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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

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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 Adler, Irving. How Life Began; illus. by 9-12 Ruth Adler. Day, 1957. 128p. \$2.95. A description of the origin of life, told in language as simple as is consistent with the subject matter. A discussion of animate matter is followed by an account of biological evolution from simple to complex forms of life. Diagrams of the structure and chemistry of the cell illustrate the story of chemical evolution. Much of the book will be difficult reading for one with no background in the physical sciences.

SpC Aldis, Dorothy (Keeley). The Boy Who 3-5 Cared; illus. by Charles Geer. Putnam, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

When Tom Duncan's pen pal Ricardo wrote about his life in Sicily, his letter was read to the fourth grade class. When the children heard of the troubles the Sicilian family was having, they wanted to help in some way. As they discussed the needs of people all over the world, it was decided to hold a fair for CARE. All the school participated, and almost \$600 was collected. The box for money for milk for Ricardo's little brother held \$56. The author, whose

share in the book's proceeds will be donated to CARE, Inc., has written the book with a clear purpose of furthering international understanding.

NR Alverdes, Paul. Little Dream Horses; K-2 pictures by Beatrice Braun-Fock. Sterling, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

A story about all the wonderful things that are in Dreamland, especially the many kinds of horses for children to ride. The author tells his readers that anyone who believes in Dreamland will have no trouble getting there, and suggests that some activities are more pleasant than in real life "because there is no one to watch you and make fun of you." The implication is that the place described in the book is really found in a child's dreams, but the description is that of a fairyland in which a child may have whatever he wants.

Ad Allan, Mabel Esther. Strangers in Skye. 7-9 Criterion, 1958. 223p. \$3.50.

Having been told by the doctor that she must not use her eyes all summer, 17-year-old Elizabeth Falcon was trying to decide in what way she could arrange an outdoor job. Her older brother invited her to share with him the duty of managing a youth hostel on the Isle of Skye;

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with some apprehension about the responsibilities, Elizabeth agreed. She lost much of her shyness, gained a new sense of competence, and learned to love country life in Skye. Elizabeth and her brother are consistently-drawn and logically-developed characters; some of the other characters are less convincing. Elderly Colonel Kinloch is a curmudgeon who resents the hostel and, won by the bravery of young campers in searching for a lost child, relents and also suddenly accepts John Falcon as his granddaughter's suitor. Elizabeth is wooed by two brothers, one a weak and charming lad and the other a slow and reliable man, who are conceived with little originality. The style is as good as that of the author's previous books, but the plot strains a bit at the close, with one incident (the search) that resolves all the problems.

Ad Andrews, Frank Emerson. Upside-Down
3-5 Town; illus. by Louis Slobodkin.
Little, 1958. 64p. \$2.75.

When the train in which Rickie and Anne are riding to visit their grandfather is halted by an accident on the line, it backs into Upside-Down Town. Here the children do the work while old people play, children go to school on holidays, and the unstores pay their customers to take the merchandise. The theme of reversal is rather over-worked, so that the humor is not sustained, but has occasional bits of originality. Slobodkin's drawings are entertaining.

SpC Ashworth, Mae Hurley. Ten Pairs of
3-5 Shoes; illus. by Brinton Turkle.
Friendship Press, 1958. 126p. \$2.95.

Ten very short stories about children living in the neighborhood of North America. One is in the United States, two in Canada; the others are in Haiti, Hawaii, Cuba, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and Mexico. Each story is prefaced by a one-page description of the locality. The purpose of the book is to demonstrate that people everywhere are very much alike; the inclusion of mission personnel and their operative role in the achievement of improved human relations in every story designate use of the book in special collections of material for religious education.

R Baumann, Hans. Sons of the Steppe; The
8-10 Story of How the Conqueror Genghis
Khan Was Overcome. Oxford, 1958.
273p. \$3.

Having led opposing forces in a war, the grandsons of Genghis Khan, Arik-Buka and Kublai, meet as enemies. They recall their boyhood and their induction as warriors. Arik-Buka has remained a barbarian, while Kublai has become convinced, as his power has grown, that the right

way to govern is with kindness and with respect for the cultural heritage of the conquered peoples. The struggle that Kublai has had is an echo of the conflict that Genghis Khan experienced, within himself and among his followers, a conflict between savage despotism and enlightened co-operation. Despite the grimness of the harsh life of the Mongolian steppes, the strength and sincerity of the book are deeply moving. The writing is rather angular and the tone serious, but neither is particularly unsuited to the subject matter.

NR Bendick, Jeanne. Have a Happy Measle,
K-2 a Merry Mumps, and a Cheery Chick-
enpox. Whittlesey House, 1958. 45p.
\$2.50.

The symptoms of measles, mumps, and chickenpox are described, and suggestions are given for conduct when ill. Each of the descriptions is followed by a nonsense tale involving that particular disease. Other common ailments are briefly discussed, as are general rules for good health. All of the text is in a humorous vein, but the humor is rather forced and has, in places, a jeering tone. The material is poorly organized and the variation in the level of the material results in a book that is not really suitable for any age group.

NR Blaisdell, Mary Frances. Cherry Tree
1-2 Children; pictures by Anne Marie
Jauss. Little, 1957. 62p. \$2.50.

An abbreviated version of a book published in 1912. The language is dated and repetitious. There is no break in the print to indicate the end of one episode and the beginning of another. Not only are the birds and animals personified in an unacceptable fashion, but even the little Christmas tree is coyly vocal. In style and vocabulary the book resembles reading texts, and it may have some use as supplementary material for reading practice.

Ad Bothwell, Jean. Tree House at Seven Oaks;
6-8 A Story of the Flat Water Country in
1853; illus. by Bob Hodgell. Abelard-
Schuman, 1957. 239p. \$2.75.

