pictures are cluttered and the book lacks point or unity.

NR Marsh, E. L. Trillium Hill. Lothrop, 1955.  
7-9 159p. \$2.50.

The four Dean children and their grandmother moved from Toronto to an old farm in Muskoko where their grandmother had lived as a child. Their mother was dead and their father convalescing in a military hospital, so the children and their grandmother were left to run the farm as best they could. Sixteen-year-old John planned to be a farmer and on his shoulders fell the main burden of work. Fifteen-year-old Margaret dreamed of becoming an artist and frequently let her painting come between her and her responsibilities. The eight-year-old twins had enthusiasm and good intentions but often created problems rather than solving them. For city children who have never lived on a farm, the family manages remarkably well. The story of their adjustment lacks cohesion, the characters are never fully developed, and too many of the solutions hinge on coincidence.

R Martin, Frances Gardiner (McEntee).  
7-9 Pirate Island; pictures by Dorothy  
McEntee. Harper, 1955. 215p. \$2.75.

Tom and Job Garrish left their Virginia home to search for their father who had gone to the island of Ocracoke off the coast of Caroline to work as a pilot, but had not been heard from since. This was in the days of Blackbeard, and before the boys succeeded in their quest they became involved in the efforts of the coastal residents to rid the sea of the pirates and the land of the men who had been aiding the pirates. Despite some instances of careless writing, the story is well-paced and will have appeal as a good adventure story.

R Mason, George Frederick. Animal Clothing.  
5-7 Morrow, 1955. 94p. \$2.

A discussion of animal similarities and differences in terms of their protective coverings. Includes animals with hair, with feathers, with skin, with armor, and insect clothing. The information is presented in a straight-forward factual style that is easy to understand and interesting to read. Black and white drawings supplement the text and help to show the differences in types of coverings.

R Merrill, Jean and Solbert, Ronni. The Tree

2-4 House of Jimmy Domino. Oxford, 1955. 29p. \$2.50.

Jimmy Domino lives happily alone in his tree house until the day when he is visited by a large black dog, a tramp with a guitar, and a motherly woman who likes to cook. By the time Jimmy has had a chance to think about each of the three and to grow lonesome, they have each decided to return to his tree house and join him in his care-free life. The straight-faced, understated manner of the telling gives a feeling of possibility to a wholly improbable story that will have appeal for young children who would like to share Jimmy Domino's freedom and who are old enough to appreciate the pleasures of both solitude and companionship. Not for the literal-minded. Although the text is written at an upper second grade reading level, the size of type and amount of text to a page make the book best suited to reading aloud, and its enjoyment as read aloud material will be further enhanced by the rhythmic style and beauty of language.

R Milhous, Katherine. With Bells On; A Christmas Story. Scribner, 1955. 32p. \$2.

A story of Christmas in Pennsylvania long ago. When Chrissy and Becky's older brother Jonathan started on his first trip as his uncle's helper in handling the Conestoga wagons, he promised to be home again by Christmas and the younger children promised to make the Christmas putz (manger scene) that had always been his responsibility. The account of how they built the putz from materials around their home, and how they kept faith in Jon's return for Christmas, makes a warm and friendly Christmas story that will be pleasing to read aloud and that may stimulate young children to create their own putzes.

R Mother Goose. Three Little Kittens; illus. 2-4 by Masha. Simon & Schuster, 1955. yrs. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢. A picture book version of a favorite Mother Goose rhyme. Masha's colorful illustrations have humor and action, and her kittens manage to look like kittens in spite of their clothing and human actions.

M Nadig, Henry Davis and Avison, George. 7-9 They Stood Alone; The Story of Indian Stream; illus. by George Avison. Dutton, 1955. 159p. \$2.50.

The story of a little known episode in American history. In 1832 the boundary dispute between New Hampshire and Canada over the territory known as Indian Stream had reached such an impasse that the settlers of that area took matters into their own hands and established a republic separate from both Canada and the United States.

