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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Amrein, Vera R. The Stowaway. Har-
5-7 court, 1957. 188p. \$2.95.
Toby, Mark and Nora, who have appeared before in Sudden Voyage and A Cabin for the Mary Christmas, are once again adventuring with their boat, Scud. This time they are sailing from their harbor on Long Island Sound to Maine, where they are to spend a part of the summer visiting friends. On the way they acquire a stowaway, fourteen-year-old Peter Langdon, an orphan who is running away from an insane guardian, and see him safely in the hands of welcoming relatives. The book is mostly concerned with the techniques and pleasures of small boat sailing, and its appeal will be to sailing as well as to mystery story fans. The children's adventures are logically developed and, except for one instance where they deliberately ignore a "No Trespassing" sign, are acceptable.

R Balch, Glenn. Little Hawk and the Free
5-7 Horses; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats.
Crowell, 1957. 181p. \$2.75.
A well-paced story of the Comanche Indians

in the days when they were first becoming aware of the existence and possible uses of horses. Little Hawk's father is one of the few men of the tribe to own a horse, and the boy dreams of the day when he, too, will own one. When Big Hawk and the mare are captured by Apache enemies, Little Hawk sets out to rescue both, and to capture a wild horse for himself. His success on both counts is almost entirely due to the help given him by Shy Girl, and this element in the story will probably give it more appeal to girls than to boys.

M Benedict, Steve. Bill Shaw, Fruit Tramp;
6-8 illus. by Mary Stevens. Abingdon,
1957. 191p. \$2.50.

Bill Shaw's family have been migrant workers for as long as he can remember, and it seems a pleasant way of life to everyone except Bill and his mother. Bill wants to become a doctor, but realizes that his ambition is not likely to be achieved with the scanty and frequently interrupted education he manages to acquire. In an episodic style, the author takes the Shaw family through a variety of crops, with a crisis developing at each crop that either uses up all of Bill's hard earned savings, or else gives him an opportunity to practice first aid. In the end Bill's father agrees to settle down in a job

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that will allow the family to remain in one place and at the same time provide him with opportunities to travel. The theme is not as well developed as that of Means's Knock at the Door, Emmy (Houghton, 1956), and many of the situations are too obviously contrived.

Ad Campbell, Marion. The Wide Blue Road; 7-9 with drawings by Frank R. Grey. Dutton, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

A story of 13th century Scotland at the time of one of the last great Norse invasions of that country. Thirteen-year-old Richard de Brun, son of a Norman Baron, came to Scotland as page to Sir Hugh of Dubhsgeir who took pity on the boy when his father, newly returned from the Crusades, virtually disowned him for his slight size and poor health. In his new home, Richard proved himself stronger than his small size would have indicated and won honor for himself for his efforts to free himself and Hugh's nine-year-old daughter, Aithne, from the Norsemen who had captured them both. Although not outstanding writing, the story does have good pace and presents an interesting picture of the period.

R Cavanna, Betty. Angel on Skis; illus. by 7-9 Isabel Dawson. Morrow, 1957. 255p. \$2.95.

Fourteen-year-old Angela Dodge longed to join the skiers who thronged the slopes of Bromley Mountain, and deeply resented the circumstances that prevented her from doing so. Her mother ran a guest house for the skiers and there was not enough money for Angela to buy skis nor could her mother spare her from the time consuming work of keeping house and cooking for the guests. The story takes Angela through three years, during which time she manages to get both skis and skiing lessons. The results are not easily achieved and there are many tense moments in the Dodge household before Angela learns to accept her family responsibilities and thus win her mother's help and approval of her skiing activities. Angela's problems, including her dating life, are handled with a maturity and sympathetic understanding that give added depth and appeal to the book.

R Clark, Billy C. The Trail of the Hunter's 5-7 Horn; illus. by Veronica Reed. Putnam, 1957. 95p. \$2.75.