In 1853, Thad Curtin is leading a sheltered life in Washington, D. C. His father, an Army major, decides that Thad should leave his grandmother's home and go west to the Nebraska Territory. Thad, 16, is entrusted with the delicate task of discovering the agent who is secretly fomenting trouble among the Indians in an effort to halt the legislation that will make Nebraska a state. Thad succeeds. The identity of the agent is rather obvious; the book is less a detective story than an historical picture. It is marred by a paternalistic treatment of the

Negro; the plight of the Nebraska Indians is not mentioned without sympathy, but there is conveyed the attitude that the confiscation of their land is inevitable and justifiable.

R Brenner, Anita. Dumb Juan and the Bandits; illus. by Jean Charlot. Scott, 1957. 45p. \$2.50.

Retelling of a folk tale, originally published in the author's The Boy Who Could Do Anything (Scott, 1942). In typical folk tale style, Juan does everything wrong, but his errors end by bringing him wealth and fame. Charlot's rather stylized illustrations give the story added humor and appeal, although they are less varied than those in Brenner's A Hero By Mistake (Scott, 1953).

M Brown, Ann Towson. How Does a Garden Grow?; with photographs by Peggy Plummer Sanders. Dutton, 1958. 48p. \$2.50.

A book for beginning gardeners, in story form and illustrated with photographs. The photographs that demonstrate indoor planting and transplanting to the garden outside are useful, but the book is not as complete or as explicit as The First Book of Gardening by Kirkus (Watts, 1956). Many of the pictures are of two girls who are learning to garden, and do not illustrate the text.

R Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Go to a Candy Factory; illus. by Kathleen Voute. Putnam, 1958. 48p. \$1.95.

The steps in making hard and soft candy are described, from ingredients to packaging. The illustrations are most helpful in understanding the machinery used in the candy-making processes. Direct and simple style and large, clear type make the book easy to read.

R Buehr, Walter. Trucks and Trucking. Putnam, 1957. 72p. \$2.50.

Simple text and clear illustrations give the history and development of the trucking industry. The uses of trucks in contributing to the growth of commerce are stressed. Types of trucks and their various parts are illustrated. A glossary of slang terms and an index add to the usefulness of the book. Todd's Trucks, Tractors and Trailers (Putnam, 1954) illustrates more kinds of trucks, but does not give as much material about the industry.

R Caldwell, John Cope. Let's Visit Southeast Asia; Hong Kong to Malaya. Day, 1957. 96 p. \$2.95.

An overview of eleven of the countries of southeast Asia, including a brief historical review of

each, a description of the state today, and a survey of geographical, political, and cultural aspects. The relationship of the United States to these lands in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization is discussed, and a general presentation made of the history of the area and of the coming of European interests. The covering of so much material has resulted in a good deal of useful factual information, but has prevented extensive examination of any country; the book should be considered as introductory material. The countries reviewed are North and South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaya, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sarawak, Brunei, and North Borneo.

R Carter, Katharine. The True Book of Oceans; pictures by Mary Gehr. Childrens Press, 1958. 47p. \$2.

The depths and surfaces of oceans are described and tides and currents are explained. The author surveys briefly marine plants and animals and lists some of their uses for food, clothing and medicine; she mentions the use of oceans for transportation and for aesthetic and recreational pleasure. Alternation of colored and black-and-white illustrations lends variety to the format.

M Clarke, Pauline. The White Elephant; illus. 5-7 by Richard Kennedy. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 145p. \$2.50.

A rather far-fetched mystery story, in which stolen jewels are hidden in the pocket of a second-hand coat which is sold by mistake. The buyer is a young woman who is taking her young cousins, Alister and Georgina, for an outing. Suspicious characters and peculiar incidents abound as the children work toward a solution of the mystery. The story is told by Georgina, and the author has used first person quite deftly. The style is vivacious and much more realistic than the plot.

R Cochrane, Joanna. Let's Go to a Sanitation Department; illus. by Susan McCartney. Putnam, 1958. 48p. \$1.95.

A description of the many services that are provided to help keep a city clean. The machines that sweep and water streets and those that are used for snow removal are discussed briefly; the major part of the book is devoted to methods of garbage collection and disposal. Pictures and diagrams clarify the text. The emphasis on the importance of such service should encourage the reader to view with respect the usefulness to the community of the men who work for a Sanitation Department.

Ad Corbin, William. Pony for Keeps; illus. by 3-5 Peter Burchard. Coward-McCann,

1958. 214p. \$2.50.

Katty Lou, a county ward, is extremely shy and fearful; she cannot feel at home with any of her foster parents. Watching the neighbors, the March men, train their horses is forbidden, but Katty Lou disobeys. Homer March becomes fond of her, teaches her to ride, and finally asks the social worker if he may (with the agreement of his father and brother) adopt the child. The ending is less credible than the rest of the book: one year later Homer and the social worker are married, Katty calls them "Dad" and "Mother," and a little stranger is due at Christmas. Characterizations are shallow: Homer is all patience, the foster father a stereotyped meek husband, Katty Lou herself is better drawn, and the author has presented well the child whose actions are disapproved by adults but whose motives are entirely without malice. The narrative flow is smooth and the situation of the lonely little girl who finds love has appeal. The author writes of horses with affection and authority. A good horse-story.

R Coy, Harold. The Americans; illus. by
6-9 William Moyers. Little, 1958. 328p.
\$4.50.

An unusual approach to the history of our country. By filling the chronological outline with illustrative or typical incidents, the author has created a vivid and stimulating story. Not a substitute for a history text, the book brings the people and the customs of a growing country alive. The technique and the style are equally informal. Within each section, the period is viewed horizontally; each section has its own bibliography. Additional advanced readings are listed and the indexing is most thorough.

Ad Daringer, Helen Fern. A Flower of
7-9 Araby; illus. by Artur F. Marókvia.
Harcourt, 1958. 188p. \$3.

