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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume X

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Number 4

### 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 Barringer, D. Moreau. And the Waters Prevailed; illus. by P. A. Hutchison. Dutton, 1956. 188p. \$3.

A purely fictional account of pre-historic man living in the area that is now the Mediterranean Sea, at the time when the barrier at Gibraltar held back the ocean. The story takes Andor, a boy whose slight build has won him the nickname, Andor the Little, from the month long hunt by which he proved his manhood through his entire life. That life was devoted to the attempt to arouse his people to an awareness of the danger that threatened them from the steadily weakening barrier that kept the sea out of the valley. Andor's attempt was not only unsuccessful, but also won for him the contempt and dislike of the tribe; only his wife remained faithful. In the end the village was inundated and only a handful of people, consisting primarily of Andor's grandchildren, escaped. There is no historical or anthropological basis for the story, which is primarily concerned with showing how from earliest times leaders have had to fight, often unsuccessfully, against the forces of inertia and lack of understanding on the part of the masses. The story is well-told

although slow-paced, and the author makes clear that it is just a story and not an attempt at an historical reconstruction.

- M Bates, Esther Willard. Marilda's House; 4-6 illus. by Gustav Schrotter. McKay, 1956. 213p. \$3.

Twelve-year-old Marilda Dunbar, an orphan and county ward, dreamed of the day when she would be old enough to move back to her family home, the old Dunbar farm. It came as a shock to her to learn that the house was about to be sold for taxes, but she rallied the children with whom she played to help save it. In the end, the house was bought by a man who promised to keep it in repair and give Marilda a chance to buy it back when she came of age and was earning her own way. A somewhat sentimental story, of a kind that young girls enjoy weeping over, but of no great literary quality or lasting value.

- NR Beattie, Janet. Never Mixed Up Again; K-1 pictures by Filby Edmunds. Lippincott, 1956. 63p. \$2.25.

A labored attempt at humor that fails to come off and that has none of the charm and appeal of the author's In Came Horace. The "little old man" longed for a farm and finally bought one in spite of his friends' warnings that he was too

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absent-minded to make a success of it. He almost gave up after several nights of being unable to remember which animal went into which house, but then the animals themselves came to the rescue and remodeled the houses to look like their occupants.

Ad Bill, H. E. The Shoes Fit for a King; pictures by Louis Slobodkin. Watts, 1956. 41p. \$2.75.

Amusing bit of fantasy about a beautiful, but too proud pair of shoes whose impetuous journey to find the king ended disastrously when they were caught in a rain storm and tracked mud through the royal palace. After being knocked around in the cobbler's shop for a time they were once again taken to the palace, but this time they were not praised for their beauty, but for their comfort at the end of the day, and thus it was that they became truly "fit for a king". There is more humor to Slobodkin's illustrations than to the rather slight story, but it is satisfactory for reading aloud.

NR Bishop, Grace. Prissy Misses; pictures by K-2 Betsy Warren. Steck, 1956. 37p. \$1.50. "Prissy" is a good word to describe these eight little girls who are naughty until they each discover how nice it is to be good. The saccharine, didactic tone of the stories will make them equally offensive to children and to the unfortunate adults who may find themselves trying to read them to children. Written at a fourth grade reading level, but intended for younger children.

M Bliven, Bruce. The Story of D-Day; illus. 7-9 by Albert Orbaan. Random House, 1956. 180p. \$1.50.

A detailed account of the events that took place on June 6, 1944, when the Allied forces landed on the French coast in an invasion unsurpassed, in size, in military history. The material contained in the book is interesting, but the excessively choppy style makes awkward reading and detracts from the effectiveness of the scene and action which the author is attempting to portray. There is only a token gesture toward relating this campaign to World War II as a whole, with the result that the book will be of very limited use as social studies material.

R Bothwell, Jean. Cobras, Cows and Courage; 6-8 Farm Life in North India; maps and drawings by Donald Pitcher. Coward-McCann, 1956. 96p. (Challenge Books). \$1.95.

After a brief over-view of India's geography in general, the author describes in detail the life of a typical family in a village in the northern plains section near the Ganges River. The prob-

lems of Indian farmers that have grown out of natural conditions of the country and poor farming practices, such as the division of farm land into small parcels that prohibit the use of modern machinery, single crop farming with no crop rotation, and the use of natural fertilizers as fuel rather than for soil enrichment, are all discussed with sympathetic objectivity. The final section tells of what is being done today by the Indian government in the way of educational and land reform programs. The text is supplemented by excellent photographs.

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. The 4th Out. Lothrop, 7-9 1956. 190p. \$2.50.

A routine story of major league baseball. When John Burke's career as a player was ended by injuries sustained when he ran into an outfield wall, he vowed that his only son, Kerry, would never become a ball player. Kerry ignored his father's wishes and was well on his way to a great career with another team in the same league as the one managed by his father when he too was injured, but only slightly. John Burke took that opportunity to plant in Kerry's mind the idea that he would thereafter be afraid to field balls close to the wall, and sure enough, when Kerry returned to the team he could not play his usual outfield position. Burke thereupon took the boy into his own team and bullied him until he became so angry he overcame his fear. The poor psychology expressed throughout further weakens a story already beset with poor writing and melodramatic situations.

Ad Bridges, William. Zoo Pets. Morrow, 1955. 3-5 95p. \$2.50.

In a way a sequel to "Zoo Babies," here are stories of more zoo babies to whom various Bronx Zoo keepers have become especially attached over the years. There is the wanderoo monkey with the broken tail, the penguin who likes opera, the hummingbird who bathes under the faucet, more about Candy, the baby elephant, and others. Although perhaps not quite as informative or absorbing as "Zoo Babies," it will still delight small fry. The photographs will have as much appeal as the text.

R Brown, Bill and Rosalie. Whistle Punk; 3-5 illus. by Richard Bennett. Coward-McCann, 1956. 37p. \$2.25.

Timothy Standish McCoy wanted to become a famous logger like his grandfather, Blue Andrew, so-called because he was supposed to have been able to whistle the air blue. Tim applied for a job but was too young for any except that of whistle punk. Even then he made a mistake that cost him the job before he had worked a full day. However he redeemed himself when he prevented an ac-

cident by whistling the danger signal and proved himself able to whistle blue just as his grandfather had done. A mildly humorous story of lumbering that has some of the elements of a tall tale and considerable information about logging.

R Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Surprise for Robin;  
K-1 drawings by Dorothy Papy. Friendship Press, 1956. 32p. \$1.25.

Robin, a small American girl who has lived for several years in Japan, is about to return to the States with her family. Her friends at school, all of them Japanese children, give her farewell presents to help her remember them and the school. As Robin plays with her friends and talks with them about her school in America, the young reader will see the similarities and differences between his own games and school activities and those of modern Japanese children. A rather slight, but pleasing story that could serve to give a child an introduction to another culture.

M Brown, Margaret Wise. David's Little Indian;  
K-1 with pictures by Remy Charlip. Scott, 1956. 48p. \$2.50.

While walking through the woods one day, David finds an Indian the size of an ear of corn, who says his name is Carpe Diem. David takes him home and the Indian teaches him to see the beauty or importance of each day. Much of the meaning of the book is adult and will be lost to young children, who will, unfortunately, be all too quick to pick up the stereotyping of the Indian. The illustrations are quite stylized, but have a kind of charm that may appeal to children.

NR Brown, Margaret Wise. Three Little Animals;  
K-1 pictures by Garth Williams. Harper, 1956. 30p. \$3.25.

Three little animals, not identified as to breed, but vaguely resembling bears, live happily in a deep woods away from people. One by one they become dissatisfied with life and leave home. The first two go out wearing clothes and are soon absorbed in the nearby city. The third, and smallest, has no clothes so it contrives some with leaves and hollow logs. The three animals search for each other unsuccessfully until one day a high wind blows their hats off and they recognize each other by their fur. They then discard their clothes and return home. There is considerable humor to Garth Williams' illustrations, but the story seems quite pointless, and the book lacks unity in that the text emphasizes at beginning and end that these are just animals, but the illustrations show them living in houses and behaving like human beings.

