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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

- Ad Anderson, Neil. Freckle Face; illus. 1-3 by Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1957. 33p. \$2.50.

Ann hated her freckles and tried many ways to get rid of them until a friendly neighbor helped her to see that there can be beauty even in freckles. A rather slight story but one that could be consoling for young girls who are similarly afflicted.

- M Barr, Cathrine. On with the Chase. 3-5 Oxford, 1957. 32p. \$2. yrs.

A cat hears a mouse and chases it through the house until it finally gains the safety of its hole. Poorly rhymed text and unexceptional drawings.

- NR Bennett, Eve. I, Judy. Messner, 1957. 7-9 192p. \$2.95.

Judy Lansing is an unknown ugly duckling at school until her senior year when she is given a much coveted place on the school newspaper and gains a boy friend. The boy is inclined to be something of a juvenile delinquent and his

presence does nothing to help the already strained relations between Judy and her widowed mother. However his friendship does give Judy a degree of social confidence she had not had before and in breaking with him she gains a better understanding of her mother. The problems set forth are serious ones but their treatment is too superficial for the book to have any value.

- Ad Bible. The Story of Noah's Ark; retold 1-3 from the Bible by Oscar Weigle; illus. by Art Seiden. Grosset, 1957. 26p. \$1.95.

A re-telling of the story of the Flood that follows closely the traditional Bible version. The illustrations are colorful and should have appeal, although Noah looks so much like Santa Claus that the resemblance may prove confusing for young children who see the book at Christmas time. The text is acceptable for reading aloud, although it does not have the flavor of the King James version.

- R Blough, Glenn Orlando. Who Lives in This House?; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

The old house on Highway 12 seemed deserted,

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but actually was teeming with life, at least during the summer. Robins had nested on a window ledge, a mud dauber wasp had built a nest on the ceiling, bees had a hive in a hole in the wall, squirrels lived in an old trunk in the attic, a skunk family lived under the front porch, and spiders were to be found all over the place. Each animal is described and pictured as it goes about its daily routine, and the place of each in the balance of nature is indicated. A helpful book for developing a child's awareness of the animal life that goes on around him, although its format will be discouraging for individual use.

NR Bombard, Alain. *Dr. Bombard Goes to Sea*; illus. by Samivel. Vanguard, 1957. 61p. \$2.75.

Dr. Bombard is a French doctor who actually made the voyage described here. In order to prove his theory that shipwrecked people could survive on sea water, raw fish and plankton, he set forth in a small boat on a sixty-five day voyage across the Atlantic. Unfortunately he has attempted to tell his story for young readers and has presented it in a condescending tone that is highly irritating and that loses all the potential excitement and interest of the real voyage. The writing is too difficult for children to handle independently and too unpleasantly condescending for adults to enjoy reading it aloud to children.

NR Brennan, Joe. *Tuna Clipper Challenge*. 7-9 Dodd, 1957. 209p. \$2.75.

Louis Larson was pleased to be allowed to go with his father and older brother on one of the Gull Clipper's regular tuna fishing trips and was determined to prove himself worthy of being kept on as a regular hand. In rapid succession he twice almost loses his life, one time by taking a foolish chance for no purpose other than to demonstrate his "courage"; he reforms the bully of the tuna fleet by saving the man from drowning, and he rescues two boys who are in danger of being eaten by a school of barracuda. For all its melodrama, the book does not give as vividly realistic a picture of the life of tuna fishers as that found in the much better written Sea Boots, by Du Soe (Longmans, 1949).

Ad Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). *Christmas Miniature*; illus. by Anna Marie Magagna. Day, 1957. 40p. \$2.75.

Somewhat precious story of Christmas Eve and its special meaning for a small boy. Six-year-old Sandy crept downstairs at midnight to see if Santa had come yet and discovered

a small mouse hiding in the creche while the cat, Snips, crouched in front ready to spring. Sandy rescued the mouse and saw it safely restored to its babies, and then went back to bed with Snips, happy to have witnessed a small Christmas miracle. The style is awkward and detracts from what would otherwise be a pleasing story for reading aloud at Christmas time.

R Carroll, Ruth (Robinson) and Latrobe. 3-5 *Tough Enough's Pony*. Oxford, 1957. 64p. \$2.75.