In the Syrian stronghold of the Crusaders, the castle of Byblos, lived many young French and English expatriates. Seventeen-year-old Meg was happy when the brother she had never seen arrived from England with a handsome friend. His mission was to bring the family back to England to claim the estate that was in jeopardy. Meg's Arabian friend, Mariam, helps the Humphreys escape when an uprising of villagers threatens the castle. While an interesting picture of the relations that obtained between Crusader and Saracen in the 13th century is given, the style is rather plodding. Meg does not emerge as a real person, although some of the minor characters are most clearly drawn.

Ad Del Rey, Lester. The Cave of Spears;
7-9 illus. by Frank Nicholas. Knopf, 1957.

206p. \$2.75.

A New Stone Age tribe is forced to seek new hunting grounds in southern Europe, and on its journey meets virtually every type of New Stone Age tribe, finally settling down in the agricultural town of Aar. The story is told from the point of view of 14-year-old Kayoda, who is too old to be considered a child, and not yet formally a man, and therefore spends most of his time alone. He becomes self-sufficient and thoughtful and begins to doubt and even criticize the superstitions and the stodginess of the tribe. The shaman of the tribe also has advanced ideas, and he gives Kayoda much to think about. Kayoda is a believable character and his adventures are reasonably exciting, although both he and the shaman are somewhat too visionary and intellectual to be realistic. The route followed by the tribe seems rather contrived to bring in the information, but on the whole the facts are well-integrated with the story.

M Douglas, Gilbert. The Bulldog Attitude.
7-9 Crowell, 1957. 181p. \$2.75.

Two familiar themes—the boy who makes good on a new basketball team and the teen-ager in conflict with his elders—are realistically handled. Mark Henson comes to Jackson City to live with his aunt and uncle and has his self-confidence considerably shaken by his uncle's unnecessary strictness, trouble over a girl, and the coolness of the team toward a newcomer. Eventually he becomes disenchanted with the girl and is able to see justice applied to the two boys who had tried to make trouble for him, and the basketball team recognizes his ability. Even his uncle comes to have more respect for Mark's good sense. The reality of the solutions to problems and the depiction of Mark as a normal, reasonable person are good, but the rather weak writing and some skimpy characterization keep the book from being very interesting.

R Duncan, John M. Twelve Days 'Til Tren-
6-8 ton. Whittlesey House, 1958. 155p. \$3.

Young Matt Doliber and his friend Tink Cooper had enlisted in the Continental Army. Matt, frightened and discouraged, was almost persuaded by Tink to desert. His realization that Tink was not a person of integrity helped Matt decide to stay on, as did a new friendship with a young soldier from Virginia. While the characters of Matt and Brad, the Virginian, are consistently drawn and interestingly contrasted, there is an element of stereotype in the stolid Northerner and the dashing Southerner. Each boy is brave in his own way; each profits by the friendship and is matured by his war experiences. There emerges clearly from the book

the pattern of a war fought by the people, and the strength that was gained in the knowledge that, whatever the background, the cause was the same. The style is natural and the action exciting; in both episodes and tempo, the author builds toward the exciting battle of Trenton.

NR Eager, Edward. The Time Garden; illus. 4-6 by N. M. Bodecker. Harcourt, 1958. 192p. \$3.

A rather elaborate compound of fact and fantasy, heavily dependent upon a toad with a British accent, teleportation into other periods of history, and innumerable puns on "time" and "thyme." Roger, Ann, Jack, and Eliza find a garden of thyme with the magic power of transporting those who rub and sniff the herb. In several literary and historical adventures the author has used familiar characters in a manner devoid of originality or spontaneity: Queen Victoria says she is not amused, Jo March is seen regarding the four in a gentlemanly manner, and Queen Elizabeth informs Francis Bacon that there are more things on heaven and earth than are dreamed of in his philosophy. The concept of relative time is difficult for younger children to comprehend, and the literary and historical allusions require broad background to be recognized. The fantasy is quite unconvincing.

R Fritz, Jean. The Cabin Faced West; illus. 3-5 by Feodor Rojankovsky. Coward-McCann, 1958. 124p. \$3.

There isn't another girl anywhere in the region for Ann to play with; she misses her cousin in Gettysburg; she doesn't like pioneer life in Western Pennsylvania; and she feels very sorry for herself. When the family weathers a storm, when a boy her own age becomes a friend, and when General Washington pays a visit, Ann becomes aware that there are compensations and challenges in her life. The story is based on his visit to a real child, and is written with sympathy and sincerity. Family relationships are well portrayed, especially in a charming scene in which Ann's mother, although tired and busy, finds her daughter having a lonely tea party, and promptly joins her in imaginative play.

NR Gay, Zhenya. Bits and Pieces. Viking, K-2 1958. 63p. \$2.50.

Most of the poetry in the book depends on the illustrations for complete understanding. The illustrations are mediocre and the verse is contrived and coy.

R Goetz, Delia. The Arctic Tundra; illus. by 3-5 Louis Darling. Morrow, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

The barren lands of the Arctic tundra are described as they change with the seasons, and as the plants and animals adapt to seasonal and climatic conditions. The lives of the Lapps and Eskimos as they are shaped by the tundra and influenced by modern inventions and communication are portrayed. Illustrations of Arctic flora and fauna are excellent. Both the text and the illustrations capture the feeling of brooding space and silence in a remote land.

R Green, Ivah E. Water; Our Most Valuable 5-7 Natural Resource. Coward-McCann, 1958. 96p. \$3.50.

Describes the hydrologic cycle, the dangers of too much or too little water in conserving natural resources, and the many ways in which men have worked to control water. Many good photographs illustrate the uses of water in sanitation, irrigation, recreation, and in industry. A brief reading list, glossary, and index are appended. Organized in large areas, the book is not quite as complete as Graham and Van Dersal's Water for America (Oxford, 1956), but is written in a somewhat more conversational style, and includes much material on strip farming and contour plowing.

R Gunther, John, with Sam and Beryl Epstein. Meet North Africa; illus. by 7-10 Grisha. Harper, 1957. 244p. (A Meet the World Book). \$2.50.