M Brunhoff, Laurent de. Babar's Fair; tr.  
K-2 from the French by Merle Haas. Random House, 1956. 40p. \$3.50.

Babar decides to celebrate the founding of Celesteville by staging an international fair. All of the animals take part and the fair is a huge success. Babar's three children and their cousin, Arthur, are especially pleased with the idea, and they are shown visiting each of the booths and sampling each kind of food. There is little unity to the book and it lacks the sparkle of originality of the earlier Babar books.

NR Bryan, Dorothy and Marguerite. Friendly Little Jonathan.  
K-1 Dodd, 1956. 30p. illus. \$2.

Jonathan is a friendly little Sealyham who likes everything and everybody. His friendliness is so irresistible that he even makes friends with the very large, ugly dog who has all the people and the other dogs afraid of him. A pleasing little story, unfortunately marred by two instances of Negro stereotypes.

R Bryan, Joe. The World's Greatest Showman;  
7-10 The Life of P. T. Barnum. Random House, 1956. 182p. \$1.50.

In a vivid, lively style that does full justice to the unusual personality of his subject, the author presents Barnum, showman extra-ordinary. The characterization is well-rounded, and despite the fact that the author's fondness for Barnum is quite evident, he has not failed to note the rough along with the smoother and more pleasant aspects of the man's character. Not only Barnum, but also the period come alive for the reader to give added appeal to the book.

M Carr, Harriet H. Against the Wind. Mac-  
7-9 millan, 1955. 214p. \$2.75.

North Dakota in the early nineteen hundreds provides the background for this story of homesteading and of the struggle between the farmers and the railroad interests over the question of fair prices for grain crops. The Osborne family had a better chance than most of the new settlers for they had enough capital to get a start without going into debt to the "Interests". Their lives were complicated, however, by the illness of Mr. Osborne, who had suffered a stroke on the way to the homestead, and by the strange behavior of the oldest Osborne boy, Slim, who had left home several years earlier and who seemed to be working for the "Interests". The story is told through the experiences of seventeen-year-old Dan Osborne as he works the homestead and tries to persuade his brother to come back home. The story is rather slow-paced; the characters are types rather than individuals, and the issues involved are never made very clear.

SpC Chalmers, Mary. A Christmas Story. Harper,  
3-5 1956. 24p. \$1.  
yrs.

A very small (3 3/4 x 4 1/4") book for use as a stocking present. When Elizabeth and her friends—Harry Dog, Alice Rabbit, and Hilary Cat—began to trim their Christmas tree, they discovered that they had no star for the top. Elizabeth went looking for one and was successful when she met the animals' Santa Claus who just happened to have a star in his bag. The small, delicate illustrations give added pleasure to the small, delicate story.

NR Cheney, Cora. Fortune Hill; illus. by Jerome Weisman. Holt, 1956. 123p. \$2.25.  
When twelve-year-old Belinda and nine-year-old Ann arrived in Lakeside, Florida, where they were to visit their Cousin Minnie Warner, they were shocked to learn that she had moved from the family mansion to the gate house and was about to lose possession of both. Nothing daunted they set forth to find the family treasure, lost during the Civil War. This they accomplish with a minimum of effort, and thus make possible Cousin Minnie Warner's acceptance of her beau's offer of marriage. There is no reality to the characterizations and little suspense to the plot.

R Cleary, Beverly. Fifteen; illus. by Joe and Beth Krush. Morrow, 1956. 255p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Jane Purdy longs for a more interesting boy-friend than George, a dependable but fairly dull date, who has the added disadvantage of being an inch shorter than Jane. While baby-sitting one afternoon with eight-year-old Sandra Norton, a badly spoiled child, Jane meets Stan Crandall, delivery boy for The Doggy Diner, who comes to her rescue by persuading Sandra not to pour ink on the living room rug. From that meeting blossoms a romance that is at once the joy and despair of Jane's sophomore year. The story has some of the same humor, and an understanding of teen-agers comparable to the author's understanding of eight-year-olds as shown in the stories of Henry Huggins and his friends. Sandra seems a bit over-drawn, but the other characters are well-defined, and the book makes pleasant, light reading.

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. America's Natural Wonders; Strange Forests, Mysterious Caverns and Amazing Formations. Coward-McCann, 1956. 48p. \$2.

Thirty-nine natural wonders of America, ranging from the Rainbow Bridge to the Great Stone Face, are presented in brief text and photographs. A considerable amount of interesting and useful information about each of the wonders has been woven into the short text, giving the book some reference value where material of this kind is needed. The photographs vary considerably in clarity and in quality of reproduction.

Ad Coy, Harold. The First Book of Congress; 6-9 pictures by Helen Borten. Watts, 1956. 60p. \$1.95.

A brief, somewhat superficial discussion of the purpose and functioning of Congress, its part in the total picture of federal government, how bills are passed, etc. There are some oversimplifications that could lead to misunderstandings, and the author's expression of antipathy toward the income tax keeps the book from being as objective as is desirable. The tone is somewhat immature for the junior high school students who would be most likely to be studying the subject in this much detail. However, the book could be used as supplementary or remedial reading material for social studies classes.

NR Craig, John. Wagons West; illus. by Stanley Wyatt. Dodd, 1956. 128p. \$2.75.

A poorly-written, uninspired story of a journey across the continent by wagon train in 1842. The main character, twelve-year-old Dick Brandon, has the usual run of adventures with buffaloes, Indians, and rattlesnakes, before he and his family reach their new home in Oregon. The story lacks originality in plot and episodes, and contains inaccuracies and inconsistencies that further detract from its value and appeal.

M Dahl, Borghild Margarethe. The Daughter; 6-8 illus. by Hans Helweg. Dutton, 1956. 190p. \$3.

Fifteen-year-old Elise, living on her parents' farm in the Oster Valley, resents the strenuous program of work that her mother insists she follow in order to prepare herself for the day when she too will be in charge of a farm household. Elise prefers to dream of her young Aunt Helene who married a man from Vatso and lives a glamorous life in the city. However, when Elise visits her aunt she is distressed by the superficiality of city life, and returns home content with the farm. There is no real depth to the characterizations and Elise's change seems unrealistic in that it is based on the briefest of glimpses of her aunt's life, and she never sees below the surface of the life of the city people. The value of the book lies in its excellent portrait of life on a Norwegian farm in the 1860's.

Ad Dale, Norman. The Casket and the Sword; 6-8 pictures by Irv Docktor. Harper, 1956. 230p. \$2.75.

A story of modern England, told with a flavor of the legends of Robin Hood and his adventures in Sherwood Forest. Young Jeremy Shepherd had gone to the country to visit his aunt and recover from the aftereffects of a severe case of measles. There he became involved with Sally and Clive Palfrey who were trying to save their family

estate of Castlecombe from being sold to pay the family debts. The children were prevented from entering the house by the man who hoped to gain possession of the estate, but they were determined to enter and to find the sword and casket, left behind by a pirate ancestor, that would bring enough revenue to pay the debts. In a series of adventures bordering somewhat too closely on the melodramatic, they outwit the guards, enter the house, find the treasure, and save the estate. The author's skill as a storyteller saves the story from complete improbability and gives it a pace and action that hold the reader's attention from beginning to end.

R Dalglish, Alice, ed. Ride on the Wind;  
3-5 told from "The Spirit of St. Louis" by Charles A. Lindberg; pictures by Georges Schriber. Scribner's, 1956. 32p. \$2.75.

Although the author has taken her material from Lindberg's "The Spirit of St. Louis", this is more an interpretation of the longer book than a re-writing for younger readers. Briefly and simply, but quite effectively, the story is told of Lindberg's childhood dreams of flying and of how those dreams matured into the actual experience of the first non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic. The illustrations are a perfect complement to the text, making this a distinguished book both in writing and illustration.

M De Angeli, Marguerite (Lofft). Black Fox  
6-8 of Lorne. Doubleday, 1956. 191p.  
illus. \$2.95.