Beanie Tatum and his family are still visiting Beanie's great-grandparents at their summer camp on Shackleford Banks off the coast of North Carolina. One day Tough Enough, Beanie's dog, finds a wild colt that is almost dead from an infected hoof. Beanie helps nurse the colt back to health and his father finally consents to taking it with them back to their mountain home. Children who have liked the earlier stories about Beanie and his dog will find this one equally enjoyable reading.

Ad Commager, Henry Steele. *The First Book of American History*; pictures by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1957. 62p. \$1.95.

An exceedingly readable overview of United States history from early colonial days to the present time. Because of the brevity of the text the author has had to resort to some rather sweeping generalizations, but he has, for the most part, avoided misleading oversimplifications. The text will probably have more meaning for readers with some familiarity with the subject than for younger readers who are approaching American history for the first time.

NR Cumming, Primrose. *The Mystery Pony*; illus. by Maurice Tulloch. Criterion Books, 1957. 213p. \$3.50.

Toni and Jane Dare were unhappy at the thought of leaving their farm home even though they knew the move was necessary for their father's health. They cheered up a bit when their mother arranged for them to be allowed to take their ponies to the new home, which was a children's guest house run by a cousin of their mother. The new life became even more bearable when they became involved in the secret plans of the other children to buy a pony that was about to be sold for dog meat. The English setting has some interest but the story begins in a slow, labored and quite dull style that only gradually lightens as it continues and never becomes very interesting.

Ad Dahl, Borghild Margarethe. The Cloud Shoes; illus. by Hans Helweg. Dutton, 1957. 60p. \$2.95.

A fanciful account of how the people of Norway came to have skis. During a famine one winter, an elf appeared to King Brynne and offered to show him how to get food for his people if he would, in turn, give his only son to the elf. The king and queen sadly agreed, whereupon the king was provided with a pair of magic sticks to wear on his feet. They took him to the lowlands and back to the north country with the sacks of food trailing behind. When all the people were gathered at the castle for a feast, the king's son reappeared and brought with him skis for everyone. The ending, in which the skis are named, is rather flat, and the first picture is completely misleading, but the story is otherwise a pleasing piece of fantasy.

Ad Daniel, Anita. The Story of Albert Schweitzer; illus. with photographs by Erica Anderson and drawings by W. T. Mars. Random House, 1957. 175p. (World Landmark Books). \$1.95.

A readable, although not particularly exceptional biography of Schweitzer, emphasizing his philosophical teachings. As is typical of books in this series, the writing is choppy and rather disjointed. Schweitzer never emerges as a very real person although the reader will get a clearly stated summary of his philosophy of life. Acceptable where there is need for additional biographies of Schweitzer.

R Dillon, Eilís. The Island of Horses. 7-9 Funk & Wagnalls, 1957. 218p. \$2.95.

Suspense and excitement mark this well-written, swift-paced story of adventure off the coast of Ireland. Fifteen-year-old Danny MacDonagh and sixteen-year-old Pat Conroy thought nothing more than to spice the fairly routine job of catching eels by a visit to the little known Isle of Horses when they set forth one day. Then they found a beautiful colt that Pat wanted for his older brother who was trying to persuade a mainlander to let him marry the man's daughter. The colt was to be used as a bribe, but it also proved the main factor in involving the two boys with a horse thief who had been using the island as a hide-out. Before the man was captured the boys had gone through a series of desperate, but logically presented, adventures that will hold the reader's interest unflinchingly throughout.

M Eberstadt, Isabel (Nash) and Frederick.

3-5 Where Did Tuffy Hide?; pictures yrs. by Leonard Weisgard. Little, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

Tuffy is a small dog who cannot stand a noise. Anything from a sneeze to the striking of the clock will send him scurrying into a hiding place. The text poses a series of situations in which Tuffy is thus frightened and finds unusual places in which to hide. There is not much substance to the text and there is too much to a page for young children, but they will find humor in the incongruity of some of Tuffy's hiding places.