A sensitive, beautifully written story of a young boy in the Kentucky mountains who is given a pup that is blind in one eye. Bitterly ashamed of the dog at first, the boy gradually comes to an awareness of his responsibility for helping it to overcome its handicap, and in the process takes a long step toward his own maturing. The

story has something of the same quality of Goodbye, My Lady and The Yearling in its understanding of a young boy's reactions to a difficult situation.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Leatherneck; 5-12 The Training, Weapons and Equipment of the United States Marine Corps. Coward-McCann, 1957. 48p. \$2.

Following the usual pattern for his books in this series, the author presents in brief text and clear, well-chosen photographs something of the training, work and equipment of the U. S. Marine Corps.

M Cook, Lyn. Pegeen and the Pilgrim; il- 7-9 lus. by Pat and Bill Wheeler. St. Martin's, 1957. 248p. \$2.95.

Twelve-year-old Pegeen O'Hara became caught up in the excitement of the planning for the first Shakespeare festival in Stratford, Ontario, when one of the carpenters came to her mother's boarding house to live. At first Pegeen thought he was an actor because of his thorough knowledge of Shakespeare but even the more prosaic work seemed glamorous to her because it was a part of the festival. Although her own dream of having a small acting part in one of the plays was not realized, Pegeen did make friends with some of the actors and was given a bit part in the movie that was made about the festival. An exceedingly slow-paced story, with several extraneous episodes introduced that do little to forward the plot.

M Corbett, Scott. Midshipman Cruise. Lit- 7-9 tle, 1957. 246p. \$3.

Nelson Crane had been born into a Navy family, but had no desire to follow in his father's footsteps. He did agree to enroll at Annapolis, with the private reservation that he would resign at the end of the Midshipman Cruise which concluded the first year's program. On the cruise he was fated to pair off with Oscar Tomlinson, a voluble young man who liked everything about the Navy. In predictable fashion, Nelson had changed his mind by the end of the cruise and was as enthusiastic as Oscar. A slight story strung together for no other purpose than to provide the author with a framework for describing a typical Midshipman Cruise.

R de la Torre, Lillian. The Actress; Being 7-9 the Story of Sarah Siddons. Nelson, 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

A semi-fictionalized biography of Sarah Kemble Siddons that not only does full justice to her importance as one of the foremost English actresses of the late eighteenth century, but also gives

an interesting picture of the entire theater world of that period. Mrs. Siddons emerges as a fully developed, well-rounded character; the other people in her life are less adequately handled, being no more than one-dimensional foils for displaying some aspect of Mrs. Siddons' personality. This is, nonetheless, a satisfactory biography for readers who are interested in the historical development of the legitimate theater.

M Dorritt, Susan. Jellybean; The Puppy
K-1 Who Was Born in the Time of the
Snow; pictures by Pat Marriott.
Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 42p. \$2.50.

A slight story of a puppy who was born in the winter time and thought the world was always covered with snow. He received quite a shock when spring came and the snow melted but finally accepted grass as an adequate substitute for snow. Some of the illustrations are pleasing, a few of them will be meaningless to most young children.

R Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. All about
5-7 the Desert; illus. by Fritz Kredel.
Random House, 1957. 148p. \$1.95.
Concentrating on dry deserts, with only a brief description of cold, salt and wet deserts, the authors discuss the characteristics of deserts in general, the kinds of plants and animals to be found in them and some of the uses that mankind has made of deserts. At the end, the major deserts of Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South America are described in some detail. The material is interesting and well-handled both for reference and for general reading purposes.

NR Exler, Samuel. Growing and Changing;
K-1 pictures by Florence Exler. Lothrop,
1957. 32p. \$2.50.

An unsuccessful attempt at concept building. Through fairly common experiences, such as day and night, a burning match, a cooked egg, the author attempts to show that everything is in a constant state of change. That even the satisfying of hunger or the rest after play represents a change. The presentation of the concept is more successfully done in the text than in the illustrations which are sophisticated simulations of a child's art and frequently confuse the idea rather than clarifying it.