Jan and Brus, twins, set sail with their father Harald Redbeard, in one of a fleet of ships that were to take their family and retainers to find a new home in the Norse settlement of what is now northern England. A storm separated the fleet and the boys and their father were shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. There, Jan and his father were taken captive, while Brus hid nearby. The two boys kept in touch with each other and even exchanged places occasionally as they traveled from their place of captivity to the court of Gavin of Lorne, who had murdered their father. On the way they were instructed in Christianity by everyone they met, no matter how casual the meeting, and were eventually converted to the new belief. In the meantime, they helped to overthrow Gavin and were re-united with their mother who had been rescued by the king of Scotland. A rather slow-paced story, in which the characterizations are not fully developed, and the introduction of Christianity into every conversation seems unrealistic under the circumstances.

NR De La Roche, Mazo. The Song of Lambert;

3-5 illus. by Eileen A. Soper. Little, 1956.  
52p. \$2.50.

Lambert, a lamb with the ability to sing, is bought by a millionaire, Mr. Van Grunt, as a source of fresh lamb chops on Van Grunt's expedition to the South Pole. Once there, Van Grunt hears Lambert sing one night and is so overcome by the beauty of the song that he loses his neuroticisms and returns home with Lambert, a healthier and happier man. The forced and too frequently precious fantasy has adult overtones that will be meaningless to most young readers.

M Dorian, Edith M. The Twisted Shadow.  
7-9 Whittlesey House, 1956. 167p. \$2.75.  
Judy Carrington had had no library training but she was planning to enter library school as soon as she finished college and so she had decided to spend the summer following her junior year of college working in the Sinnett Harbor, Maine, public library. During the summer she ran the bookmobile, fell in love with an assistant forest ranger, and helped to solve a local mystery involving a series of attempted burglaries on and near the property of the local celebrity, Sandys Winter, a Pulitzer prize winner. The burglar turns out to be a mystery story writer who is trying to steal a dead man's manuscript and publish it as his own. The setting is interesting, but Judy's experiences in the library are about as far-fetched as the very contrived mystery.

M Douglas, Gilbert. Hard to Tackel. Crowell,  
7-9 1956. 210p. \$2.75.

A sports story combining high school football and racial integration. Clint Thomas found himself at odds with his best friend, Ralph Vanderpool, over the question of admitting Jeff Washington, a Negro, to the football team. Matters came to a head when the Washington family bought a house across the street from a new housing development owned by Ralph's father. At first Clint tried to keep from taking sides, but when the showdown came he sided with the Washingtons and took part in a campaign to have them accepted by the neighborhood. Everything worked out in the end: the team won its championship, thanks to Jeff's playing; the Washingtons were allowed to move into their new home; and even Ralph changed his attitude. The problem itself is well-presented and Clint's indecision is handled realistically. However, the solutions to the problems are too easily obtained, and the character changes are achieved too quickly and too completely to be realistic.

SpC Evans, Dale, comp. Prayer Book for Children;  
3-5 illus. by Eleanor Dart. Simon  
yrs. and Schuster, 1956. 24p. (Big Golden Books). \$1.

A collection of forty-three prayers and graces for young children. The quality is very uneven, ranging from Bible selections and poems by writers such as William Black, to quite mediocre verse, much of it by the editor of the collection. The illustrations tend to be sweetly sentimental.

NR Evatt, Harriet. Davy Crockett, Big Indian and Little Bear; illus. by the author. Bobbs-Merrill, 1955. 32p. \$1.75.

Having received a smoke signal from Davy Crockett, Big Indian sets out to help him kill Big Bad Bear. In spite of a warning not to leave Big Indian's teepee, Little Bear wanders off and sends an arrow through Davy's coonskin cap, thinking it to be Big Bad Bear. In the slapstick sequence that follows, Little Bear is chased by Big Bad Bear who is chased by Big Indian who is followed by Davy Crockett, who of course, kills the villainous bear. Test is in pseudo Indian-English replete with "ugh's" and "ee-ee-yows." Ideas and illustrations are equally undistinguished.

Ad Floherty, John Joseph. Forest Ranger; 7-9 illus. from photographs. Lippincott, 1956. 143p. \$2.75.

Another in Floherty's career books for boys. This time he takes up the work of forest rangers, with special emphasis on their activities in controlling forest fires. There are also chapters on insect control, poaching, snow and avalanche control, a brief history of the service, and present day career opportunities. The book has less unity than most of Floherty's other works, and does not give a very clear picture of any one phase of the forest ranger's training and work. It does, however, have some information that would be useful in vocational guidance work.

Ad Friermood, Elisabeth Hamilton. "That Jones Girl"; illus. by Doris Reynolds. Doubleday, 1956. 252p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Lizzie Lou Jones, hating her name and her ungainly looks, spent long hours day dreaming of herself in the glamorous roles played by Lillian Gish and other popular stars of 1918. To her surprise, some of her dreams began to come true when her father's sister, a well-known actress, came to Medford to recover from a serious illness. Aunt Lou showed Lizzie Lou how to dress to better advantage and encouraged her to lose her self-consciousness through an interest in other people, and especially through participation in school affairs. As a result, Lizzie Lou's senior year brought her success and popularity as a student, the beginnings of a romance, and an assurance of what she wanted from life. Lizzie Lou's blossoming follows a well-worn, predictable pattern, and

the book will have its chief value as a piece of period fiction.

NR Fry, Rosalie K. The Wind Call; illus. with 3-5 drawings and colour plates by the author. Dutton, 1955. 115p. \$2.50.

Pierello, child of the "little people" of the Mediterranean region, has been accidentally transported to England in the cup of an anemone. He first finds security in the nest of the black-cap family, and later in the larger community of forest creatures with their warm give and take. In spite of his happiness there lurks the wish that when the wind calls he might return to his own land. So Jenny-Spinner and Puckeridge, remembering the rescue of their eggs from marauding weasels by Pierello and his vole friend, Mog-Noddy, offer to fly the two south. The quaintness of the text, while rather charming, limits the appeal of the book, and the quite involved, difficult sentences make it unsatisfactory for individual reading or for reading aloud.

R Hastings, Macdonald. The Search for the Little Yellow Men; illus. with photographs. Knopf, 1956. 177p. \$3.

A true account of the author's journey into the heart of Bechuanaland, South Africa, to find and study the aboriginal bushmen living there. He does find them, but the book is more an account of the trials of the expedition than a description of the people themselves. In spite of the author's unfortunate tendency to talk down to his audience, the book gives an exciting record of a difficult safari, and as such should have appeal for those readers who have enjoyed Waldeck's books.

M Hawkes, Hester. Three Seeds; illus. by 3-5 Kurt Wiese. Coward-McCann, 1956. 40p. \$2.25.

A quite contrived story of a Filipino family living on a farm near Manila. Juan de la Cruz liked farming but was forced to work in Manila because his land did not produce enough to support his family. One day he was given some seeds from a shipment sent to the Philippines by Americans. The seeds proved so much better than any he had used before that he decided to give up his job and turn his land into an experimental farm. Not much story interest, and the only value of the book would be for social studies classes.

R Haywood, Carolyn. Betsy's Busy Summer. 3-5 Morrow, 1956. 191p. \$2.95.

More hilarious doings of Betsy and her friends. Whether they are trying to earn money by selling "razburyaide", seeing if it is really hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk, or supervising the

construction of a swimming pool in the Jackson's back yard, the children have fun—and so will the reader. These are at least as funny as any of the earlier stories.

R Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Frogs and Polliwogs; illus. by Nils Hogner. Crowell, 1956. 69p. \$2.50.

Simple nature study material about various kinds of frogs and polliwogs—how they live, what they eat, how young are reproduced, etc. The material is presented in an interesting style and is enlivened by the many drawings accompanying the text. There are suggested activities for the young naturalist.

Ad Holbrook, Stewart Hall. Wyatt Earp, U.S. Marshal; illus. by Ernest Richardson. Random House, 1956. 180p. \$1.50.