Ad Faulkner, Nancy. Undecided Heart. 7-9 Doubleday, 1957. 207p. \$2.95. Drusilla Anthony finds herself torn between her belief in the infallibility of her father's judgment (he is a Tory) and her love for Peter Griffiths (a Quaker turned rebel). She is even more upset when her beloved older brother, Jeff, also joins Washington's army. Her struggle to come to terms with her divided loyalties and her final turn to the side of American freedom makes an interesting story, not especially distinguished as to writing but acceptable as an additional piece of historical fiction.

M Fiedler, Jean. Teddy and the Ice Cream Man; pictures by Leonard Kessler. 3-4 Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 58p. \$2.50.

Rather pointless story of a young boy who gets a job as assistant to an ice cream man. Teddy had never eaten any flavor except vanilla so when the children on the route began asking for recommendations, he decided to try all flavors at once in order to know what to tell them. He survived the experiment, but never tried it again. The subject will undoubtedly have interest for modern children, but there is not much to the story, and it is too drawn out for the interest to be sustained.

R Fisher, Anne (Benson). Stories California Indians Told; illus. by Ruth Robbins. Parnassus, 1957. 110p. \$2.95.

Twelve legends retold from the folk lore of the California Indians. As with most Indian legends, these deal primarily with animals and with explanations of phenomena of nature. The stories are well told and make interesting reading. The book will also be a useful addition to story-telling collections as additional source material or for comparative purposes.

R Floethe, Louise Lee. The Farmer and His Cows; with illus. by Richard

Floethe. Scribner, 1957. 32p.
\$2.75.

Contrasts between past and present methods of farming are presented in brief text and colorful, informative pictures. The child sees how the use of machines has aided the farmer, although he has still to work hard and his work is still of major importance to everyone. A useful and attractive book for units on farm life.

NR Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Bus
1-2 Driver; illus. by Katherine Evans.
Childrens Press, 1957. 32p. \$2.

As Johnny watches the drivers of the school bus, the city bus and a cross-country bus, he decides that this is the job for him. The brief, simple text is written at a beginning second grade reading level. The illustrations are unexceptional and, in one instance, quite improbable. At the beginning of a cross-country trip, Johnny is pictured sitting in the aisle seat with his mother in the window seat, a possible but not very probable situation for a boy Johnny's age.

M Hader, Berta (Hoerner) and Elmer.
K-2 Ding Dong Bell; Pussy's in the
Well. Macmillan, 1957. 47p.
\$2.50.

An abandoned cat wandered into a small town, was rebuffed at all the nicer homes, and was finally given shelter by a poor family. One day it fell into an old well on the family's property and, when rescued, was clinging to a newspaper filled with money. After a reasonable time had elapsed during which no one claimed the money, it was given to the poor family as a reward for taking care of the cat. A highly moralistic story with a tinge of personification in the actions of the cat. The illustrations are pleasing, although not the best work of this author-artist team.

NR Halladay, Anne M. The Apple Tree
4-6 House; illus. by Frank C. Nicholas.
Friendship Press, 1957. 125p.
\$2.50.

A quite contrived, purposive story designed to show how people of various racial and cultural backgrounds can learn to live together. The Burns family, Negroes, move from their rather delapidated house to the newly developed suburb of Urban Gardens. There they make friends with other families, who represent white middle-class, Japanese-American, and Spanish-American groups, and bring a change of attitude to the one family who object to having Negroes in the community. The changes are effected much too quickly and

too easily for the book to be useful as a study of community relationships and the writing is not good enough for it to satisfy as a story for general reading interest.

M Hawkins, Quail. Who Wants an Apple;
K-2 illus. by Lolita and David Granahan.
Holiday House, 1957. 39p. \$2.

Five-year-old Apple begs to be allowed to help with the moving by riding in the van to the new home in order to see that everything gets there safely. A sudden snow storm proves frightening but when the new home (a tent) is reached, father and mother are there to reassure her that all is well. There are some elements to the story that may be confusing for modern children and that are never fully explained—why the moving was done by a horse drawn van and why they moved into a tent instead of a house. The book was originally published fifteen years ago and has been re-issued in a new format with better quality binding and paper. The text is easy enough for beginning readers to handle alone.

Ad Hoff, Carol. Head to the West; illus. by
5-7 William Moyers. Follett, 1957.
159p. \$2.95.