R Fanchiotti, Margherita. Stories from
5-12 the Bible; illus. by Joan Kiddell-
Monroe. Oxford, 1957. 239p. \$3.

A re-telling of some of the stories of the Bible, so woven together as to make a continuous narrative of man's religious pilgrimage from Abraham through the time of Christ. The stories

are told with all the dignity and reverence that their subject warrants, and yet in a style that is appealing both for reading aloud or for independent reading.

Ad Gallant, Kathryn. Mountains in the Sea;
6-8 Japan's Crowded Islands; maps and
drawings by Walter Galli. Coward-
McCann, 1957. 96p. (Challenge
Books). \$1.95.

An interesting discussion of some of Japan's present day problems growing out of the small size and mountainous nature of much of her land, plus her large population. The ways in which land and sea areas have been used in the past are described, followed by an account of some of the plans that are now under way to make improved use of the country's natural resources. The book has some minor weaknesses—the maps tend to be more confusing than helpful; some of the photographs are meaningless; the inconsistent use of page numbers makes the index difficult to use, and there are occasional over-simplified statements such as "Perry persuaded the Japanese to open their country to trade with the United States." On the whole, however, the book will serve for social studies classes that are concerned with the ways in which countries are attempting to solve some of their economic problems.

R Haywood, Carolyn. Eddie Makes Music.
2-4 Morrow, 1957. 191p. \$2.95.

More amusing antics by Eddie Wilson and his friends. This time all of the children at school are excited over the prospect of a school orchestra. Eddie holds back at first until one morning when he becomes so enamored of his own voice as he sings in the shower that he decides to be a vocalist with the orchestra. What happens after that is every bit as funny as Eddie's affairs in the earlier books have been.

M Hurd, Edith (Thacher) and Clement. Mr.
K-1 Charlie's Camping Trip. Lippincott,
1957. 33p. \$2.

Mr. Charlie and his wife decide to take a vacation and go camping. They gather up all their equipment, drive to a camp site and settle in. The next day Mr. Charlie goes fishing, but gets his line tangled in a tree and abandons the project. That night their sleep is disturbed first by a raccoon that has messed up all their supplies, then by rain and finally by mosquitoes. The next day they go home. Although they claim to have had a fine time, to most readers it will seem quite grim, and will certainly not encourage anyone to sample the joys of camping.

M Janice. The Lonely Little Lady and Her

3-6 Garden; illus. by Mariana. Lothrop, yrs. 1957. 32p. \$1.75.

The lonely little old lady solves her problem by planting a garden, gathering together some pets and then inviting in a little old man to share the vegetables and flowers from the garden and to talk to her. After that she is no longer lonely. A very slight story, with delicate, but pleasing illustrations.

R Jewett, Sophie. God's Troubadour; The 6-8 Story of Saint Francis of Assisi; with paintings by Giotto. Crowell, 1957. 115p. \$2.75.

New edition of a biography of St. Francis of Assisi that was first published in 1910. This edition is illustrated with reproductions of the Giotto frescoes in the church at Assisi, giving it value for art collections in addition to its appeal as a beautifully written life of St. Francis.

R Johnson, Crockett. Harold's Trip to the 3-2 Sky. Harper, 1957. 64p. \$2.

The intrepid Harold is off again drawing himself into and safely out of adventures. This time he starts after a glass of water and ends with a trip to Mars, encountering flying saucers and a Marian in the process, and returns safely home in time to draw up a chair for breakfast. Once again the author's straight-faced nonsense will be a delight to both children and adults.

R Johnson, Crockett. Terrible Terrifying 3-5 Toby. Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.50. yrs.

Toby is a small puppy who thinks himself wonderfully brave when he frightens away a squirrel, a frog, a bird and a milk truck (at least it moved away after he barked at it through the fence). When he faces himself in the mirror, however, it is another matter at first and he crawls under the bed, only to find that the other puppy has done likewise. Thereupon he decides he really is a terrible terrifying dog to have frightened another animal just like himself. Slight but amusing story that young children will enjoy.