The account of their few, tempestuous years is told through the experiences of young Dan Dexter who came with his family to the territory in 1827 and grew to manhood there, aiding the cause of the republic and eventually helping to settle the boundary line. Unfortunately the authors frequently lose sight of the fact that they are attempting to tell history through the medium of fiction, with the result that their characters seldom come alive and the style becomes disjointed and plodding. What could have been a dramatic account of an exciting and unusual episode bogs down until it is not even interesting history.

Ad North, Sterling. Abe Lincoln; Log Cabin 5-8 to White House; illus. by Lee Ames. Random House, 1956. 184p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.50.

A biography of Lincoln, emphasizing the years from his birth to his election as President. The last half of the last chapter sums up his years in office and his death. The style is interesting and readable. The author makes frequent reference to points at which he disagrees with other biographers on their interpretation of events in Lincoln's life, but he gives no sources for his own interpretation.

Ad Norton, Andre, ed. Space Police. World, 7-10 1956. 255p. \$2.75.

A collection of nine science fiction stories, based on situations involving law enforcement officers and methods of the future. The stories, reprinted from science fiction magazines, vary in quality of writing but are generally acceptable. The book is marred by several serious typographical errors.

SpR Ogburn, Charlton. The White Falcon; illus. 7-9 by Bernarda Bryson. Houghton, 1955. 53p. \$2.25.

The story of a young boy's maturing, from the age of dreams of great and daring deeds to a growing awareness of his age-mates, and especially of one young girl in his class at school. After an especially severe storm one night the boy discovers a gyrfalcon with a broken wing. The wild creature seems to sense the boy's friendliness and allows him to take it home and care for it. During the next months it becomes the symbol of his dreams, and even when it creates problems by attacking the neighbors' dogs and tame pigeons, he cannot bear to think of losing it. Then comes a day when the boy forgets the falcon in his excitement over being invited to a girl's birthday party, and when he reaches home the falcon is gone. Even his grief is tinged with an awareness that he has outgrown a period in his life and is about

to enter into new experiences. The theme is not a new one, but is presented in a style that will have appeal for the more mature and perceptive reader.

SpC Ozone, Lucy. All in One Day. Whitman, 2-4 1955. 30p. \$2.  
yrs.

The whole range of a pre-schooler's activities: waking, dressing, washing, eating, talking, walking, singing, running, playing, drawing, reading, praying, and sleeping, presented in brief, simple text and illustrations. There is no story, just a word or short sentence describing each pictured activity, and the book could be used in the home as reading readiness material or to stimulate young children to talk about their own activities. The excess of smugly smiling faces in the pictures makes the book seem rather insipid.

M Pratt, Fletcher. The Civil War; illus. by 5-7 Lee J. Ames. Garden City Books, 1955. 63p. \$2.

The highlights of the Civil War presented in brief text and full page illustrations. The illustrations are in many ways the best part of the book. The text suffers from over-simplifications and from careless writing that frequently leaves the reader guessing as to just what the author is trying to say or who the persons are to whom his pronouns refer. The material is accurate even though poorly presented.

R Rand McNally Duroplast Books. Farm 1-3 Animals; illus. by Marguerite Gayer. yrs. Rand McNally, 1955. 10p. 75¢.  
M Kittens; illus. by Marge Opitz. Rand 1-3 McNally, 1955. 10p. 75¢.  
yrs.

Two plastic picture books for very young children. The book about kittens has coy illustrations and unnecessary, often meaningless (for the child) text. The book about farm animals is much better. The clear, attractive pictures show each animal in a natural setting. The text is limited to one identifying word per picture, which is all that is needed for this age group.

NR Raymond, David. The Young Traveler in 7-9 Italy; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by Winifred Nazarian. Dutton, 1955. 224p. \$3.

The Manning family—father, mother and three children—are taking a combined business-vacation trip through Italy. As in the other books in this series, the main characters are supposed to have been changed from British to American, but the process is so inconsistent in this instance that the result is a totally unrealistic hybrid that is neither British nor American. Through-

out the book the author makes generalizations about the Italians that are not wholly accurate and that are often misleading.