The first of a new series, the "Meet the World Books," Meet North Africa is based on those sections of Inside Africa that deal with Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. Background material has been amplified and a history of the whole area precedes the separate descriptions of each country. The struggle of each of these much-disputed lands to establish independence is told graphically. The political figures, colonial policy in North Africa, the relationship of the United States to each of the four are described in a style that is informal without being trivial. Excellent presentation of information.

M Hall, Marjory. Three Stars for Star Island. 7-9 Funk and Wagnalls, 1958. 210p. \$2.95. Carolyn Winthrop is expecting to be head counselor at a girls' camp, but the owner becomes ill and she has to manage the camp instead. With the help of her family, most of whom come to Star Island to serve on the camp staff, she does a competent job. The financial crisis that Carolyn fears is averted when the father of one of the campers, impressed by the morale and affection that the youngsters demonstrate on Camper's Day, states that he will grant an extension on his bank's loan. The book is too crowded with personalities and sub-plots to be

effective, and Carolyn's concern with business details and with her own family rather than with the children who are there for the summer is not the best portrayal of a camp owner. The details of camp life are interesting.

NR Hall, William. Telltime's Alphabet Book;
K-1 pictures by Charlotte Steiner.
Crowell, 1958. 29p. \$2.

Written to help the small child learn the alphabet. Pictures are insipid and the story (collecting giant noodles to make an alphabet soup) is artificial. Animals are personified in unrealistic style and are drawn out of proportion to each other. Each animal carries two letters: Alex Bear carries A and B, Charlie Deer carries C and D, and for U and V there is Uncle Victor.

M Hark, Mildred and McQueen, Noel. Teen-
7-10 Age Plays for All Occasions; A Col-
lection of Royalty-free One-act Plays.
Plays, Inc., 1957. 465p. \$5.

A collection of 22 plays, 18 of which are for special occasions such as holidays or graduation. Production notes for each play include playing time, characters, properties, costumes, setting, and lighting. Forced writing and, in most of the plays, stereotyped characters. The collection is of the same calibre as Plays for Great Occasions and Holiday Plays for Teen-Agers, and should be considered for purchase only if there is a need for additional material for holiday use.

R Hightower, Florence C. The Ghost of
5-7 Follonsbee's Folly; illus. by Ati For-
berg. Houghton, 1958. 218p. \$3.

Mr. Stackpole has bought a house that none of the family has seen; they are surprised and awed to find that it is a rambling old mansion. Elsie finds a wonderful doll house that is a replica of the house itself; Tom finds a boat on the river, and better still, a mysterious and friendly young man. Even Angela who has come from Barbados and on whom all the family depends, grows fond of the old place. Angela has lost her only son in the war; to Tom and Elsie he is the war hero against whom all others are measured. The author has permitted one improbable note: a flood brings Tom's shy older friend into the house and he turns out to be Angela's long-lost son, who has been suffering from amnesia. Having wandered all over the country, he has come by chance to the very town where Angela lives. With good style, excellent characterizations, and with humor the book abounds and is eminently readable.

NR Hull, Helen Schuyler. The Gift; A Tale for
2-4 Christmas. Macmillan, 1957. 24p. \$2.
An old woodcarver who has built a hut against a

pine tree is ostracized because he has spoiled the beauty of the tree. He carves all the wooden figures for a creche except that of the Christ Child, which he keeps at home until finally a small boy notices that it is not in the manger. The woodcarver gives the carving to the boy, telling him that the heart is also a manger. The writing is curiously stilted and sentimental.

NR Hutchison, Paula. Mike the Moving Man.
K-2 Dutton, 1958. 61p. \$2.75.

Inconsequential story of a big, strong, happy moving man who is challenged by a professional strong man to duplicate his feats. Mike does. Characteristic of the meaningless exaggeration of the story is the outcome of Mike's performance: the townspeople carry him on their shoulders, his business increases, and he is able to buy three new vans.

NR Johnson, Crockett. Merry Go Round.
K-1 Harper, 1958. 24p. \$1.50.

A small boy is on a merry-go-round. Each page shows the boy in unchanged position; one line of text on the bottom of each page describes the change in background. While his tired parents wait, the boy keeps going happily around. The only variety is in the background, so that the book is static and repetitive. The colors are muddy and the book is printed on stiff paper and spirally bound, so the pages can be flipped indefinitely and the story has no real ending.

R Jubelier, Ruth. Jill's Check Up; illus. by
K-2 Eleanor Mill. Melmont, 1957. 38p.
\$2.

Written by the wife of a pediatrician who has acted as her husband's medical assistant for five years, this account of a typical routine visit to a doctor's office is competently written and accurately illustrated. The child is co-operative, the doctor is gentle and thorough, and the mother stays on the sidelines.

NR Kingsley, Helen. Ready for School? Green-
4-5 wick, 1958. 32p. \$2.
yrs.

Written by a school principal for the child who is starting school and for his parents. The text is coy in some places and confusing in others; it is not good for reading aloud, but some of the vocabulary is quite advanced. The pages are crowded with text and pictures, not always related to each other, and the pictures are distracting and badly drawn. The book tries to do too much: to serve as an introduction to school, as an alphabet book, as a counting book, and as a guide to conduct.

NR Kunhardt, Philip B. Hats Make You Happy.

K-1 Sterling, 1957. 48p. \$2.

A series of photographs of the author's son wearing various hats is accompanied by a first-person description of the headgear by the child. Both story and photographs may appeal to some adults; since the appeal is that of the charm of a small child being cute, the book would not be likely to appeal to small children themselves.

R Kuskin, Karla. In the Middle of the Trees.

K-2 Harper, 1958. 39p. \$2.50.

Poetry that is fresh and lilting, funny and imaginative. In both the poems and the illustrations the author displays a varied technique. Some of the poems will be enjoyed simply as humor and others are evocative of universal emotions. Good for reading aloud.

M Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. The Journey of Ching Lai. Morrow, 1957. 126p. \$2.50.