M Keatley, John H. Annapolis Plebe. 7-9 Duell, 1957. 174p. \$3.

A routine story of plebe life at Annapolis. Ralph Miller is the typical hero for stories of this type, of fair intelligence and of good athletic ability. The latter is somewhat affected by his fear of water but, thanks to rather drastic measures resorted to by two of his friends, even that obstacle is overcome. The remainder of the story is the usual run of classes, dates and tangles with rules and regulations.

NR King, Robin. The Wondrous Egg of Abou. K-1 Dutton, 1957. 61p. \$2.50.

Abou, young son of an Ismir barber, finds an ostrich egg in the desert, takes it home in spite of the protests of his parents and, when it hatches, makes a pet of the baby ostrich. Trouble starts immediately for the ostrich eats everything in sight. Just as it is about to be exterminated it lays an egg and the people decide they really cannot kill a mother. Comic book story with caricaturish pictures of the people of Ismir.

Ad Ladd, Elizabeth Crosgrave. The Year of 4-6 the Pheasants; illus. by Mary Stevens. Morrow, 1957. 187p. \$2.75.

While in the swamp one day, hunting for a frog, Mary Ashmore saw a mother pheasant and her chicks. The sight reminded Mary of an ad for pheasant eggs she had seen in a farm journal and she persuaded her brother Paul to go in with her on a pheasant raising project. They did not tell their parents until after the eggs had hatched, and although Mr. Ashmore was not pleased he did agree to allow the two to keep the chicks. After months of coping with the problems of pheasant raising, Mary was about to decide that the venture had been a waste of time, but it began to seem worth while again when her father agreed to let her enter her birds in the local poultry show. A mild but pleasant story.

NR Lambert, Janet. The Precious Days. Dut- 7-9 ton, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Sandra Campbell thoroughly disliked the life she and her family led, living aboard a converted Chinese junk, sailing from country to country around the world, and doing all her school work through correspondence courses. She did not appreciate her artistic mother nor her writer-lecturer father and longed for more conventional parents, who would stay in one place. The story takes her through a brief stay at a Florida resort town where a boy her own age takes her in hand and by showing her that all families have some peculiarities makes her appreciate her own. Superficial characterizations and a quite snobbish approach to life.

R Lewellen, John Bryan. The Earth Satel- 4-7 lite; Man's First True Space Adventure; illus. by Ida Scheib. Knopf, 1957. 59p. \$2.25.

A clearly presented, interesting account of the building, launching and probable fate of the first man-made satellite. What will keep the satellite in the sky, how long it will stay up, how it will contribute to scientific knowledge and when it will be visible are all discussed in simple style, supplemented by drawings that help in explain-

ing the principles involved.

NR Longstreth, Thomas Morris. The Mac-
7-9 Quarrie Boys. Macmillan, 1957.
202p. \$2.75.

A melodramatic, frequently ungrammatical story of a young boy's efforts to escape the clutches of a teen-age gang. Colt Muir tried to leave the Hi-Gunners when he realized they had changed from a social club to a gang, but they followed him wherever he went. A chance to live with the MacQuarrie family on their Pennsylvania farm seemed a way of escape, but the gang turned up there to stage a series of robberies and a kidnapping before being brought to justice. In the meantime Colt was having trouble with the oldest MacQuarrie boy, who was jealous of him. Of course the problems are all neatly solved in the end. Colt is much too good to be true, and some of the theories expressed in the book, i.e., that boarding schools are the only schools where children can obtain a full education, are questionable.

M Lütgen, Kurt. Two Against the Arctic;
8-10 The Story of a Restless Life between
Greenland and Alaska; with maps and
drawings. Pantheon, 1957. 239p.
\$3.50.