Ad Reeder, Russell P. Whispering Wind; A 6-8 Story of the Massacre at Sand Creek; illus. by Charles Banks Wilson. Little, 1956. 206p. \$2.75.

The story of the massacre of a tribe of Cheyenne Indians by a troop of U.S. army men under Colonel Chivington. The story is told through the experiences on Whispering Wind, a Cheyenne boy whose father is one of the tribe's strongest leaders and a friend of the white men. Having watched his father work for years to bring peace between the Indians and the white men, and having himself witnessed unprovoked attacks by Indians on white men, Whispering Wind is able to recognize the Sand Creek affair as the work of one unscrupulous white man and not necessarily characteristic of the actions of all white men, and to pledge himself to continue his father's work. The writing is of very average quality with no great originality to the plot or characterizations. It does, however, give a well-balanced picture of Indian-white relationships of the period.

R Reynolds, Quentin James. The Life of 5-7 Saint Patrick; illus. by Douglas Gorsline. Random House, 1955. 182p.  
(A World Landmark Book) \$1.50.

A fictionalized biography of Saint Patrick, drawn from the many legends and stories told about him in Ireland, but emphasizing those elements that picture him as a real person rather than a semi-mythical figure. The account begins with his early boyhood and takes him through his entire life and his continuing influence in Irish thought and religion. There is no great depth or literary quality to the writing but it does present an interesting picture of the man and his times.

Ad Ripley, Elizabeth. Rembrandt; with Draw- 6-8 ings, Etchings and Paintings by Rembrandt. Oxford, 1955. 71p. \$3.

A biography of Rembrandt, presented through a series of his paintings and brief episodes in his life that are represented by the paintings. The choice of pictures is excellent, and the works are well-reproduced. The writing is good except for an over-use, and frequently a mis-use, of the verb "loved".

Ad Savery, Constance. Welcome, Santza; 5-7 illus. by Helen Torrey. Longmans, 1956. 166p. \$2.75.

The story of four Greek war orphans who have lived most of their lives in an isolated monas-

tery in the mountains. Several years after the war ended, relief workers came to the orphanage to help relocate as many of the orphans as possible with their relatives. Among these were the three Ruthven children, Sando, Nicky and Vicky, who were sent to live with an aunt and uncle in England. By mistake, Chrysantza Ionides went with them, but she too found a welcome and a permanent home in England. The story of the children's adjustment to the drastic change in their life is well told, but the story is unfortunately marred by a weak and unconvincing ending.

**M Schieker, Sofie.** The House at the City Wall; 4-6 trans. from the German by Eva Hearst; illus. by Howard Simon. Follett, 1955. 95p. \$2.50.

The story of a family living in a post-war German town, probably Ulm, in the house that had belonged to their family for many generations. The very slight story involves a war orphan who is adopted by the Blanck family and who gradually comes to have confidence in the love and security they offer her. The slow-moving story is more one of atmosphere and mood than of plot, and it suffers from an exceedingly poor translation.

**Ad Schlein, Miriam.** Little Red Nose; pictures K-1 by Roger Duvoisin. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 42p. \$2.50.

A small boy awakens in the night with the feeling that something special has happened. The next morning the boy still feels that something is different but cannot determine what it is until his father points out to him all the signs that tell of the arrival of spring—including the boy's own sun-burned nose. Neither the text nor the illustrations achieves the feeling of springtime as successfully as does the Tresselt, "Hi, Mister Robin!" (Lothrop, 1950).

**M Scott, Sally.** Jason and Timmy; pictures 2-4 by Beth Krush. Harcourt, 1955. 64p. \$2.

Jason and Timmy, brothers, were being cared for by a housekeeper, Mrs. Jones, while their parents were away on vacation. Mrs. Jones's intentions were good, but she did not quite understand small boys. To make Jason's life even more complicated, the gang needed Timmy's wagon but Jason did not want to include Timmy in their games. When he finally agreed one Saturday to let Timmy play, he discovered that his little brother was really fun to be with, and the two boys thereupon joined forces against Mrs. Jones. A very purposive story.