Beginning with Wyatt Earp's arrival in Dodge City in 1872, this is an account of his major exploits there and later in Tombstone. The final events of his life are summarized in the last chapter. The main events of Earp's life as a U.S. Marshal coincide with the information contained in more detailed biographies, but there are several instances in which minor details have been changed. This is neither as full, nor quite as interesting a biography as the Lake, The Life and Times of Wyatt Earp (Houghton Mifflin, 1956).

NR Holland, Marion, et al. Everygirl's Horse Stories; illus. by Richard W. Burhans. Lantern, 1956. 223p. \$2.50.

Twelve short stories about girls and horses. The writing throughout is very uneven and none of the stories is especially good. There are instances of poor values in several of the stories.

R Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf, and Tillhagen, C. H. 4-9 The Gypsies' Fiddle; And Other Gypsy Tales; illus. by Hans Helweg. Vanguard, 1956. 186p. \$3.

A collection of nineteen tales retold from the great gypsy storyteller, Taikon. Many of the stories reflect the universal elements of folk lore, and almost all of them have some of the elements that are characteristic of gypsy tales only. There is considerable humor throughout. A preliminary section, "About the Gypsies" gives a brief history of the gypsies and of Taikon, and a final section "About These Stories" includes notes on the individual tales. In addition to being a useful source book for storytelling collections, the stories will be fun for individual reading or for reading aloud in family groups.

SpR Johnson, Crockett. Harold's Fairy Tale; K-1 Further Adventures with the Purple Crayon. Harper, 1956. 61p. \$2.  
In the same vein as Harold and His Purple Cray-

on, but with somewhat more of a story plot, the author takes Harold through another imaginary adventure. This time Harold starts by drawing an enchanted garden, where nothing can grow, and then proceeds to construct a king's palace, a king, a witch (who is responsible for the sad state of the garden), mosquitoes (to get rid of the witch), and finally rain to make the flowers grow. He ends by drawing himself back home to the rug behind his mother's chair. This is a book for the exceptional child, but for those who can appreciate it, it has much to offer as a stimulation to the imagination.

NR Johnson, Enid. Nancy Runs the Bookmobile. 7-9 Messner, 1956. 189p. \$2.75.

A poorly written, unrealistic career-love story involving bookmobile work. Nancy Anderson, having just received her teaching certificate, decides she does not want to teach after all. She takes a temporary job on a bookmobile, serving a rural Ohio community, and likes it so well that she decides to go to library school. After completing her training at Western Reserve, she returns to the bookmobile. There are the usual run of successful and unsuccessful romances, and the career elements follow the usual pattern of emphasizing the glamorous at the expense of reality.

R Kingman, Lee. The Magic Christmas Tree; 3-5 pictures by Bettina. Ariel, 1956. 48p. \$2.75.

Joanna, youngest child in a family of eleven children, all of them considerably older than Joanna, often went into the forest for privacy and a place to play where no one would tease her or order her around. Julie, an only child living in a large house on the opposite side of the forest, came there in search of a place to play where the gardener would not object to her walking on the grass or picking a flower. Just before Christmas time each little girl found the small pine tree that stood in the middle of the forest, and each brought to it her favorite possessions. Since each little girl came at a different time, they did not meet, and each one thought the pine tree was producing toys by magic. When they did meet, they were unhappy at first to have the illusion shattered, but then they realized that the tree had brought them friendship and companionship, and that was the best magic of all. A pleasing Christmas story for reading aloud in family groups, and a story that will have appeal throughout the year, for general reading.

M Klein, Leonore. What Would You Do If . . . 3-5 illus. by Leonard Kessler. Scott, 1956. yrs. 58p. \$2.25.

A series of improbable situations are described, with three possible answers to each, followed by

the question directed to the reader, "What would you do?" The answers are given by Mike the boy, Dan the man, and Susan, Mike's sister. The situations and answers are a blend of nonsense and realism, with Mike giving the most absurd answers, and Susan giving namby-pamby responses that show no imagination and would draw scornful protest from most little girls. The attempt is mildly amusing, but never quite succeeds as fantasy or as a stimulus to the listener's own imagination.

R Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. Navaho Sister; 6-8 illus. by Paul Lantz. Doubleday, 1956. 191p. \$2.75.

Sad Girl, so named because her grandmother was the only family she had and the Navahos considered this a sad situation, was ashamed of her name and resented the pity that she thought she saw in everyone's eyes. When she went from her Arizona home to the Chemawa Indian School in Oregon, she tried to keep anyone at the school from knowing that she had no family. At first her secret weighted heavily upon her, and then she came to understand that, in a sense, the entire school was her family, and so she had found happiness even before the existence of her real family was disclosed. An interesting picture of the adjustments that Indian children from the reservations must make when they attend school for the first time, and many little girls will find in Sad Girl's problem and her way of meeting it similarity to their own problems.

R Latham, Jean Lee. Trail Blazer of the Seas; 6-9 illus. by Victor Mays. Houghton, 1956. 245p. \$2.75.

In a style similar to that of her Carry On, Mr. Bowditch, the author presents the life of Matthew Fontaine Maury and his contribution to the development of navigation through his charting of wind and ocean currents and his work for a naval academy. Although the style is highly fictionalized, the facts of Maury's life are accurate, and his personality as shown here agrees with descriptions of him given in more scholarly biographies. The style is quite readable, and the book will be enjoyed as a good story in addition to being interesting biography.

Ad Lauber, Patricia. Highway to Adventure; 5-8 The River Rhone of France; maps and drawings by Charles and Elena Beck. Coward-McCann, 1956. 96p. (Challenge Books). \$1.95.

Through well-written text and excellent photographs, the reader is taken on a voyage down the Rhone River in France from its start in the high Alps to the Camargue delta country where the River divides and flows into the Mediterran-

ean. Through the semi-narrative style of describing family life on a barge, the author shows what the river means to France as a source of water power and the problems that are created by its tremendous force. The surrounding countryside is described in terms of its physical geography and products. In a final section the plans that are being made for harnessing the river's power are discussed. An interesting presentation, somewhat weakened by the unnecessary fictionalization.

M Lewicki, Lillian. The Golden Book of All Christmas Tales; Legends from Many Ages; Lands; paintings by James Lewicki. Simon and Schuster, 1956. 29p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.50.

A collection of nineteen Christmas legends, many of them retold from well-known carols, and all of them lavishly illustrated. The text is quite pedestrian throughout, and the appeal of the book will lie wholly in the full-color pictures with their traditionally Renaissance interpretation of the Nativity. Several of the illustrations appeared originally in Life magazine.

R Lewis, Beth. The Blue Mountain; 4-6 illus. by Adrienne Adams. Knopf, 1956. 59p. \$2.25.

A fairy tale told in the traditional style, with a slight reversal of plot. Prince Desmond, young, brave and handsome, is desired by all the marriageable princesses of the surrounding countries—and they are many. The Prince himself loves only Princess Noreen, but her parents are too poor for her to be seriously considered as a prospective wife. In order not to antagonize the fathers of any of the available princesses, Prince Desmond's father announces a contest—the girl who first climbs to the top of Blue Mountain will win the Prince's hand. The Prince appeals to the leprachauns and, with their help, plans a way for Noreen to win, which she does. There is an Irish lilt to the story that will make it pleasing to read aloud and will appeal to readers at the fairy tale stage.

NR L'Hommedieu, Dorothy (Keasbey). Topper and Madam Pig; 1-3 illus. by Marie C. Nichols. Ariel, 1956. 46p. \$2.50.

Topper is a wire-hair Fox Terrier pup who runs away one day to prove that he is as good a hunting dog as Roary, the hound next door. He meets Madam Pig, who is being taken to market, helps her escape, and accompanies her back home. The animals are too personified to seem real and the style is too labored and pedestrian for the story to satisfy as fantasy.

M Liang, Yen. The Pot Bank. Lippincott, K-1 1956. 32p. \$2.

Having filled their pot bank to the brim with coins, Bao and Dee-Dee decide to break it and take the money to the fair. They have a pleasant day, sampling interesting foods, watching puppet shows, and buying presents. Their final purchase is another pot bank so that they can begin saving for the next fair. The book will have some value for its quite good pictures of a Chinese fair, but much of the story interest is lost in the inferior, awkwardly rhymed verse in which it is presented.