A not too successful attempt to tell three stories in one. The author begins with an account of the 1,500 mile reindeer drive that was made across Alaska to Point Barrow in 1893 to save 275 icebound whalers from starvation. As the two men responsible for the drive make their way across the frozen wastes, one of them tells of two harrowing experiences which he presumably underwent in his younger days. These experiences involve the rescue of Charles Frances Hall's men from the Polaris in 1872 and Lord Eckersley's expedition to Labrador in 1867. Each of the two episodes could have been used to make a full length book, but the versions included here are too brief to do justice to their possibilities as stories and too long for satisfactory insertions into the story of the reindeer drive. One episode covers 42 pages and the other 52 pages, and in these long digressions the reader completely loses the thread of the original story. Although the book is based on actual people and events, there is no indication where reality ends and the author's story-telling begins.

NR Luxford, Nola. Kerry Kangaroo; pic-
K-2 tures by Oscar Fabrès. Whittlesey
House, 1957. 32p. \$2.25.

Kerry Kangaroo longs to take part in the Great Australian Kangaroo Race but she is too slow and too awkward. One day she finds an orphaned

koala bear cub, takes it in her pouch to save it from a dingo and then spends her days racing around the countryside hunting for eucalyptus trees for the cub to feed on. By the day of the race she is so strong and so fast she wins over all the other kangaroos. Forced humor in a story that is too long for reading aloud and too difficult for young readers to handle alone.

SpR McLean, Allan Campbell. Storm over
7-9 Skye; illus. by Shirley Hughes. Har-
court, 1957. 256p. \$3.

Niall was anxious for the return of his brother Ruairidh, a merchant seaman, as he felt that Ruairidh was the one person who would be able to solve the mystery of the sheep that had been disappearing all winter. The trouble had reached a point where every man in the village was suspicious of his neighbors, but they all liked and trusted Ruairidh. The working out of the mystery takes the two boys over the hills of Skye and through a summer of danger and suspense before the culprit is finally brought to light. Unfortunately the author has used Gaelic spellings of the characters' names throughout and has made such extensive use of Gaelic terms whose meaning is not clear from the context of the sentences that what would otherwise have been an exciting tale of mystery and intrigue becomes a task limited to those readers who may have enough stamina to work their way through the welter of unfamiliar words and phrases.

NR Mannix, Mary. Lee Devins, Copywriter.
7-9 Messner, 1957. 187p. \$2.95.

Lee Devins came to New York, fresh out of college and determined to start her career as a copy writer at the very top and not work her way up through secretarial jobs as so many people do. In remarkably short order she obtained a boy friend who directed her to a job with one of New York's leading department stores. Here she underwent the usual career story pattern of errors, rapid promotion, competition with and downfall of an unscrupulous rival, and the final accolade of success in her job—an engagement ring. Stereotyped plot and characterizations.

R Marriott, Alice Lee. The Black Stone
6-8 Knife; illus. by Harvey Weiss.
Crowell, 1957. 183p. \$3.

The heroic tale of five young Kiowa boys who left their home in what is now southwest Oklahoma to travel south in search of summer. Only four boys had planned to go, but twelve-year-old Wolf Boy ran away and joined the group, his interest being less in finding summer than in acquiring a black stone knife such as his grandfather had brought back many years before. The

story of the journey—through the lands of enemy Apaches, across the Rio Grande and into Mexico, where they had their first encounter with white men, is told with pace and suspense to hold the reader's interest throughout.

Ad Merrett, John. Captain James Cook; illus. by H. Lawrence Hoffman. Criterion, 1957. 192p. \$3.

An adequate, although not especially outstanding biography of Cook that includes all of the high spots of his life and explorations but never really brings him to life as a personality. Swenson's South Sea Shilling (Viking, 1952) is a more readable biography for the same age level.

NR Monckton, Ella. The Little Clown; illus. by Clifford Webb. Warne, 1957. 44p. \$1.25.

A quite dull variation on the Androcles and the Lion theme in which an unsuccessful clown wins fame by befriending a lion which in turn rewards him by allowing him to perform his tricks on its back.