**NR Seton, Anya.** The Mistletoe and Sword; A 8-10 Story of Roman Britain. Doubleday, 1955. 253p. (Cavalcade Books) \$2.50.

A story of England during the days of Roman occupation. The events revolve around the uprising led by Queen Boadicea and the final overthrow of the Druids. The descriptions of life in the major cities and villages of England at this time, and the historical background are excellent. Unfortunately the characters are straight out of Hollywood and better suited to a Class B movie than a piece of historical fiction.

**Ad Seuss, Dr.** On Beyond Zebra. Random K-3 House, 1955. 62p. \$2.50.

More nonsense in the typical Seuss vein. This time the author starts with the end of the alphabet and goes on with the letters that come after Z. The rhymes and pictures have a ring of familiarity from the earlier books, but for readers who want more of the same this one is just as funny if no longer quite as fresh and original as the first books of its kind.

**Ad Sherburne, Zoa.** Almost April. Morrow, 8-10 1956. 224p. \$2.75.

A fairly routine story of a young girl's adjustment to life with her father, whom she has not seen for years, and a stepmother. To seventeen-year-old Karen the solution to her problem was to bide her time, with no emotional involvements, until her eighteenth birthday when she would be legally on her own. Matters did not work out that way and in spite of her intentions she found herself involved with her family and with a young boy, Nels Carlson, whose friendship brought a bitter struggle between Karen and her father. Despite the lack of originality in the plot, the story has value for the characterizations, which have a great deal of reality in that none of the characters is wholly good or bad, and each one must learn to accept and make allowances for the weaknesses of the others. The solutions to the problems do not come through the reformation of the characters, but through the growing understanding on the part of each one of the elements within himself and within the other people involved that must be understood and accepted before compromises or solutions could be achieved. The one bit of unreality comes in the action of Karen's grandmother, but that is a relatively minor point in the story.

**R Shippen, Katherine Binney.** Miracle in Motion; The Story of America's Industry. 7-12 tion; Harper, 1955. 150p. \$2.50.

A well-written, interesting account of the rise of American industry from the early colonies with their essentially agrarian life to modern times. In an objective manner, the author presents the ideas of men such as Hamilton, Jefferson, Carnegie, Rockefeller, etc., and changes in the general attitude toward them and their

philosophies of business, as well as the importance of inventors such as Whitney and McCormick. She ends with a discussion of the part that the labor unions have played in shaping twentieth century life and thinking.

R Simpson, Dorothy. Island in the Bay. Lippincott, 1956. 184p. \$2.50.

Sixteen-year-old Linn Swenson dearly loved his island home and lived in constant fear that his tyrannical grandfather might someday turn him out and force him to leave the island. His fear was not great enough, however, to prevent his going against his grandfather's wishes and buying a new boat to help with his lobster fishing. When his grandfather did turn against him, the islanders came to his aid and through their help and confidence made it possible for him to continue to live on the island. In time he even came to terms with his grandfather. The author has drawn a vivid, forceful picture of island life and of a young boy's struggle for security. The ending is somewhat pat, although not inconsistent with the character and plot development.

M Skaar, Grace. The Little Red House. Scott, 1-2 1955. 32p. \$2.

A man and woman build themselves a small red house and begin to raise a family. There is not enough detail to the book for it to be used to give young children any notion of how houses are built, and not enough point or substance to it to satisfy as a story. The rather stylized illustrations are pleasing, but not important. The text is written at an upper second grade reading level and the book could have value as supplementary reading material for the primary grades.

M Slobodkina, Esphyr. Little Dog Lost, Little Dog Found. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. K-1 41p. \$2.50.

Actually there is little more to the story than the title of the book indicates. Jet, the little dog, is lost and then found. The lonely woman who had him during the interim is repaid for her kindness by winning the friendship of the children of the neighborhood. The illustrations are printed in rather drab, unappealing colors.

Ad Spettigue, Douglas. The Friendly Force. 6-9 Longmans, 1956. 134p. \$3.