Ching Lai recklessly climbs on a strong donkey one day, and it runs off with him. He meets a man he has seen before who had been on a pilgrimage to a temple. The man takes Ching Lai to his home by the sea; he and his wife, who have no children, want to keep the boy. Ching Lai becomes homesick and leaves, meeting his father en route. When he learns how his sisters have helped in father's absence, Ching Lai determines that he will be more helpful henceforth. The book has the charm of simplicity and the appeal of the Chinese background, but the lack of consideration shown by Ching Lai and the peculiar behavior of the man who takes him home (with no rebuke from any other adult in the story or from the author) are rather serious weaknesses.

M Lawson, H. L. Pitch Dark and No Moon. 7-9 Crowell, 1958. 214p. \$2.75.

A mystery story with a background of the United States Coast Guard. A boat has rammed a Coast Guard patrol boat and disappeared in the fog. Kel Howard, youngest of the Guardsmen at the station, becomes suspicious about this and other events and takes the initiative in tracking a band of smugglers. None of the characters is well developed, and the action is episodic rather than sequential, but there is some material about boats and about the Coast Guard that is of interest.

R Lehmann-Haupt, Hellmut. The Life of the Book; with line drawings by Fritz Kredel and additional illustrations. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 240p. \$3.50.

A well-known authority in book printing and design writes of the life of the book and of the roles of the publisher, illustrator, printer, designer, bookseller, library, and collector. Particularly interesting is the second section of the

book: the story of the development of the art of printing. Drawings for this section by Fritz Kredel are especially illuminating. The style is interesting; technical where needed, and quite adult in approach but designed to inspire enthusiasm as well as to impart information. There is much material in this volume not previously included in books for young people, e.g., book collecting. It is unfortunate that the development of children's books receives such poor attention, and there is a regrettable error in the naming of the Newbery medal as the award for illustration in children's books.

R Livingston, Myra Cohn. Whispers and Other Poems; illus. by Jacqueline Chwast. Harcourt, 1958. 48p. \$2.25.

A beguiling collection of poems, illustrated with sympathy and a humor that reflects the poetry. The author captures the spontaneity of fleeting emotions and of the small events in a child's life that evoke imaginative thoughts. Good for reading aloud.

M Lynch, Patricia. Shane Comes to Dublin; 4-6 illus. by Peggy Fortnum. Criterion, 1958. 185p. \$3.50.

The O'Clery family, who keep a bookstore in Dublin, take into their home Shane Madden, who has run away from his Uncle Joe's farm. Shane, who is an orphan, is searching for his Uncle Tim. Shane makes himself useful working in the store and becomes very fond of the O'Clery family. Uncle Tim reappears the night there is a fire in the bookstore and dramatically rescues little Bridgie O'Clery. The warmth with which the O'Clerys accept Shane, the Irish background and the bookstore atmosphere redeem the book to an extent, but the conduct of the O'Clerys in neglecting to send Shane home or to notify his relatives immediately seems completely irresponsible. Uncle Tim, who has gone roving off, makes a suspiciously well-timed return. Published originally under the title Bookshop on the Quay in England (Dent, 1956).

NR McCready, Thomas Leighton. Increase Rabbit; illus. by Tasha Tudor. Ariel, 1958. 50p. \$2.75.

Mrs. Warner bought two male rabbits for her children, but one of them surprised the family by having a litter of seven. George was renamed Increase. When Increase wandered into the kitchen, the children decided to train her as a house-rabbit. Increase was mated once a year and the Warner children then had a source of income from the sale of the baby rabbits. The appeal is to a child too young for the vocabulary. The style is rather dull and the illustrations are pastel-pretty.

Ad MacDonalD, Betty (Bard). Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle; pictures by Hilary Knight. Lippincott, 1957. 125p. \$2.50.

Again Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle helps distracted parents by curing their children. With magic powders, the remarkable old lady ends such problems as showing off and bullying. Illustrations are entertaining, and the author's use of exaggeration to alleviate the moral lessons produces broad and nonsensical humor, but the use of such names as Nicholas Semicolon and Harbin Quadrangle strains the humor somewhat.

NR Malvern, Gladys. My Lady, My Love; An Historical Junior Novel about Isabella of Valois. Macrae, 1957. 206p. \$2.75.

The story of Isabella of Valois, wed at the age of seven to Richard II, King of England. Isabella is described as beautiful, precocious, intelligent, and completely devoted to her husband. Immersed in court intrigue, she is torn from Richard and kept prisoner. When he is killed, she is desolate but composed. Her return to France and a second marriage are followed by her death, at the age of twenty, in childbirth; all these are treated as minor episodes. Richard was her great romance. The behavior and conversation of this unchildlike child are unconvincing throughout the book.

R Mason, George Frederick. Animal Tails. 5-7 Morrow, 1958. 95p. \$2.50.

Interesting information is presented in direct and simple style and amplified with black and white drawings. The author discusses the uses of animal tails for grasping, touching, support, and balance; for defense, protection, and propelling; for food-storage, decoration, and warning signals; and for the expression of different emotions. The index to animals mentioned indicates also those which are illustrated.

Ad Molloy, Anne Stearns (Baker). The Tower Treasure; illus. by Artur Marokvia. Hastings House, 1958. 165p. \$2.95.

The story of an old house in which a family treasure has disappeared. Mr. Tower is a mountain climber, and his children delight in climbing on the steep roofs of the old house. (A weakness of the book, in fact, is the carelessness the children display and the adults ignore.) The treasure turns up in a hurricane: the manuscript left behind by a soldier in the Civil War. The children are interesting and their activities sophisticated, much like the children in The Saturdays. The style is sprightly and the characters are credible, albeit occasionally bizarre. Family relationships are well conceived. The search for the treasure has been conducted because the

Tower children feared the house would be sold; the financial straits of the family are a recurrent topic of conversation; therefore it makes a very weak ending when Great-grandfather, who has been there all the time, announces that he has decided to use some of his money to pay bills, renovate the house and hire more servants.