M McCaslin, Nellie. Tall Tales and Tall Men; 6-8 Twelve Plays Based on American Legends; illus. by Clifford Schule. Macrae, 1956. 238p. \$3.50.

Twelve tall tales about real and imaginary heroes from American folklore have been re-written in forms suitable for either stage or radio presentation. Some of the stories, such as the ones about Davy Crockett, Pecos Bill, John Henry, etc., are quite familiar. Others such as the Bell Witch of Tennessee and the Indian legends are less well known. There is no great literary quality to the writing, and some of the longer speeches tend to be dull. Production notes are given at the end of each story.

Ad MacGregor, Ellen. Mr. Ferguson of the Fire 1-3 Department; pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey House, 1956. 32p. \$2.

Mr. Ferguson, cook for the local fire department, longs to ride on the fire-engine, but can never get down the steps in time. He gives the problem considerable thought and comes up with the idea of a pole in the middle of the building. At first the pole does not work, since anyone catching hold of it slides up instead of down but then Mr. Ferguson discovers that it can be used for sliding down by grabbing it feet first, and for sliding up by grabbing it hands first. Rather slight, but amusing bit of fantasy, with humorous illustrations.

NR McGuire, Frances. The Case of the Smuggled Ruby; illus. by Raymond Abel. Dutton, 1956. 128p. \$2.75.

A poorly written, melodramatic mystery story, replete with sinister characters who turn out to be secret police, and soft-spoken gentlemen who turn out to be crooks. Ted Mulford, a polio victim returning with his family from Hong Kong to the States, becomes involved in the attempt to smuggle a ruby stolen from a Buddhist idol, when it is hidden in the built-up heel of his shoe. Fortunately the ruby is discovered in time to alert the police who set a trap and capture the smugglers in a blaze of wrecked cars and gunfire.

M Martini, Teri. The True Book of Cowboys; 1-2 illus. by Charles Heston. Childrens Press, 1955. 47p. \$2.

A cowboy's duties the year 'round, the equipment he wears, the food he eats, the places in which he lives and some of his recreation are discussed in an unimaginative, pedestrian manner. Neither text nor pictures indicate the changes that have taken place in modern rancing due to the use of trucks, jeeps and airplanes. Text is written at an upper second grade reading level.

NR Mindlin, Helen Mather-Smith. Dangerous 6-8 Island; illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Dodd, 1956. 179p. \$2.75.

Highly improbable, melodramatic story of three children who are shipwrecked on a rocky island off the New Jersey coast. While waiting to be rescued, they explore a cave on the island where they find ten bars of gold. The island, which sinks and rises at intervals, is in the process of sinking while the children are on it and they are rescued, by helicopter, just in time. Inept writing and a fantastic plot that are characteristic of the poorer examples of T-V, movie and comic book melodrama.

Ad Mowat, Farley. Lost in the Barrens; with 7-9 drawings by Charles Geer. Little, 1956. 244p. \$3.

A disappointing book by comparison with the author's excellent People of the Deer, which deals with the same section and the same people. Young Jamie Macnair, living in the north central section of Canada, with his uncle, goes with his Cree Indian friend, Awasin, on an errand of mercy to the Chipewyan tribe living on the edge of the Barrens. The two boys disobey the Chipewyan leader, Denikazi, and become lost in the Barrens, with winter near at hand and no possibility of returning to the south until the following spring. How they cope with the situation is well-told and makes exciting reading as an adventure story. However, the plot is hackneyed and the author's own obvious respect for the dangers of the north loses its effectiveness when he has the boys defy all the rules for survival, yet come through without a scratch.

Ad Neilson, Jean. Island Exile. Funk & Wagnalls, 1956. 250p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Maggie Jerrold rebelled at the thought of giving up a year of high school in order to be with her mother on Ajax Island, a remote island in the San Juan group. At the same time, she realized that the quiet, peaceful atmosphere was just what her mother needed to help her recover from the breakdown she had suffered after the death of Maggie's four-year-old stepsister, Sally. Maggie's stepfather, an army man stationed in India, had promised to

make up the lost year by providing Maggie with private tutors as soon as she and her mother were able to join him in India. As it turned out, the year was not as bad as Maggie had anticipated, and what she learned in human relations in many ways compensated for the lost school year. The new school teacher on the island helped her by outlining a reading program and by going over the readings with her. Through the help and friendship of the other islanders, Maggie came to have a better understanding of human nature and of the kind of stamina and ingenuity that makes life not only possible but even pleasant in such remote spots. The unusual setting should give the book appeal. The characterizations are uneven, but generally credible, and, except for an occasional tendency toward preachiness, the story makes good reading.

NR Nicolas. Bear's Land. Coward-McCann, K-3 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

On the very night his two friends finish digging a tunnel out of the zoo, Siegfried, a polar bear, sets out in search of Bear's Land, promising to return for the friends. He has pictured Bear's Land as covered with ice and snow, but when he encounters a house in a clearing in the forest where many polar bears are partying, he joins the fun. During the evening a fish-eating contest wins him the title, King of Bears. Suddenly he hears the voice of his zoo keeper and as the masqueraders scatter in panic, zoo keeper and Siegfried return happily to the zoo. Pictures and story have much charm and humor, but the satirical touches may have more appeal for the adult who is reading aloud, than for the child listener, and the ending is confusing.

R Peare, Catherine Owens. Jules Verne: His Life; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Holt, 5-7 1956. 123p. \$2.25.

An interesting, very readable biography of Jules Verne, taking him from his early childhood to his death. The story of Verne's life makes almost as good reading as some of his own tales. The accounts of how some of his better known books came to be written will be of interest to children who have already read those stories, and should stimulate interest for readers who are not yet acquainted with Verne's writings.

NR Pettey, Emma. Brave Men of the Bible; 2-4 pictures by H. O. Richards. Broadman, 1956. 27p. 65¢.

Brief, uninspired re-tellings of the actions of seven brave men of the Bible; four of them characters from the Old Testament and three from the New Testament. There is no literary quality to the writing, and the stories are over-simplified to the point of being confusing for children who have heard the more conventional versions.

M Potter, Miriam (Clark). Our Friend Mrs. Goose; illus. by Miriam and Zenas Potter. Lippincott, 1956. 125p. \$2.25.

Eleven episodes involving Mrs. Goose and her friends in Animaltown. As usual Mrs. Goose is well-intentioned but too scatter-brained to carry her projects through with any success. Her friends alternately laugh at her and come to her rescue. The humor of the situations is quite obvious and frequently labored.

R Pratt, Fletcher. All About Rockets and Jets; 6-9 illus. by Jack Coggins. Random House, 1955. 139p. \$1.95.

Although not quite so inclusive as the title suggests, there is considerable information here about the history of the development of rockets and jets, their use during World War II, and some of the possibilities of their future development and use. The style is quite readable, and the information is enhanced and supplemented by the many drawings that illustrate the text.

M Rand, Ann and Paul. I Know a Lot of Things. K-1 Harcourt, 1956. 30p. \$2.75.

In a simple, brief text and quite sophisticated illustrations, the author presents some of the things that a child might know from its own observation of the world around it. The items range from the fairly simple concept that a cat goes meow and a dog bowwow, to the more difficult concept that a square box has a top as wide as any one side. The pictures are seldom helpful in developing the concept that is being presented, but the text could be used to help young children develop greater awareness of their environments.

R Reinfeld, Fred. They Almost Made It; 7-9 illus. by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1956. 198p. \$2.75.

After an introductory chapter discussing the history of inventing from the days when each inventor made a definite, easily distinguishable contribution, to modern times when inventions are almost always the result of group work, the author presents eight major inventions and tells of the work that led to the final perfection of each. Included are: the steam engine, the steamboat, the locomotive, mass production, the reaper, the telegraph, the sewing machine, and the submarine. There is very little duplication between this book and Burlingame's Inventors Behind the Inventor, and although much of the material is available in books on the individual invention, libraries will find this a useful collection.