A highly laudatory history and description of the development and present work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Beginning with an account of how and why the Force originated, the author traces its development through the early days of rather primitive methods of crime-solving to the use of mechanized equipment and modern scientific laboratory work to prevent crime and to capture criminals. Many cases

are mentioned although few are described in detail and frequently the references are too brief to have much meaning for readers in the States even though the cases may be well known to Canadian children. The Bloch, The Real Book about the Mounties (Garden City Books, 1952) gives much the same information.

Ad Steiner, Charlotte. Patsy's Pet. Double-3-5 day, 1955. 30p. \$1.50.

Patsy longed for a pet but could not have one because she lived in an apartment building where pets were not allowed. One day a small boy gave her a white mouse and Patsy kept it hidden in her room. Unfortunately her mother found the mouse and insisted that it must go, but did allow Patsy to buy a parakeet as a substitute. The ending falls flat since the author fails to make the parakeet sound nearly so interesting a pet as the mouse. The simply rhymed text is suitable for reading aloud.

NR Sterling, Stewart. Blaze Battlers. Prentice-Hall, 1955. 218p. (A Lodestar Book) \$2.75.

A poorly written, contrived story designed to give the reader some information about all of the aspects of fire-fighting in the United States. There is a main character in the story, but his only purpose is to give the author something on which to hang the detailed information about fires and fire-fighting. The book fails to satisfy any of the requirements of good fiction and is too poorly organized to be of any value as an informational book. Floherty's Five Alarm (Lippincott, 1949) is a better-written, more informative book on the same subject.

Ad Stone, Eugenia. Squire for King Arthur; 4-6 illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Follett, 1955. 158p. \$2.95.

W Young Tor had been born a churl, and even though he had been accepted by Arthur for training as a page, he did not hope ever to be chosen as a squire to any of the knights of Arthur's famous company. The story of how Tor saved young Prince Odo and the British forces from the Saxons, and won a place as squire to Prince Odo's father, makes an exciting although not memorable story of medieval days. The story is a sequel to Page Boy for King Arthur.

R Sutcliffe, Rosemary. Outcast; illus. by 9-12 Richard Kennedy. Oxford, 1955. 229p. \$2.75.

A story of England during the early days of Roman occupation. Beric grew up in a Briton family, having been rescued as a baby from a

shipwrecked Roman galley. He was fully accepted by the other members of his adopted family, but not by the tribe, and when he reached manhood was cast out of the village to make his way among the Romans. Alien to Roman ways, he fell prey to a gang of slavers and spent long, unhappy years as a slave, in and near Rome and on a galley, before escaping and returning to England. There he was adopted by a Roman Centurian who made his home in England. A gripping adventure story for older readers.

R Swain, SuZan Noguchi. Insects in Their World. Garden City Books, 1955. 53p. \$2.50.

A beautifully illustrated, clearly written introduction to insects for the young hobbyist who wants to collect them or for the general reader who may have no more than a passing interest in the subject. Except for a few instances where size relationships are not made clear, the detailed drawings are excellent for identification purposes and for an understanding of the anatomical structure of insects. There is helpful information on various types of insect collections, full color pictures for identification purposes, and, at the end, some interesting and unusual facts about insects, plus a section on animals that are often confused with insects. A useful and attractive book for nature study collections.

R Tibbets, Albert B., ed. Youth, Youth, Youth; Stories of Challenge, Confidence and Comradeship. Watts, 1955. 246p. (Terrific Triple Title Series) \$3.

Fourteen short stories taken from popular magazines for young people and adults, and dealing with typical problems of teen-age boys. The stories are of generally good literary quality and, in spite of the rather unfortunate title, should have appeal for young people.

R Turngren, Ellen. Listen, My Heart; decorations by Vera Bock. Longmans, 1956. 194p. \$3.