The von Dohn family reached Texas in 1840 after a long sea voyage that almost ended in disaster when their ship went aground near Galveston. They made their way overland to the Guadalupe River where Mr. von Dohn's brother, Lewis, had already settled. After a brief spell of farm living, during which time the children discovered the lost family fortune and their cabin was burned by Indians who feared Mrs. von Dohn's piano, the family moved to Galveston where Mr. von Dohn planned to open a law office. A pleasant, although not outstanding, story of life in early Texas.

R Johnson, Elizabeth. The Little Knight;
3-5 illus. by Ronni Solbert. Little,
1957. 56p. \$2.75.

Amusing tale of a rebel princess who wants to be a knight, not marry one, and of a rebel prince who objects to namby-pamby princesses. The two get together with the princess disguised as a knight and the prince disguised as a stableboy and, between them, perform the three tasks which the princess's father has set for her suitors. Their identities are then disclosed and they live happy together ever after. The quality of the writing does not quite live up to the originality of the plot or the humor of the illustrations, but the story will have appeal for readers who like their fantasy with a light touch.

R Keith, Harold. Rifles for Watie. Crowell, 8-12 1957. 382p. \$3.75.

An exceptionally well-written story of the Civil War as it was fought in the western states of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and eastern Texas. Jefferson Davis Bussey was small for his age but he was filled with a burning desire to join the Union Army and help fight the bushwhackers who threatened the peace and safety of his Kansas farm home. His experiences, as an infantryman, cavalryman and scout, in which service he was instrumental in thwarting the efforts of the rebel Cherokee leader Watie to obtain repeating rifles, make a richly rewarding tale of courage. Jeff's change from a somewhat carefree boy who saw only one side to the war and was eager to get into a real battle, to a mature young man capable of understanding, even though he did not agree with, the beliefs of the enemy, gives the story added depth and reality of characterizations.

SpC Komroff, Manuel and Odette. Bible 3-5 Dictionary for Boys and Girls; illus. by Steele Savage. Winston, 1957. 84p. \$2.95.

Over 750 names, words and phrases with special Biblical meaning are defined, with pronunciation indicated and some references to related words or names given. The book will have its primary value for Sunday School collections where questions about information of this nature are most likely to occur.

R Langstaff, John M. Over in the Meadow; 3-6 with pictures by Feodor Rojankovs-
yrs. sky. Harcourt, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.
A picture book edition of a favorite nursery rhyme set forth in verse and gaily colorful illustrations. The pictures are filled with details that young children will enjoy poring over, and the verse and pictures could be used together as a beginning counting experience. Music is included at the end.

R Lauber, Patricia. Valiant Scots; People 7-9 of the Highlands Today; maps and drawings by Donald Pitcher. Coward-McCann, 1957. 96p. (Challenge Books). \$1.95.

Following the same pattern as the earlier titles in the series, the author discusses the present day economic problems facing the Scots Highlanders, with a brief resume of the factors responsible for the creation of those problems and a more detailed discussion of some of the things that are being done to correct or overcome them. The material is interestingly presented through text and

photographs.

R Lawson, Robert. The Great Wheel. 6-8 Viking, 1957. 188p. \$3.
When Conn Kilroy was twelve years old his Aunt Honora read his fortune in the tea leaves of his cup: "Your fortune lies to the west. Keep your face to the sunset and follow the evening star, and one day you'll ride the greatest wheel in all the world." The prophecy did not mean much until Conn left his home in Ireland to come to the United States, where he eventually landed in Chicago helping to build the first Ferris wheel for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. In some ways this last book by the late Robert Lawson is also his best, combining as it does his superb wit and deft characterizations with a subject that should have wide appeal.

R McGinley, Phyllis Louise. The Year K-1 without a Santa Claus; pictures by Kurt Werth. Lippincott, 1957. 32p. \$3.

Santa decided one year he needed a vacation and would not make his yearly rounds on Christmas Eve. At first the children were dismayed by the news, but then they decided he was right and they would send him gifts instead. Santa was so surprised he quickly recovered from his fatigue and went his usual way. A rollicking tale, in rhyme and humorous illustrations.