R Morrison, Lillian. Touch Blue; Signs and 1-8 Spells, Love Charms and Chants, Auguries and Old Beliefs, in Rhyme; illus. by Doris Lee. Crowell, 1958. 152p. \$3.

A collection of wishes and prophecies, spells and folk lore, all in rhyme. The contents are divided into categories such as rhymes about marriage, appearance, signs in nature, sayings about the weather, and lore referring to days of the week.

NR Neurath, Marie. Too Small to See. Sterling, 4-6 1957. 36p. \$2.

Brief introduction to several natural phenomena that are observable only through a microscope or a magnifying glass. As frequently happens with this author's books, the tone and format are suited to children who will be too young to handle the text or to understand some of the illustrations. Information about these same phenomena is easily available in other books that are more useful for general library collections.

R Newcomb, Ellsworth and Kenny, Hugh. 6-8 Miracle Fabrics; illus. by Ava Morgan. Putnam, 1958. 160p. \$2.95.

A well-organized and comprehensive report on the history of fabrics made by man. From the first use of natural fibers, and the tools and machines for weaving them, the authors follow the development of the search for a perfect fiber. By relating the history to background conditions in the story of civilization, the industrial progress has been made more meaningful. The end papers have a useful chart on the care and characteristics of both natural and man-made fabrics. Some of the miracle fabrics described are acetate, acrilan, dacron, dynel, orlon, and nylon. Well written and useful in any collection, the book will be of special use for the student of home economics.

R Parke, John. The Moon Ship; illus. by 3-4 Aldren Watson. Pantheon, 1958. 110p. \$2.75.

Chris was bored. He didn't have anyone to play with. The empty garage looked inviting, so he decided to build a moon ship, using what he could find in the garage and his imagination. (The garden rake serves as a radar antenna.) One by one,

other children drifted in to join the play; the trips to the moon grew more and more exciting and popular. An amusing and unusual story about imaginative play; reality and fantasy are kept distinct in a way that enables the reader to realize the satisfaction of providing entertainment entirely through one's own resources. One weakness is the repetition of the imaginative excursions, in which much of the dialog is similar.

NR Pease, Howard. Shipwreck; The Strange Adventures of Renny Mitchum, Mess Boy of the Trading Schooner "Samarang." Doubleday, 1957. 237p. \$2.95.

An extremely disappointing book, since it starts out as a good Pease sea-mystery story, and ends with a blow-by-blow psychoanalysis of the hero. Renny, 16, ships as a mess boy to try to find his father, who with his ship, had mysteriously disappeared off the island of Jorango in the South Pacific. He is likable and understandable and his adventures are both interesting and realistic. However, the cook Julio reveals himself to be an amateur psychiatrist, and takes Renny on as a patient. The treatment continues while the two are shipwrecked on Jorango, captured by cannibals, discover Renny's father to be the tribal medicine man, and escape with his help. Plot, characterization, writing style, and interest all give way in the last third of the book before the irresistible force of Julio Freud.

R Pinkerton, Kathrene Sutherland (Gedney). 7-9 Year of Enchantment. Harcourt, 1957. 224p. \$3.

A sequel to Hidden Harbor and Second Meeting, with Rod Baird and Judy Randolph, a newcomer to Alaska, as the central figures. It is now two years since Rod's involvement with the fish poachers and he is looking forward to proving himself right in his project to re-claim the Tal-lac River as a salmon spawning ground. Judy, who has come to Alaska to be with her father while he prospects a gold mine, meets Rod, shares with him his faith in the salmon project, and of course, falls in love with him. As in the first two books, the author has created likable characters and conveys much of her own enthusiasm for this part of Alaska. As before, the period covered is the early 20th century.

NR Reeves, Katherine. Curious Doings at the Mouse-House; pictures by Marie C. Nichols. Sterling, 1957. 93p. \$2.50.

A labored attempt at animal fantasy in the story of a family of house mice who live in a barn. The story revolves around the attempts of a mouse father and son to solve the mystery of some nuts that keep disappearing from the attic of the house. The mystery is never very clearly resolved and

several threads are left dangling.

R Rosen, Sidney. Galileo and the Magic Numbers; illus. by Harve Stein. Little, 1958. 212p. \$3.50.

A vivid and well-balanced biography of the great mathematician. Galileo's education as the son of a noble family progressed from the tutor who first introduced the boy to the magic numbers, through several years at a monastery, and thence to the University of Pisa. As much as a personal history, this is a history of scientific enlightenment in Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Galileo's struggle to gain acceptance of recorded observations that refuted the traditional Aristotelian dicta is an exciting story. The author makes it clear that Galileo was not alone in his efforts to establish in the universities the research function that would extend man's knowledge, rather than to maintain the academic tradition of the medieval universities by teaching only what was already known.

M Shaffer, Robert. The Crocodile Tomb; 6-8 illus. by Laszlo Matulay. Holt, 1957. 190p. \$3.

Bruce Brandon, an American boy, is allowed to spend a summer visiting some Egyptian friends on their estate. He becomes involved in two projects—the experimental planting of some American sweet corn and the investigation of a pyramid on the premises. Neither has any very spectacular results, but each is important in a minor way to Bruce and his friends. A good picture of some of the agricultural problems of modern Egypt is presented without didacticism or a superior tone, and the description of the amateur, but carefully planned and executed, dig also has some value. Unfortunately, the story loses its interest through flat writing and vague characterization.

NR Smith, Nancy Woolcott. Hurricane Mystery; illus. by Vaike Low. Coward-McCann, 1958. 221p. \$3.

The Tucker family spends every summer on an island off the coast of New England. This summer the twins, Jan and Kim, are fourteen—old enough to sail alone. Adrift one day, having lost their rudder, the twins and their friend Martin are rescued by mysterious yachtsmen who cannot read a navigation chart or use the ship's radio. The yacht's tender is found trapped in the island pond after a hurricane has filled in the channel entrance. Using a snorkel and flippers, the youngsters explore the tender and find bags of starfish. The mystery is now explained. The "yachtsmen" have been using the starfish to destroy the local shellfish beds. The revelation of sabotage by these competitors is given news-

paper publicity in which Jan and Kim are praised highly. Mediocre writing and contrived action are alleviated by a pleasant and accurate picture of family relationships.