Ad Moore, Nancy. The Unhappy Hippopotamus; pictures by Edward Leight. Vanguard, 1957. 42p. \$2.75.

Harriet decided she no longer wanted to be a hippopotamus, so she left her river home and moved into a house. She became so unhappy there that she forgot how to smile. Her friend the mouse suggested a party, a visit to a candy store, music, exercise, education, reading, collecting things, playing games, dancing, an Easter egg hunt, movies and finally a doctor, but nothing worked until Harriet herself solved the problem by returning to the river and her life as a hippopotamus. Rather forced text, but young children will enjoy the ridiculousness of the pictures in which a hippo tries to act like a person.

Ad Moyer, John W. Famous Indian Chiefs; illus. by James L. Vlasaty. Donohue, 1957. 86p. \$3.

Brief biographical sketches of the lives of eleven famous Indian chiefs. Included are: Red Jacket, Black Hawk, Tecumseh, Yoholo-Micco, Osceola, Red Cloud, Dull Knife, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, Chief Joseph and Quannah Parker. Each sketch is accompanied by a full-page, full-color portrait of the chief. The pages of text are decorated with black and white drawings that are interesting but purely decorative since they are not captioned and are not explained in the text. A satisfactory volume where additional materials on the Indians are needed.

NR Nelson, Marg. Storm at Anderson Point. Washburn, 1957. 186p. \$2.75.

When Sally Sullivan is forced to leave the exclusive boarding school where she has lived since the death of her parents and go to live with the uncle who is her guardian, she is at first resentful of the change in her plans and then shocked to see the sorry state of her uncle's finances. It does not help matters that her aunt and cousin are as resentful of her presence as she had been of the idea of living with them. During the course of the summer she helps her cousin recover the use of the leg that he had badly injured the year before, wins her aunt's affection, and shows the entire family how they can recover some of their losses by turning their place into a salmon fishing camp. Artificial dialog and wooden characterizations in a weak plot.

R O'Brien, Patrick. The Golden Ocean. Day, 1957. 316p. \$3.75.

Based on an actual voyage made by the man-of-war, Centurion, in 1740, this is the story of seventeen-year-old Peter Palafox, an Irish midshipman, and of his sailor friend and countryman, Sean. The Centurion was the flagship of a fleet of six ships sent to the Pacific to harass and plunder the Spanish galleons plying between Mexico and the Philippines. The author uses a light-hearted Irish touch in his story-telling that relieves the stark grimness of the hardships described without detracting from the accuracy of the picture of sailing life in this period. A smooth-paced, zestful tale of the sea.

Ad Ormondroyd, Edward. David and the Phoenix; illus. by Joan Raysor. Follett, 1957. 173p. \$2.75.

A modern fanciful tale about a young boy who climbs the mountain back of his new home and finds the phoenix. David does not fully understand what the phoenix is, but he quickly comes to realize the possibilities for fun that arise from the bird's supernatural powers. The story of their adventuring together, ending with the traditional pyre and the emergence of the new bird from the flames, is acceptable fantasy, although it seems somewhat unfortunate that the author has chosen to depict the phoenix as a blundering, rather foolish bird with none of the dignity that other tales attribute to him.

M Paulson, Jack. Side Line Victory; illus. by Bill Hamilton. Westminster, 1957. 185p. \$2.75.

Jerry Dale was too small to play on the high school football team, but he tried to make up for his handicap by serving as sports editor on the school paper. When several members of the

team tried to force the new coach to follow their suggestions for running the team, Jerry vacillated between scolding them and scolding the coach in his editorials. When he finally realized that the coach was right and the boys were wrong, he threw the power of the press behind the coach and brought peace and unity to the team in time to win a crucial game. Standard football fare, weakened by the choppy style and predictable plot.

R Payne, Joan Balfour. The Leprechaun of Bayou Luce. Hastings House, 1957. 60p. \$2.75.