R Ripley, Elizabeth. Goya; A Biography; 5-9 with drawings, etchings and paintings by Goya. Oxford, 1956. 69p. \$3.

Following the pattern of her four earlier biographies of painters, the author presents the life and work of Goya through brief text and reproductions of some of his paintings. The paintings are selected to illustrate events or periods of the artist's life and so show the development of his art as the text is telling the story of his life. An excellent addition to art collections and a good introduction to Goya and his work for all young readers.

M Rowe, Viola Carson. Girl in a Hurry; decorations by Tom O'Sullivan. Longmans, 1956. 180p. \$2.75.

Melissa Richardson, a junior in high school, wants to find a summer job in order to prove to her mother that she is grown up and should no longer be treated like a young child. Her situation is made doubly hard by the fact that her father has recently died, and by her own unusually small size which makes her seem younger than she is. When she does get a job, selling coupons for photographs, she keeps it a secret from her mother only to discover to her dismay that the whole scheme was a fraud and the woman who gave her the job has disappeared leaving her to pay back the money she has collected for the coupons. During the following school year, Melissa tries in one way and another to redeem herself and eventually attains the maturity she had set forth so glibly to prove the summer before. There are some insights into teen-age ideas and reactions, but the problems and their solutions are given too superficial treatment to have much reality.

M Sage, Juniper. The Man in the Manhole and the Fix-It Men; pictures by Bill Ballantine. Scott, 1955. 40p. \$2.

New edition of a book first published in 1946. Some of the types of work performed by repair men in a community are presented in brief text and illustrations. Included are the men who repair underground water pipes, telephone repair men, the drivers of wrecking trucks, road menders, and carpenters, painters, and similar construction workers. There is some useful information, although the tone of the writing is unnecessarily coy, and the attempts at humor in the illustrations sometimes lead to confusion rather than information.

Ad Schwartz, Julius. I Know a Magic House; pictures by Marc Simont. Whittlesey House, 1956. 32p. \$2.

Some elementary facts about the kinds of mechanical equipment and contrivances to be found around the average house, presented in simple text and illustrations for young readers. Includes such items as running water, kitchen equipment of all kinds, phonograph records, telephones, electric lights, clocks, etc. This is more an

identification of objects that may seem like magic to the young child than an attempt to explain the workings of each object. In a few instances the attempts at humor, in either text or illustrations result in mis-conceptions that will be unnecessarily confusing.

R Seuss, Dr. If I Ran the Circus. Random K-6 House, 1956. 64p. \$2.50.

In one of his best efforts since "Mulberry Street", Dr. Seuss presents the fabulous Circus McGurkis, with its highly imaginative young owner, Morris McGurk and its intrepid performer, Sneelock, behind whose store the circus is to be housed. There are the expected number of strange creatures with nonsensical names, but the real humor lies in the situations, and especially those involving Mr. Sneelock. There is fun for the entire family here.

NR Silliman, Vincent, ed. We Sing of Life; 2- Songs for Children, Young People, Adults; Irving Lowens, music ed.; calligraphy by Edward A. Karr. Beacon Press, 1955. 171p. \$3.

It has been the worthy aim of the editors to issue a hymnal for children and young people which would cut across religious, racial and national lines. The collection includes songs of the Christian and Jewish faiths, ceremonial songs of American Indians, national folk songs and German chorales, and heavy emphasis is put on early American hymnody. Most of the songs are for unison singing, most have adapted words, and most of the tunes are available elsewhere, usually with more suitable texts. Too frequently the words and melodies are combined in a manner which makes the songs inartistic and unsingable. The manuscript printing is difficult to read.

Ad Sisson, Rosemary Ann. The Impractical Chimney-Sweep; illus. by Fritz Wegner. 5-7 Watts, 1956. 176p. \$2.75.

John William is the impractical, day-dreaming son of the eminently practical chimney-sweep, Albert George. Sent forth by his father to prove himself practical enough to qualify as a chimney-sweep, John William travels over the Sussex Downs, meeting a succession of interesting people and more or less earning his way by cleaning chimneys. After an indeterminate time he meets a gypsy, Romany, whom he marries and the two return home, where John William goes into partnership with his father. John William's experiences as he wanders over the Downs are told with a touch of whimsy that will make the story pleasing to read aloud, although the fantasy is not always well-handled.

NR Smith, Bradford. Stephen Decatur, Gallant Boy; illus. by Raymond Burns. Bobbs-Merrill, 1955. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans). \$1.75.

A shallow, fictionalized account of Captain Stephen Decatur of *Intrepid* fame. The point is belabored that his strongest inclination from earliest years is to follow in his father's footsteps as a sea-going man in opposition to his mother's strong desire that he become a minister. Following a voyage to France for his health at the age of eight, he is further obsessed with the desire to sail and win acclaim in war against Barbary Coast pirates. He and friends, Dick and Charlie, play at the pirate game in a small boat which they have begged, reconditioned and named "Barbary Coast." All, coincidentally, are assigned to the same ship in adult life. Decatur's heroism and patriotism are featured. Otherwise there are few positive values.

R Smith, Mary Rogers. Aboard a Bus; photographs by Max Yavno. Melmont, 1955. 36p. \$1.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their children, David and Ellen, travel by bus from Los Angeles to Seattle, Washington. The slight narrative provides a framework for considerable information about cross-country bus travel and the excellent photographs are equally informative. The text is written at a beginning third grade reading level, but is made somewhat more difficult by the fact that there is so much text to a page. The book could be read aloud to younger children who are studying a unit on transportation, and they would gain considerable information from the illustrations alone.

R Snell, Ada L. F. The First Noel; Animal All Songs of the Nativity; illus. by Sybil Clark Fonda. Bookman Associates, 1956. 47p. \$2.50.

A collection of twenty-one carols and poems relating to the Nativity and containing references to animals. A few of the poems are taken from the work of modern poets, but the majority are from ancient manuscripts or from the work of early poets. Each poem is illustrated with attractive pen and ink drawings that give added appeal to the book. Although the carols lose some of their effectiveness through having no music, the attractive format of the book and the quality of the selections make this a pleasing gift item or addition to collections of Christmas materials for general library use.

R Sorensen, Virginia Eggerston. Miracles on Maple Hill; illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, 1956. 180p. \$2.95.

With the same warmth of family relationships and reality of characterizations that were found

in Plain Girl and Curious Missie, the author tells of a year in the life of ten-year-old Marly and her family. Marly's father returned from war prison, broken in health and spirit and unable to take any interest in his job or his family. In desperation, her mother decided to move the family to the farm at Maple Hill where her own grandparents had once lived, in the hope that a summer there would work a cure. Marly was convinced that miracles happened at Maple Hill—and they did—from the recurring miracle of spring, and especially of sugaring off, to the greater miracle of her father's return to health and the family's decision to make the farm their permanent home.

NR Spyri, Johanna (Heusser). Heidi; especially edited and abridged by Deborah Hill; illus. by Grace Dalles Clarke. Simon and Schuster, 1956. 96p. (Golden Picture Classics). 69¢.

A much mutilated, cut and re-written, version of a standard favorite. This may be somewhat easier reading than the original, but the complete lack of literary quality and the quite dull recital of the major episodes of the story will keep it from having any value for young readers. Remedial readers would do better to have the original read aloud to them, and good readers will be inexcusably cheated if given this poor substitute for the real thing.

R Steiner, Charlotte. A Friend is "Amie". 2-4 Knopf, 1956. 30p. \$2.25.

Two little girls, Milly from Harris and Lili from Paris, meet and during their play together learn to speak each other's language. The French words in the text are colored yellow, with the pronunciations given in parentheses. No accent marks are used. The story is slight, but pleasing, and the book should have appeal for elementary grade children who are beginning to learn a bit of French.

NR Stevenson, Augusta. Tecumseh, Shawnee Boy; illus. by Clotilde Embree Funk. Bobbs-Merrill, 1955. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans) \$1.75.