NR Spyri, Johanna (Heusser). The Children's Christmas Carol; adapted by Darlene Geis; illus. by Daniel Noonan. Prentice-Hall, 1957. 87p. \$2.95.

An adaptation that preserves the saccharine quality of Victorian fiction but lacks the authenticity of Spyri's style. Two little children live with their widowed mother in a small Alpine hut. They are very good and very poor. Christmas is approaching and they have nothing. Mother teaches the children a carol so that they can sing in the village; they perform and receive many gifts. When the mother is ill the following summer, the children decide to go to the village and sing again. When a group of American students learn why the carol is being sung in August, they come to the rescue with food, medical care, and the promise of enough orders for mother's knitting from America to keep the brave little family solvent.

NR Steiner, Charlotte. My Bunny Feels Soft. 3-5 Knopf, 1958. 33p. \$2.75.

rhymed text that attempts to develop for young children an acquaintance with some of the words that are used to express touch sensations. The words will have meaning only as the children using the book have experienced the sensations that are described. For example, "Soft is Ann's muff, Soft as fluff" will not have much meaning for a child who has never met "fluff." In the attempt to put the text into rhyme, the author has occasionally used sentence constructions that are more confusing than informative: e.g., "How feels the rock That has stubbed your toes?" Some of the illustrations are of questionable value, e.g., the child grasping a goldfish in its hand in such a way that the fish would inevitably have been injured.

R Sterling, Dorothy. Captain of the Planter; 7-10 The Story of Robert Smalls; illus. by Ernest Crichlow. Doubleday, 1958. 264p. \$2.95.

The biography of Robert Smalls, born a slave, who manned and piloted an armed Confederate boat past the guns of Fort Sumter to deliver it to the Union forces. Smalls later became a Congressman and a community leader; his true greatness lay in the fact that he never compromised his principles for the sake of expediency. The tragic aftermath of the Civil War is powerfully drawn in the story of the fading hopes of the Negro people for equality in fact as well as

in name.

Ad Stevenson, Robert Louis. A Child's Garden of Verses; illus. by Gyo Fujikawa. Grosset, 1957. 104p. \$2.95.

A new edition of an old favorite. Illustrations are pleasant but not distinguished.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Second Nature. 8-12 Harper, 1958. 280p. \$2.95.

Anne Rumsen, age 17, writes of her family, her friends, her love. Mrs. Stolz is adept at writing in first person and has created, in Anne, a sympathetic and real person. Anne's relationships to her family, her understanding of the need for tolerance and acceptance in maintaining friendships, and her painful adjustment to unrequited love are told with keen insight. The picture of a group of young people, their shifting intra-group relationships and the different ways in which each meets the common problems of courtship, love and adult status, is drawn with nuance and with strength. All the members of Anne's circle are described with candor and are quite realistic. The style is natural and the action consistent with the characters.

Ad Suschitzky, Walter, illus. The Golden Book of Animals. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 96p. (A Giant Golden Book) \$2.

Essentially a photographic exhibit. Brief text (never more than half a page) accompanies each photograph, describing the habits and habitat of each animal in an informal style. Many of the pictures are striking and many rare animals are pictured, but the book cannot serve as reference material since the information given is scanty. Decision for inclusion may have been based on available photographs, since there is no apparent organization. A gray squirrel is included, but no other variety. Probably of most interest are the pictures of seldom seen animals, such as the potto and the babirusa.

R Sutcliff, Rosemary. The Silver Branch; 7-9 illus. by Charles Keeping. Oxford, 1958. 215p. \$3.25.

Justin and Fulvius meet in Britain where both are in service in the Roman Eighth Legion. They find they are distantly related and become fast friends. The two are forced into hiding when the traitor to Rome, Allectus, seizes power, for he is aware that Justin and Fulvius have informed against him. The cousins work for the underground, joining the Roman forces when they come to dethrone the usurper. Historical material is well-integrated with the plot, which is well-conceived and suspenseful. Characterization of the protagonists and the minor characters is vivid.

Ad Tefft, Bess. Merrie Maple. Dutton, 1958.
7-9 187p. \$2.75.

Merrie Maple looks forward to summer art camp as an escape from the uncongenial atmosphere of her farm home and her constant squabbling with Tom Whitman, a friend of her brother. She becomes infatuated with a nasty, but picturesque, young "avant-garde" painter, who selfishly destroys all Merrie's confidence in her own naturalistic style of painting. In the end, of course, Tom proves to be her Dream Boy after all, and she and her parents come to a better understanding of each other. The values of the book—a realistic attitude on Merrie's part to the two boys in her life, the insight into family relationships, and the inclusion of some sound thinking on artistic talent and individuality as an integral part of the story—outweigh the weaknesses in writing style and plot.

NR Tiffany, Kathleen S. One Summer in Stock.
7-9 Dodd, 1957. 181p. \$2.75.

A career story dealing with a young girl's experience as a trainee in a Midwest summer theater. Nancy Lane, who was chosen for the summer scholarship, was pleased for the opportunity it gave her to get away from home and decide whether she really wanted a theater career or was merely catering to her mother's wishes. In Metropolis, Nan was immediately taken in by the Stocktons, wealthy friends of her mother, but the sudden luxury in which she was living could not blind her to the sterling character of Mark Byron who, like herself, was just embarking on a theater career. By the summer's end, Nan had subdued and reformed her feminine rival and had settled on a career that meant both theater and Mark. A shallow story with typed characters and plot.

R Treece, Henry. Men of the Hills; illus. by
7-10 Christine Price. Criterion Books,
1958. 182p. \$3.50.