R MacKellar, William. Wee Joseph; pic- 3-5 tures by Ezra Jack Keats. Whit-
tlesey House, 1957. 76p. \$2.50.
To Davie the pup was a "grand dog" in spite of its scrawny size and coat of many colors, and it seemed perfectly natural to name the dog, Joseph, because of that coat. His father's rage at the sight of the dog, a useless object in a household where every penny counted, was increased by the thought that Davie had paid a whole sixpence for it. He decreed that the dog should be given away, or that failing, should be put in the River Angus. Davie prayed for a small miracle, and it did indeed seem a miracle that when he reached the river it had disappeared. In the face of such faith, his father relented even after he learned that a newly constructed power dam was responsible for the disappearance. A heart-warming story enhanced by the slight suggestion of a Scottish burr. The illustrations add nothing to the appeal of the story and frequently contradict the text.

NR Mazet, Horace S. Shark Fishing off the 7-9 Great Barrier Reef; illus. by

Russell Peterson. *Ariel*, 1957.
215p. \$3.

A somewhat melodramatic story of two young boys, one an Australian and the other a native from one of the islands, who decide to earn some money by fishing for sharks and rendering out the oil from the shark livers. Some of the details of their operation have interest, but the story degenerates when the boys become involved in a search for a lost bed of pearl oysters and in a fight with pearl poachers. The quite mediocre writing does nothing to help the story.

R Means, Florence (Crannell). *Reach for 7-9 a Star*. Houghton, 1957. 247p. \$3. Fisk University forms the background for Mrs. Means's latest story. Toni Deval, daughter of a Denver druggist, decides at the last minute to attend Fisk instead of D.U. so she will not have to answer her friends' questions about her broken romance with Ferd Fenton, rising young Negro violinist. At Fisk she makes new friends, meets problems of Southern prejudice for the first time, and begins to see a new pattern of direction in her own life. An enjoyable story of college and teen-age romance that is also a well-rounded picture of Negro life at an economic level too frequently ignored in children's books.

NR Meynell, Laurence. *Bridge under the 7-9 Water; A Story of the Age of Steam*; illus. by J. S. Goodall. Roy, 1957. 159p. (Pageant of History Books). \$3.

A highly fictionalized account of the Brunels' attempt to build a tunnel under the Thames River in 1825. The story is told through the experiences of sixteen-year-old Tom Dewley, a fictional character who becomes a friend and assistant to Isambard Brunel and is in on the work from its early days to the final disastrous flooding that led to its temporary abandonment. The style is not especially outstanding and the small type and unattractive format of the book will keep it from having appeal. Readers wanting information about the tunnel will find the section on Thames tunnels in *White's Famous Subways and Tunnels of the World* (Random House, 1953) more satisfactory.

R Minarik, Else Holmelund. *Little Bear*; 1-2 pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1957. 63p. \$3.25.

Four stories about Little Bear, a charming creature who will delight young readers as he persuades his mother to make him a winter outfit—only to discover his fur coat is all he

needs; makes himself some birthday soup—and then is surprised with a birthday cake; takes an imaginary trip to the moon, and finally goes happily off to sleep as his mother tells him a story about "Little Bear." The text is easy enough for upper first grade and beginning second grade readers to handle alone. The greatest appeal of the book will come from Sendak's illustrations.

R Munari, Bruno. *Animals for Sale*. 3-6 World, 1957. 10p. \$2.

yrs. *Tic, Tac, and Toc*.
World, 1957. 14p. \$2.

Who's There? Open the Door! World, 1957. 14p. \$2.

Three of the well-known Italian artist-writer's picture books translated into English and printed in the same clear, pure colors that have helped to make the originals favorites in Italy. In the first book the child is given a choice of animals from a flamingo to a centipede (with page size diminishing as the size of the animal offered grows smaller). Each one is rejected and then to the question "What in the world do you want?" comes the unexpected and humorous answer, "Roast turkey and potatoes, please." The second book recounts the lives of Tic, Tac and Toc, three birds, as each tells how he came to be in a cage. Tic and Tac started life as free birds and through a series of misfortunes found themselves in a cage and under the care of the boy, Charlie. Toc has no story—he was born in the cage. The final book is, like the first one, a series of questions and answers. This time the pictures begin with Lucy the giraffe and the question of what is in her crate. As the content of each succeeding container is identified, the containers themselves and the pages of the book grow smaller until the final small parcel opens to disclose "A little ant with a grain of wheat for the winter." The freshness of the humor and originality of the text, pictures and book design will delight young children and adults alike.