A fictionalized account of Tecumseh from the ages of nine to eleven, during which time he is occupied with learning the skills and attitudes necessary to his induction into the tribe as an adult at the age of twelve. Although historically accurate in small details, the book leans quite heavily for filler material on the improbable assumption that Tecumseh belonged to the same Shawnee tribe into which Daniel Boone was adopted. It lacks style and is a succession of incidents contrived for thrills.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Hospital Zone. Harper, 7-12 1956. 250p. \$2.50.

In what is more of a character study than a novel, the reader sees nineteen-year-old Honey Kirkwood, a student nurse, develop from a very likable, but rather thoughtlessly self-centered, immature girl into the first stages of maturity through her growing understanding of people and her discovery that life cannot be all smiles and happiness. With her usual perceptive insight into the way young people think and react, the author brings Honey alive and makes her a character young girls can sympathize with at all times, even in her less admirable moments. There is enough romance for the book to qualify as a love story, plus a realistic picture of hospital life.

NR Strong, Jay. Of Courage and Valor; Heroic  
4-7 Stories of Famous Men and Women;  
illus. by Jean Frances. Hart, 1955.  
318p. \$3.75.

A curious collection of brief, simplified, sentimentalized biographies with no indication to the young reader that while most are real persons, a number of legendary characters and incidents have been included. Among the fifty-five heterogeneous sketches are Horatius at the Bridge, Damon and Pythias, Androcles and the Lion, Robert Bruce and the Spider, Madeleine de Vercheres, Molly Pitcher, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Bernardo O'Higgins, Dorothea Dix, Barbara Frietchie, Lillian Wald, and the Four Chaplains. Conversation in some sketches of recent celebrities is highly fictionalized while in others it consists of quotations from primary sources. Too much of the course of history is attributed to individuals as in this generalizations, "Americans today can thank Harriet Beecher Stowe that so dreaded a custom as buying and selling human beings is no longer practised in the land of the free."

R Tanous, Helen Nicol. Sewing Is Easy!;  
4-7 photographs by Henry John Tanous.  
Random House, 1956. 64p. \$1.50.

An introduction to sewing for the beginner. The book is divided into three sections: Guides to Good Sewing; Gifts to Make; and Things to Make for Yourself. The instructions are clearly and accurately presented and will require a minimum of adult help in interpreting and following. The suggestions for things to make are quite suitable for the interests and abilities of young girls.

Ad Taylor, Margaret, comp. Did You Feed My  
K-4 Cow?; Rhymes and Games from City  
Streets and Country Lanes; illus. by  
Paul Galdone. Crowell, 1956. 85p. \$2.75.

A collection of 72 rhymes, games and chants such as children use in their play. The collection is

divided into five sections: Call and Response, Play Party, Doorstep Chants and Rhymes, Jump Rope, and Street Rhymes and Bounce Ball Games. Some of the rhymes may be used as given here, but a large number of them lose their effectiveness by not having the musical accompaniments, since the rhymes themselves do not always indicate the rhythm to which they are chanted or sung. For persons already familiar with the rhymes and their music, the book will have value; for the person lacking that familiarity it will be difficult to use effectively.

R Titus, Eve. Anatole; pictures by Paul Gal-  
K-3 done. Whittlesey House, 1956. 32p. \$2.  
Anatole is a French mouse who was made quite unhappy one day by hearing some people saying rude and unpleasant things about mice. He resolved never to go hunting for food in a house again, and turned his attention to the Duval Cheese Factory. There he spent every evening tasting the cheeses and leaving notes on them, rating them as to quality and indicating where improvements could be made. The owners were delighted and made him their official taster—though they never found out who he was. A delightful bit of humor that will be fun to read aloud. Young children will enjoy poring over the pictures of Anatole and his family.

NR Tolboom, Wanda Neill. The Shining Bird;  
3-5 illus. by Robert Bruce. Aladdin, 1955.  
46p. \$2.25.

Grina, an Eskimo orphan living in a village of the eastern Arctic, has been adopted by Lukassie into his motherless family to help Grandmother care for the children. Because of an injury to Grandmother's leg, Grina is excluded from a boat trip the villagers have planned to the nearby white settlement to witness the arrival of an airplane. Before their return, as Grina sits on a hill overlooking the village, she is astonished to see the plane fly low overhead and to have two orange objects tossed to her. From the odor she identifies them as a fruit she had once seen white children eating. Great is her delight later at being able to share the oranges with the voyagers who arrive home much depressed because an overcast sky had prevented the plane's landing or their catching even a glimpse of it. The book lacks style and does not give much information about Eskimo life. Personification of sun and flowers is interjected into an otherwise realistic story.

R Treece, Henry. Viking's Dawn; illus. by  
7-9 Christine Price. Criterion Books, 1956.  
253p. \$3.

A story of the Eighth Century Vikings at the time when they were first beginning to venture to the coast of what is now the British Isles.

Young Harald and his father Sigurd, left homeless at the death of their king, came to the village fjord where a new ship was being built for travel to unknown lands, and offered their services to her captain. Sigurd was injured during the launching of the ship, but Harald continued on the voyage. It was a disastrous venture from the beginning, and ended with shipwreck, capture, and death for most of the crew. In the end, Harald was the only member of the crew to return to Norway, but he came back inspired to go a-Viking again. The story of the voyage is one of hardship and death, told without melodrama and with an understatement that adds force to the stark reality of the events.

SpC Tudor, Tasha, comp. First Graces; illus. K-4 by Tasha Tudor. Oxford, 1955. 47p. \$1.75.

A diminutive book of short graces, some from standard authors and some for special occasions such as birthday, UN Day, Thanksgiving Day and others. Illustrations are the author's usual soft pencil sketches and water color paintings.

SpC Vance, Marguerite. The Boy on the Road; 4-6 A Christmas Story; illus. by Nedda Walker. Dutton, 1955. 53p. \$2.25.

Jotham, age fifteen, is a sensitive, friendless orphan, unable to trade the pottery of his own creation in the market place of his native Bethlehem because of a speech handicap. On the twelfth anniversary of the birth of Jesus, as Jotham walks along a country road, he remembers how, during her lifetime, his mother and he had secretly celebrated the event. There appears suddenly a friendly, winsome boy in whom he is encouraged to confide his faith in the Messiah. As the new friend thanks him for the best of birthday gifts, Jotham realizes that his stuttering has disappeared. The story will be most suitable for reading aloud to intermediate and some junior grades of Sunday School.

NR Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. My Sister Mike. 7-9 Whittlesey House, 1956. 188p. \$2.75. Mike Patterson, as ungainly and socially inept as her sister, Pat, is beautiful and gracious, had never been interested in boys until she met Jeff Parker. She was overwhelmed when he asked her for a date, and even after she learned that he had done it as part of an initiation stunt, she was still determined to win him. In one day's time she transformed her looks and manners from unkempt and boisterously loquacious to neat, attractive, low-voiced and serious. Jeff was smitten although he remained in the snare of a siren from a nearby private school. In time, of course, he realized Mike's sterling qualities and pledged his undying affection. The story of Mike's romance is inter-larded with accounts of her prow-

ess as the star of the girl's high school basketball team. Mike's transition is accomplished too easily and too completely to be realistic. The excessively slangy style of writing keeps the book from being acceptable, even as a light love story.

M Weber, Lenora Mattingly. Make a Wish 7-9 for Me. Crowell, 1956. 250p. \$2.75. Another story of Beany, the "Mr. Fix-it" member of the Malone family. Beany is once again involved with Norbert Rhodes, who is currently suffering from uranium fever, and there is added complication in the presence of Dulcie Lungaarde, a brassy, boy-crazy girl who enrolls in Harkness High and is championed by Beany. As usual in these books, Beany, the long suffering martyr, gives up all her own desires in order to help other people solve their problems. She also knows all the answers to those problems and has them neatly solved by the end of the book. A less realistic and much more preachy story than some of the earlier books about the Malone family. The problems presented are realistic, but their solutions are too superficially and too easily achieved to have much value.