Lalo the Otter is the son of the chief of a primitive farming tribe in Britain 4000 years ago. Although he is preparing to take over his father's duties, he has some doubts about many of his tribe's customs and superstitions. Cradoc is the nephew of the leader of a nomad band which invades and conquers Lalo's people, and he is in a similar position. When Lalo's father is killed in battle and Cradoc's uncle in a brawl, both are forced to flee into the forest. The author has created a vividly realistic picture of a prehistoric time, and Lalo and Cradoc are well-drawn characters. The book is something more than an exciting adventure story, however, since Lalo and Cradoc are used to indicate the germination of certain views of religion, personal relationships and technological progress which have

evolved with the growth of civilization.

NR Valens, Evans G. Me and Frumpet; An Ad-
2-4 venture with Size and Science. Dutton,
1958. 127p. \$2.75.

A combination of fantasy and science in which the scientific aspects are realistic and accurate. Ted's father has bought him a scale-size model railroad for Christmas. The little man Ted makes from pipe cleaners to go with the model, named Frumpet, comes to life. Frumpet is querulous about his lot, and by bringing Ted down to his size, shows him what the world is like in miniature. Ted engages in various scientific projects to convince his Father that Frumpet is real and his contentions true. Written to introduce the reader to concepts of relative size and to scientific observation and logic, the book succeeds to an extent, but it belabors the points it makes. The failure to distinguish clearly between reality and fantasy is a grave weakness in a book with serious educational purpose. The photographs do not aid in comprehension of scientific facts, nor do they embellish the story.

NR Vance, Marguerite. Secret for a Star.
7-9 Dutton, 1957. 249p. \$2.75.

Already suffering from the shock of her parents' sudden death, Prudence Trudhue was totally unprepared for the bitter antagonism her grandmother, with whom she was to live, felt toward her. It did not help that Prue was excessively fat and careless about her dress, nor that she dreamed of following the stage career of her mother, a famous actress whose marriage to David Trudhue was at the root of the hostility Prue's grandmother expressed. It was April when Prue reached Bar Haven and by the end of the summer she had begun to lose weight, had won over her grandmother completely, and had attracted the attention of a famous drama critic with her acting. The rapidity with which Prue solves all her problems is phenomenal but scarcely realistic.

R van der Loeff-Basenau, Anna Rutgers.
6-8 Avalanche!; illus. by Gustav Schrotter.
Morrow, 1958. 219p. \$2.95.

A dramatic and unusual story of the disastrous results of a series of avalanches in the Swiss Alps. Thirteen-year-old Werner and his father had guided a group of boys from the Children's Village (an international settlement for war orphans) to safety from a mountain hut the day before the avalanche hit their home. Werner's parents were not found, and he joined the boys on the evacuation train. As other avalanches struck, the boys joined in rescue work. Werner's parents were found and revived. The author has written with great understanding of the

effect that tension and tragedy have on human beings and their relationships with each other. Awarded the prize for the best children's book published in Holland in 1955.

NR Vaughan-Jackson, Genevieve. Animals and Men in Armor. Hastings House, 1958. 88p. \$3.75.

A confused attempt to show some of the kinds of protective coverings found among animals, mostly prehistoric, and their counterparts in armor, mostly medieval, devised by mankind. The author gives high praise to the effectiveness of the armor, both animal and human, but never explains why the animals involved have, with a few minor exceptions, disappeared entirely. All of the information about animals and men is available in other, better written and better organized books.

NR Watson, Jane (Werner). My First Book about God; pictures by Eloise Wilkin. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 22p. (A Golden Book) \$1.

In spite of its new title, new format—paper over cardboard—and new price, this is not a new book, but is merely the text and illustrations of My Little Golden Book about God unchanged except for a slight rearrangement of illustrations on the title pages. The excessively sentimental text and pictures have no more to offer the Golden Book audience than they had to offer the Little Golden Book audience, and are definitely not worth the quadrupled price.

R Winterfeld, Henry. Star Girl; tr. by Kyrill Schabert; illus. by Fritz Wegner. Harcourt, 1957. 191p. \$2.75.

Three children, gathering mushrooms in the forest of Hollewood, discover a small girl who tells them that her name is Mo and that she fell from a space ship that came to earth from Asra (Venus). The children accept her story but when they take her to the village the adults are harder to convince, especially after it is noted that she is wearing a necklace of diamonds. The attempts of the adults to take Mo into custody, and of the children to protect her and return her to the clearing where her father is to pick her up makes

a fast-paced, exciting bit of science fantasy.

SpC Wolcott, Carolyn Muller. God Gave Us Seasons; pictures by Meg Wohlberg. Abingdon, 1958. 24p. \$1.25.

A mother explains to her child what happens during each of the four seasons of the year as God planned when He made the world. The single emphasis indicates that the book will be of most use in religious education collections.

M Wood, Andrew. Ticket to Fleet Street. St. Martin's, 1957. 153p. \$2.25.

A story about two young people who are entering the newspaper world in England. The publishers have wisely refrained from naming the illustrator of the book, who doesn't draw very well. The locale and terminology are enough different from our own to be a liability for readers here. Jonty Wicklow tries his luck in London while Delia Bright takes a more modest assignment on the local paper. Each succeeds in his way to some journalistic status, and they eventually work together on several stories. There are several painfully stock characters, and some highly dubious situations, such as Jonty's trip across Europe with an employer who "was testing his own iron nerve for reasons not unconnected with the racing track." The book has aspects which mitigate, in a very small way, its banality. The co-operation and patience needed to do any job successfully, the need for trust and toleration in friendship, and the satisfaction of doing a small job to the best of one's ability are clearly affirmed.

Ad Wright, Anna Maria Rose. Offshore Summer; illus. by Ursula Koering. Houghton, 1957. 183p. \$2.75.

Two children spend their summer vacation helping the owners of a floating restaurant anchored off the east coast. They help keep the two younger children of the owners from falling overboard, do errands for the cook, and otherwise make themselves useful. In addition they have numerous nautical adventures on the sidelines. The characters are types rather than individuals, but the unusual setting will give the story appeal.