Fifteen-year-old Sigrid Almbeck could sympathize with the occasional conflicts between her parents, for she experienced similar conflicts within herself. On the one hand she longed for the freedom that made her father restless and always striving for wider horizons, while at the same time she felt her mother's need for putting down firm, solid roots. The story of Sigrid's growing maturity, as she watches her older brother and sister go their own ways, as she takes on to herself more and more of the family responsibilities, and as she finally finds a satisfying solution to her conflicting needs makes a story with enough depth to satisfy young readers who want more than the fluff of the average teen-

age love story but who are not yet ready for the mature style of books such as Winter Wheat or Growth of the Soil, which deal with similar situations. This story could be used as a stepping stone to the more mature writings.

M Waldman, Frank. The Challenger. World, 7-9 1955. 189p. \$2.50.

Joe Scott, blond young Adonis, has set himself the difficult task of defeating the heavyweight champion, brutish Max Lussi, who has killed at least one opponent and injured many others. Joe persuades a retired manager to handle his training and between them they are able to arrange a championship match at which Joe defeats Lussi and then retires from the ring with two broken fists. The picture of the preliminary training and of the actual fights is good. The characters are one-dimensional, Joe Scott especially seeming unreal in the weakness of his motivation for wanting to fight Lussi.

M Watson, Nancy Dingman. When Is Tomorrow?; pictures by Aldren A. Watson. Knopf, 1955. 34p. \$2.

Each day Peter tells his small sister, Linda, what they will do "tomorrow", and each day she asks "Is this tomorrow?" Eventually she gets the idea, and presumably so will the young child to whom the story is being read. For children who already understand what is meant by "tomorrow", the account of the activities of Peter and Linda as they enjoy a holiday at the beach will have appeal. The illustrations are pleasing in color, although the children are almost grotesquely unattractive.

NR Watts, Mabel, Daniel the Cocker Spaniel; 3-5 illus. by Dorothy Grider. Rand McNally, 1955. 28p. (An Elf Book) 25¢. Slight story of a Cocker Spaniel whose experience as a show dog causes him to become a snob and lose the friendship of the other dogs in his neighborhood. In time, of course, he sees the error of his ways and makes friends again. Excessive and poorly handled personification.

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters and the Merry-Go-Round Mystery; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City Books, 1955. 184p. 95¢.

A slight mystery involving the Hollister family and their policeman friend, Officer Cal. As in the other books of this series, the children take over jobs which are none of their business (such as operating the policeman's motor launch). They are all stock characterizations of very good, sweet, lovable children. None of them resembles a real person, and the exceedingly ordinary writing presents a story which is equally unbelievable.

Ad White, Anne Terry. All About Our Changing Rocks; illus. by Rene Martin. Random House, 1955. 142p. \$1.95.

An introduction to geology for young readers, with an emphasis on the development of theories concerning how rocks were formed, and ways in which men have proved or disproved each theory. Some of the more common types of rocks are discussed, with a few pointers for the identification of each. The Schneider, Rocks, Rivers and the Changing Earth (W. R. Scott, 1952) is a more complete treatment of the same subject, and no more difficult reading.

M White, Anne Terry. Will Shakespeare and the Globe Theater; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Random House, 1955. 182p. (A World Landmark Book) \$1.50.

Since so few facts are known about the details of Shakespeare's life, it is probably inevitable that a biography for this age reader should be fictionalized. In this instance, however, the fictionalization has done little to bring Shakespeare or his period alive. In part this is the result of an undue emphasis on one play—Julius Caesar, which is given space and attention out of all proportion to the size of the book or the play's importance among Shakespeare's works. The author's use of quotations from Shakespeare's plays for conversation leaves the bard sounding like a slightly abridged copy of Bartlett.

R Will and Nicolas. Chaga. Harcourt, 1955. K-2 40p. \$2.50.

Chaga is an elephant who never gives a thought to anyone except himself until one day he eats some magic grass, becomes much smaller, and learns what it is like to fear larger animals. After regaining his original size, he continues to have consideration for small animals. The illustrations, in off shades of red and purple will probably be accepted more readily by children than adults. The story lends itself well to reading aloud to young children.

R Wilson, Barbara Ker. Scottish Folk-Tales and Legends; illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Oxford, 1955. 207p. \$3.