It was Joss Turnipseed's hound dog Dunc who first met the Leprechaun, and the experience was an unhappy surprise to both of them. However, when the initial shock wore off and Joss had been properly enlightened as to the nature of leprechauns, the two joined forces to find a spell that would overcome some pirate ghosts who had stolen the leprechaun's gold. The account of their routing of the pirates is told with verve and humor, making a rollicking tale for the entire family to enjoy.

R Peattie, Donald Culross. The Rainbow Book of Nature; illus. by Rudolf Freund. World, 1957. 320p. \$4.95.

An exceptionally interesting, beautifully illustrated introduction to the world of nature. The contents are divided into seven sections: 1) "The World Is So Full . . ." (an introduction to nature in general); 2) Each a Realm (desert, pond, meadow, barn, forest, shore); 3) The Colors of Life; 4) The Forms of Life; 5) Hours and Seasons; 6) Living Together; and 7) This Earthly Home (also the depths of the sea and height of the sky). Except for the last section, the book deals primarily with places and things that are within the possible experience range of anyone living on this continent, making it an especially useful book for family use. The final sections contain suggestions of additional books to read, nature films and nature recordings.

NR Perrault, Charles. Cinderella and Other Stories; retold by Jeanne Cappe; tr. from the French by Marie Ponsot; illus. by J. L. Huens. Grosset, 1957. 31p. \$1.95.

Four well-known tales from Perrault: "Cinderella," "Puss-in-Boots," "Donkey Skin" and "The Fairies," retold in a dull style that is not appealing for reading aloud or as independent silent reading. The illustrations are strictly calendar art.

NR Power, Rhoda. From the Fury of the Northmen; And Other Stories of

Events that Shaped Our Destiny in 8th to 19th Century England; illus. by Pauline Baynes. Houghton, 1957. 247p. \$3.

Sixteen stories about real people and events of English history from the Danish raids of the 8th century to the beginnings of trade unions in the 19th century. Some of the episodes are rather interesting, but the writing throughout is quite unexceptional and many of the events will have little or no meaning for American children. The sections involving Negroes are exceedingly objectionable, introducing an unrealistic dialect and stereotypes of phrasing and description that are unnecessarily offensive and frequently unrealistic of the period.

R Raymund, Carl. The Little Man Dressed 2-4 in Red. Harper, 1957. 24p. \$2.75. yrs.

A repetitive nonsense story about a little man who rides into town each morning and knocks over all the churches, houses, stores and trees. The people try to catch him but cannot and so they work all day putting things to rights. That night they go to sleep—and back he comes. The text and illustrations are repeated three times and at the end the people catch the little man and he never comes again. A type of nonsense that should appeal to young children, who will also like the bright reds, greens and yellows of the pictures. A book that would be fun to read aloud at bed-time or nap-time.

NR Reason, Joyce. To Capture the King!; 7-9 The Story of a Jacobite Plot; illus. by David Walsh. Roy, 1957. 144p. \$3.

A poorly-written, quite melodramatic story of the abortive Jacobite plotting of 1752. The story centers around two children, Prudence Winter and her cousin Kit Merriweather, who save a wounded stranger and, through him, help to put down the threatened uprising. In addition to weak writing, the book suffers from an exceedingly unattractive format.

NR Scott, Robert Lee. Samburu the Elephant; 7-9 illus. by Frank Hubbard. Dodd, 1957. 151p. \$2.75.

Samburu is a giant, semi-legendary elephant of Kenya, Africa. In a short section at the first of the book, the author writes a highly personified account of Samburu's life in which the elephant is given all the attributes of a human being. Next the account switches to the author's own experiences in hunting the elephant. After many days and considerable hardships he found the elephant but then could not bring himself to kill it. The excess of personification weakens the writing considerably, and many readers will be

puzzled by the hunter's abrupt change for which they have not been prepared before.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Play with Seeds; illus. by Helen Ludwig. Morrow, 1957. 96p. \$2.50.