NR Nett, Roger. *Thorntree Meadows*. 1-3 Houghton, 1957. 181p. \$2.50.

An animal fantasy that borrows freely from Milne for text and Shepard for the illustrations, but that fails to come up to either standard. The story involves four animals: a hippopotamus, an Aardvark, Hamlet, who is presumably a pig although never fully identified as such, and a yarn dog, all of whom live in Thorntree Meadow. Their adventures through a year from one spring to the next, are mildly tranquilizing but without enough humor or suspense to have much appeal.

SpR Ogburn, Charlton. The Bridge; illus. 7-9 by Evaline Ness. Houghton, 1957. 68p. \$2.75.

A poignant, sensitive story of the efforts of a young girl and her grandfather to protect their simple way of life from the encroachments of modern civilization. Both realize they are fighting a losing battle, but they unite forces to hold on as long as possible to the natural wilderness of their island home. A maturely written story that will have its appeal for the more perceptive of the teen-age readers.

Ad Peare, Catherine Owens. Washington Irving: His Life; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Holt, 1957. 128p. \$2.25.

A pleasant, although not outstanding, semi-fictionalized biography of Washington Irving. The early years of his life are recounted with more spark and appeal than are the later years. The style is relatively simple but the age reader who would be attracted by the style and format of the book would probably be too young to enjoy Irving's own writings.

R Person, Tom. The Rebellion of Ran Chatham; decorations by Avery Johnson. Longmans, 1957. 185p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Ran Chatham decided he was not going to attend school that fall and would even leave home if forced to do so. When his father called his bluff he gathered his camping equipment and his hound pup, Bugler, and moved to a shack near the Big Swamp. Here he planned to live off the woods, perhaps pick some cotton to supplement his income until he could get a trap line going. The life, however, did not prove as free or as rewarding as Ran had anticipated and after a month that contained more misery than pleasure, he returned home, having convinced himself that real freedom comes through education. Ran's change in attitude is convincingly handled and his adventures are all probable ones. The author is almost overwhelmingly adept in his description of the discomforts Ran undergoes from mosquitoes and the oppressive August heat of the swamp.

Ad Pilkington, Roger. The Chesterfield Gold; illus. by Piet Klaasse. St. Martin's, 1957. 253p. \$2.75.

What started out to be a pleasant but fairly routine trip from England to France in their motor cruiser, Dabchick, turned into an exciting adventure for the three Braxome children when they met an American yacht that, unknown to its occupants, was being used to

smuggle stolen gold out of England. Since the Braxome children's father was not only the Scotland Yard Chief Inspector, but was even then in France trying to trace the gold, the children had no doubt as to the proper course to pursue. The book is weakened somewhat by the heavy reliance on coincidence and by the ridicule of the French police, but in general the plot is adequately handled and there is considerable information about small boats to give added appeal.

NR Power-Waters, Alma (Shelley). Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity; illus. by John Lawn. Farrar, 1957. 190p. (Vision Books). \$1.95.

Fictionalized biography of Elizabeth Bayley Seton who founded the American order of Sisters of Charity. Born a Protestant, Elizabeth Seton turned to Catholicism following the death of her husband and devoted the remainder of her life to the establishment of Catholic schools in this country. The characterizations are never fully realized, primarily because of the inept writing that tends to short choppy sentences, many of them no more than two words in length, and bewildering non sequiturs, i.e. "It was two years since Dr. Bayley's death, and still William's health grew worse."

NR Reeder, Russell Potter. West Point Second Classman. Duell, 1957. 238p. \$3.50.

Clint Lane, now in his third year at West Point, is once more facing the same problems that plagued him during his first two years. He still considers himself to be excellent leadership material, but has not yet learned to discipline himself, much less those around him. His academic achievements are still adequate in those classes only which interest him; in all others he frequently allows himself to reach a near failing mark—not because he cannot do the work but merely because it bores him. As in the earlier book the hero breaks as many rules as he can; the villain follows all the rules and is sneered at by the hero and author alike for so doing. The interesting descriptions of West Point life are more than offset by the negative characteristics of the main characters.