M Wellman, Manly Wade. To Unknown Lands; 7-9 illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 1956. 202p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized story of what might have happened to the two non-Spanish members of Columbus's crew who were left at La Navidad at the time of his first voyage to the new world. According to this account, the two, Tall Arthur Lake and Irish Willy O'Neill, escaped from La Navidad when it was destroyed by the Indians, sailed through the Gulf of Mexico and eventually arrived at what is now Guatemala where they helped the Mayas living there defeat their Aztec enemies. A farfetched adventure story that is too dependent on the melodramatic to be really good writing.

NR Wells, Helen Frances (Weinstock). Introducing Patti Lewis; Home Economist. 7-9 Messner, 1956. 190p. \$2.75.

Patti Lewis, dissatisfied with her job with National Electric's Home Economics Service in Chicago, resigns and accepts a job as the home economist for Mid-West Flour Mills in Indian City, Indiana. There she quickly plans and carries out a promotional program that greatly increases the sale of a prepared biscuit mix, wins a government contract for the improved recipe, and marries the boss. A combination of poor writing, one-dimensional characters, and highly improbable incidents.

SpR Will and Nicolas. Perry the Imp. Harcourt, K-3 1956. 38p. \$2.95.

Perry, an imp who lived at the bottom of the sea, awoke one day and set forth for the shore to see how much mischief he could perform. In the town of Dopple he went around one night playing pranks of all kinds. To his amazement the people, far from being angry, were so delighted with him that they made him mayor. Perry, in turn, decided to do something nice for them and set all the clocks right one night. That was a mistake for the people thought he was trying to regiment them and chased him back to the sea. An exceedingly subtle, sophisticated story. The illustrations may have appeal for their somewhat grotesque humor, but it will take a rarely perceptive child to get meaning from the story.

Ad Williams, Beryl. Young Faces in Fashion. 8-12 Lippincott, 1956. 176p. \$2.75.

Brief biographies of eight designers who have achieved success while still young. Included are: Anne Fogarty, Jeanne Campbell, James Galanos, the Frankfurt sisters, Helen Lee, John Moore, Bonnie Cashin, and Lorraine and Bard Budny. The information is interesting, although presented in a somewhat over-enthusiastic tone and, taken as a whole, the book seems to put a disproportionate value on clothes. However, there is much good material here for vocational guidance classes.

NR Wise, Winifred E. Frances a la Mode. 7-9 Macrae, 1956. 224p. \$2.75.

Franny Cochrane, just out of high school, felt that she could not wait until fall, when classes would begin at the Art Institute, to start her career as a fashion designer. Early in the summer she stormed the office of the President of Tait and Thomas (Chicago's largest department store) and obtained a job in the fashion co-ordinator's office. There she managed a successful summer which included capturing a fire-bug, substituting as a model in a style show, and acquiring a boy-friend. Franny is thoroughly selfish and self-centered in her relationships to her family, and her phenomenal success is wholly unrealistic. The writing is incredibly bad, with innumerable grammatical and spelling errors.

M Wollheim, Donald A. One Against the Moon. 7-9 World Pub. Co., 1956. 220p. \$2.75.

Robin Carew, something of a misfit in his job, takes advantage of an unexpected vacation from work, to go to White Sands testing grounds and try for a job there. He has no luck, so one night he "borrows" a pass and jacket from an intoxicated mechanic from the field, gets into the testing grounds, stows away on a rocket, and soon finds himself well on his way to the moon. There the rocket fortunately crash lands in an underground cavern where there is oxygen, so Robin manages to survive until he can make his way

to the surface. Coincidentally, his brother, from whom he had been separated during World War II has also crash landed on the moon. The two get together and plan a way to contact earth. The story contains too many inconsistencies and is too dependent on coincidence to be wholly satisfactory as fiction.

SpC Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). Janey 3-5 and the Summer Dance Camp; illus. by Arline K. Thomson. Knopf, 1956. 33p. \$2.

Janey, a young girl living across the street from Ted Shawn's dance school at Jacob's Pillow, enjoys wandering around the school grounds and making friends with the dance students. She is recovering from a broken wrist and is encouraged by the Indian dancer Ram Gopal to learn to do the mudras, hand gestures used in the Kathakali dance, as a means of limbering and strengthening her wrist. One night Janey puts her new knowledge to good use when she tells Ram Gopal, by mudras, of a fire back of the theater. The limited subject interest and rather purposive tone of the story will keep the book from having wide general appeal.

Ad Woolley, Catherine. A Room for Cathy; 4-6 illus. by Veronica Reed. Morrow, 1956. 192p. \$2.50.

Nine-year-old Cathy looked forward to the day when the family would move from their small, crowded apartment to a large house in the country; a move made possible by the promise of a promotion for Mr. Leonard. The nicest part about the new house was the plentiful supply of bedrooms, one for each of the children, and to Cathy, plagued by the constant presence of her seven-year-old sister and five-year-old brother, the privacy of a bedroom of her own was sheer bliss. The move was made but the promotion failed to materialize at once, and the family faced the necessity of renting some of their rooms. Cathy's agreement to give up her room did not come easily, but through the sacrifice she grew up a bit and came to a better appreciation of her family. Somewhat more purposive and less realistically childlike than some of the author's earlier books.

Ad Wriston, Hildreth Tyler. Hill Farm; illus. 6-8 by Peter Burchard. Abingdon, 1956. 192p. \$2.50.

Dave Marvin liked farm life even though it meant hard work, and even though he had less time to spend with his friend Jay than either boy might have liked. The story takes the boys through one summer in which Dave learns a valuable lesson in human relationships as he sees the way in which his father handles a neighbor who has been cheating the Marvins, and as Dave himself learns to

evaluate Jay's good and bad points. As a climax to the summer there is a flash flood during which Dave proves himself ready to accept responsibility and to use his head in an emergency. The characterizations are only moderately successful, although the author does convey to the reader much of Dave's love for the land and his appreciation of the values of farm life.

NR Wyatt, Gladys. Roy Rogers and the Indian Sign; pictures by Mel Crawford. Simon and Schuster, 1956. 24p. (Little Golden Books). 25¢.

Roy teaches Tommy Tompkins some simple Indian signs and Tommy then uses them to bring help to Roy when he is trying to capture some rustlers. Comic book style story and pictures.

SpC Young, Percy Marshall. More Music Makers; 8-12 with line drawings by Ida Procter. Roy, 1955. 207p. \$2.50.

In Mr. Young's second collection of musical biographies each composer's story is sketched against his own family background as well as against the social and cultural background of his community and period. The author's erudition still permits a lively, personal style, and so the sketches are for the most part human and readable documents. Their appeal, however, will be to a select group of musically-minded readers with access to fine record collections and scores, since much space is devoted to analyses of compositions. In analyzing specific compositions he alludes often to poems or paintings as media for evoking similar emotions. Although there are a number of gems, the first two biographies—those of Schumann and Chopin—are rather aimless and disorganized. Objectionable terminology, e.g. "Nigger Quartet" by Dvorak, is frequent. Any use of the book would need to be

with discretion, perhaps by a high school music teacher.

NR Youngberg, Norman R. The Queen's Gold; 7-9 illus. by Harold Munson. Morrow, 1956. 223p. \$2.75.

Thirteen-year-old Steven was the sole survivor of the wreck of the coastal steamer on which he was traveling with his parents to Hong Kong. Rescued by the women of a tribe of Dyaks, who lived on the coast of Borneo, he was nursed back to health and adopted by one of the leaders of the tribe. In time he became regarded as a magician and all but took over the leadership of the tribe. When pirates attacked the village, Steven saved the Dyaks from annihilation and they, in gratitude, burned their village huts to attract the attention of a passing British gunboat. The crew of the gunboat captured the pirates and returned Steven to his home land. Steven is much too bright and too brave for a thirteen-year-old boy, even one living in 1843. The natives are described in condescending tones and even the leaders of the tribe are regarded as inferior to the young white boy.

Books for Youth Which Build for Peace; comp. by the Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

A graded list of books which help develop friendliness, cooperation and world-mindedness. Available from The League, 2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

Brinsmade, Ellen Martin. Children's Books on Alaska. An annotated, graded list of books on Alaska recommended for use in Grades 1-9. Available from Adler's Book Shop, Box 1599, Fairbanks, Alaska. \$1. 32p.