In a style similar to that of her other "Play with . . ." books, the author introduces the young reader to seeds—the history of their evolution, details of their structure and their varied uses by mankind. The clear, informative text is supplemented by drawings and by easy experiments that the child can do at home with a minimum of equipment.

R Sleigh, Barbara. Carbonel; The King of the Cats; illus. by V. H. Drummond. Bobbs-Merrill, 1957. 253p. \$2.75.

An amusing bit of fantasy involving a young girl who unwittingly buys a witch's broom and finds herself caught up in a project for freeing the cat, Carbonel, who comes with the broom, from the witch's spell. For help she has a young boy and, of course, the cat. As the three go about town trying to find the witch's hat, pot and book of spells, they meet a variety of entertaining people and have enough adventures to keep the reader's interest sustained throughout. The involving of adults in the final magic spell seems unrealistic, but this becomes a minor point when the story as a whole is considered.

M Stanford, Don. The Horsemasters. Funk & Wagnalls, 1957. 212p. \$2.95.
Dinah Wilcox, an American girl, persuades her father to let her use a \$1,000 inheritance on a summer at the Owen-Allerford Riding School in England. She hopes to earn a Preliminary Instructor's Certificate that will allow her to work her way through Wells College as an Assistant Riding Mistress. The story covers the events of the summer in a detailed description of horsemanship from the mucking out of stalls to the techniques of dressage. This is a story for the confirmed horse fan, and, except for the concept that people learn fastest and work best when united in hatred of a teacher or leader, is acceptable, if limited, fare.

R Stoddard, Hope. Symphony Conductors of the U. S. A. Crowell, 1957. 405p. \$5.

A collection of 28 brief biographies of major symphony conductors in this country; four of conductors who are not attached to a specific symphony orchestra but who make frequent guest appearances in this country, and over four hundred thumbnail sketches of leaders of

small municipal orchestras, school and college orchestras, etc. The wealth of information is presented in a manner that makes it useful for reference purposes and at the same time quite entertaining reading for the person who may simply want to know what these men are like. The first chapter discusses the role of the conductor and his importance in bringing good music to many people throughout this country.

R Tannenbaum, Beulah and Stillman, Myra. 5-7 Understanding Maps; Charting the Land, Sea, and Sky; illus. by Rus Anderson. Whittlesey House, 1957. 144p. \$2.75.

A clear, fairly simply written discussion of maps—what their purpose is, how they have been developed through the years, different methods of projection, and some of the problems presented in mapping land, seas, and the stars. There are simple experiments and line drawings to help explain some of the principles involved. This is neither as technical nor as difficult a book as the Raisz, Mapping the World (Abelard-Schuman, 1956) but is equally well-written and should serve as a useful volume for introducing the subject to young readers.

M Thomas, John. Leonardo da Vinci; with 7-9 illus. from the sketchbooks of Leonardo da Vinci. Criterion, 1957. 191p. \$3.

An oversimplified biography of Leonardo, the book seems easy enough to read at first glance and then, through choppy sentences and poor continuity of events, becomes somewhat confusing. The vocabulary and concepts require a more mature reading ability than the format of the book suggests, and the text is more a recital of Leonardo's many accomplishments than a characterization of the man himself.

M Ward, Nanda and Haynes, Bob. Beau. K-1 Ariel, 1957. 40p. \$2.75.

Beau is a black cat living on the "Street of the Fishing Cat" in Paris who manages to get through each summer by catching fish in the Seine. In the winter, when he can no longer catch fish, he often goes hungry. One autumn Beau decides to force Monsieur Mechant, a greedy, selfish man, to share his food during the winter months ahead. He first asks politely and then when Monsieur Mechant refuses calls the cats of the area together to make life so miserable for the man that he finally gives in. The text is written in a combination of prose and labored, awkward rhymes. The illustrations, of the cats and of this section of Paris are delightful and give the book its major value and appeal.