Ad Robinson, Virginia. Maggie's Champion. 6-8 Lothrop, 1957. 187p. \$2.75.

Thirteen-year-old Maggie Proctor wanted a hobby for the summer and settled on a dog, even though her father and older sister violently opposed the idea. Sue Proctor was won over to Maggie's side when she realized that a dog could give her a chance to meet Mac MacNeil,

whose father owned a kennel of thoroughbred collies, and, with their mother's help, they gained a reluctant acceptance of the idea from Mr. Proctor. Maggie ended up with two dogs, and the story is primarily concerned with her growing understanding of which one was the real champion. A fairly routine dog story but there are flashes of humor and insight into Proctor family relationships to give it added appeal.

R Sootin, Laura. Let's Go to a Police Station; illus. by Sidney Quinn. Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$1.95.

A description of the organization of a typical police station and of the kinds of work that are performed there. As in the other books in this series, children are pictured in the illustrations but the text is not fictionalized. The information is interestingly presented and will be easy enough for middle elementary grade children to handle independently.

R Speare, Elizabeth George. Calico Captive; illus. by W. T. Mars. Houghton, 1957. 274p. \$3.50.

Based on real people and real events, this is the fictionalized account of the experiences of young Miriam Willard who, with her sister, brother-in-law, their three children, and a neighbor, was captured by the Indians and taken to Montreal to be sold as a slave. The author has drawn her characters with a deft touch and paints a vivid picture of the danger and difficulty of such an experience without ever resorting to sensationalism or melodrama. An exceptionally mature story that should have wide appeal.

NR Spratt, Barnett. Topsy and the Circuit Rider; illus. by Leonard Vosburgh. Abingdon, 1957. 128p. \$1.75.

Ten-year-old David (Topsy) Wainright Hall had no one left when his grandmother died, and the Brame family with whom the two had lived on Thicketty Mountain did not want to keep him any longer. A friendly circuit riding preacher offered to take the boy with him on his rounds and try to find an uncle who was David's only known relative. They learned that the uncle had died, but discovered a wealthy great-uncle in Baltimore. David hated to leave the preacher but decided to accept the opportunity his relatives offered to attend college and train for the ministry. Very mediocre in style and plot, with no real feeling for the period (1790).

Ad Summers, James L. The Wonderful Time. Westminster, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Nineteen-year-old Larry Richmond returns to high school after two years in the army convinced he can pick up where he left off when he dropped school in a fit of anger two years before. He chooses the prettiest girl in school to date and settles down to be a typical high school junior. It is soon evident to everyone except Larry that life is not quite that simple and the changes that have occurred in him during those two years are not to be lightly dismissed. Through the wise help of his teachers and his girl friend's understanding, Larry learns to face himself honestly and clearly and to accept the fact that the two years can never be recaptured. A penetrating study of teen-age growth that is much less marred by the author's quite sophomoric humor and sarcasm than some of his earlier stories have been.

R Swift, Hildegard (Hoyt). The Edge of April; A Biography of John Burroughs; illus. by Lynd Ward. Morrow, 1957. 316p. \$3.95.

An excellent, maturely written biography of John Burroughs that brings him to life as an individual and creates for the reader something of his intense delight in the wonders of the natural world around him. His unhappy marriage is dealt with realistically and sympathetically. Burroughs did not have an exciting life and his biography will have its appeal more to the introspective readers who can find pleasure in watching the development of a personality than to those readers who want stories spiced with danger.

NR Trease, Geoffrey. The Gates of Bannerdale. Warne, 1957. 164p. \$2.

In this fifth "Bannermere" story, the author concentrates on Bill Melbury as he tries for and wins a scholarship to Hereford College, Oxford, and on through the events of his first year there. Penny Morchard is on hand as a student at St. Elizabeth's College, Oxford, and the story is about evenly divided between the ups and downs of their romance and Bill's efforts to solve the mystery of the Hereford silver that was lost during the early days of the English Civil War. Both matters are happily resolved in the end. A rather run-of-the-mill college story that has none of the pace or suspense of the author's historical fiction.