A collection of well-told Scottish folk tales and legends. The selections are good; with a blending of the traditional folk tale, animal fables, and legends of some of the ancient Scottish heroes. The last section contains seven episodes from the sagas of the Fians. Many of the stories will have interest for students of folklore for their similarity to well known tales from other languages. The illustrations, in tones of heather and gray, capture the spirit of the tales and give the book beauty and appeal.

M Wilson, Holly. Deborah Todd; illus. by Charles Geer. Messner, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

Deborah Todd is a tomboyish young girl, living in Marquette, Michigan. Debby likes to play with the boys in her school and neighborhood, and especially with Bob Thibeau, a boy from the wrong side of the tracks, but her mother and grandmother are insistent that she learn to be a lady. Her activities are recounted in a series of episodes that have some humor but little depth or reality of characterization. The tone of writing and the illustrations give the impression that the story occurs in the horse-and-buggy era, although references to space men and geiger counters place it in modern times.

NR Winchell, Prentice. Danger! Detectives Working. Coward-McCann, 1955. 7-9 249p. \$2.75.

A highly contrived story designed to give the reader a maximum of information about all phases of detective work. When Reid Ainsley gets into trouble at school as a result of his comic book reading, his father's solution to the problem is to reward him for good grades in the future by taking him to nearby New York City to see how the various police departments operate. The book is too poorly written to have any value as a piece of fiction or as an informational book.

R Withers, Carl and Jablow, Alta. Rainbow in the Morning; pictures by Abner Graboff. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 1-6 58p. \$2.50.

A collection of nonsense verses, counting out rhymes, skipping rope rhymes, and others taken from folk lore. Most adults will recognize some of the rhymes, or variants of them, from their own childhood play, and children of today will enjoy their freshness and universal appeal. A collection similar to Withers' Rocket in My Pocket (Holt, 1948); in fact, at least a third of the selections in this collection are taken exactly, or with slight variations, from the earlier volume. Graboff's illustrations are colorful and quite sophisticated, but less childlike than the Suba drawings for the earlier volume. This is more of a picture book, but its use will be similar.

NR Wyndham, Lee. Camel Bird Ranch; illus. by Bob Riger. Dodd, 1955. 7-9 247p. \$2.75.

A mildly interesting, highly contrived story of an ostrich farm in California. Penny Wyn-gate, high school senior, inherited the ranch from her eccentric great-uncle Caspar Wyn-

gate, and she and the aunt with whom she lived immediately moved from their New Jersey home to California. There they took over the ranch, expanded its operations, and, with the help of a movie company and a hidden cache of gold coins, made it a paying proposition. Along the way Penny acquired a handsome dude ranch cowboy for a boy friend. An unusual setting, with typed characters and plot.

R Zion, Gene. The Summer Snowman; pictures K-1 by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, 1955. 32p. \$2.50.

Henry was tired of having his older brother Pete laugh at all his ideas and tell him he was being silly, so he decided to play a trick on Pete. Early one morning he went out and got the tiny snowman which he and Pete had made the day before, put it in the deep freeze, and brought it forth as a surprise the following Fourth of July. An amusing idea, and younger brothers will be especially appreciative of Henry's triumph. A picture book to be read aloud to young children. Graham's pictures, especially of people, are more cartoonish and less realistic than in her earlier books.

## PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS

American Library Association. Subject and Title Index to Short Stories for Children. Author, 1955. 333p. \$5.

Titles from 372 collections of short stories, arranged by subject and title. The subject headings are, for the most part, taken from Rue's Subject Headings for Children's Materials. Approximate gradings for each collection are given in the "List of Books Indexed"; no gradings are given for the individual stories. For libraries that have most, or at least a fair number, of these titles in their collections, the book will be quite useful. Its use as a buying guide for short story collections is lessened considerably by the fact that no publication dates are included, and many of the titles are now out of print.

Frank, Josette and Plotz, Helen, "On Selecting Books for Children" Child Study 32:25-27 Fall' 55.

Henne, Frances and Spain, Frances Lander. "The School and the Public Library." Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 302:52-59 N'55.