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Bulletin
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November 1958 • Vol. XII • No. 3



EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- 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.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XII

November, 1958

Number 3

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Agle, Nan (Hayden) and Ellen Wilson. Three Boys and a Helicopter; illus. by 3-5 Marian Honigman. Scribner, 1958. 122p. \$2.50.

A new book in the series about the active boy triplets, Abercrombie, Benjamin, and Christopher. The grandmother with whom they live is afraid of helicopters, but the boys do get her permission to build a stationary model for play purposes. They make good use of the library to gather information. Facts about helicopters are presented to the reader as the boys discuss and construct their machine. When a flood maroons the family, even Grandmother enjoys being rescued by an amphibious helicopter. The story is simply written, but the informational material is not often incorporated into the story in an easy and natural fashion.

R Agnew, Edith J. Leo of Alaska; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Friendship Press, 2-4 1958. 114p. \$2.95.

When Uncle Louie goes to the hospital for a long stay, his small ward is sent to the children's home on Evergreen Island. Leo is lost and homesick at first, but adjusts to group life. He even learns to like school when he finds that glasses enable him to see everything. Even separate leaves on the trees. By the time Uncle Louie is well, Leo thinks of Evergreen Island as home. A very real and perceptive study of a small boy. The book is written in a warm and easy style that makes palatable even the determined doses of information about Alaskan ethnic groups.

R Ahnstrom, D. N. The Complete Book of Jets and Rockets. World, 1957. 159p. 7- \$4.95.

A comprehensive report on jets and rockets, well organized and replete with photographs and detailed, clear diagrams. A brief explanation of the principle of jet propulsion follows a history of the discoveries that led to its application. The types of jet craft are described, and the development of rockets, missiles and man-made satellites is thoroughly explored. Full-page charts give minute information about jet aircraft and gas turbine engines, foreign and domestic.

Ad Atkinson, Laura. The Horny-Toad Kite. Steck, 1958. 31p. \$1.50.
1-2

All the children were making kites at school for Kite Day. Dario made a small kite that was the shape of a horny-toad, so he painted it to look like a horny-toad. It caught on a telephone wire, but when a bird pecked at the string, the kite fell, unharmed. So Dario tied a new string on his kite and flew it. A slight story with some appeal in the repetitive phrases. Illustrations are occasionally quite sophisticated in stylized border strips, striking in black and yellow. An easy book for beginning readers.

R Baker, Nina (Brown). Henry Hudson; illus. by George Fulton. Knopf, 1958.
4-6 142p. \$2.50.

Unusual biographical material in that only a small segment of the life of the biographee is examined. Only four years of Henry Hudson's life are anywhere recorded, and Mrs. Baker has given a version of those years that is compact and excitingly written. From 1607 to 1611, Hudson made four voyages of exploration; it is most interesting to read of early navigation in the polar regions, and to remember that Hudson was seeking only a route to the Orient. The problems of human relationships loomed large on long sailing voyages; and the intrigues and, eventually, the mutiny that led to the explorer's disappearance are portrayed by the author with conviction.

R Bate, Norman. Who Built the Dam? Scribner, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.
2-4

The story of an old mill on a mountain that was being eroded by a river. Engineers came and, with the construction of a tunnel and a coffer dam, cleared the river bed so that a hydroelectric dam could be built. A powerhouse was erected, the river was channeled, and electric power was produced for the people of the valley. The personification of river and mountain is rather jarring, but the writing is good, information is interesting and the illustrations are exciting. The text is somewhat more difficult than the picture-book appearance would indicate.

R Beeland, Lee and Robert Wells. Space Satellite; The Story of the Man-Made Moon; illus. by Jack Coggins. Prentice-Hall, 1957. 79p. \$2.95.
5-7
An account of the planning, building and launching of the first space satellite—written before the successful achievement of Project Vanguard. The construction and operation of the satellite, the orbit and the instruments it carries are described and illustrated simply and clearly. The information that the instruments may add to man's body of knowledge is envisioned; also, the book gives some of the background material about the International Geophysical Year, of which Project Vanguard is a part.

SpR Boston, Lucy Maria. Treasure of Green Knowe; drawings by Peter Boston.
4-6 Harcourt, 1958. 185p. \$3.
Published in England under the title The Chimneys of Green Knowe, this is a sequel to The Children of Green Knowe. As in the first book, Tolly meets the children who were his ancestors; this time a family from still another century. The treasure (lost family jewels and money) which must be found if the estate is to be preserved is, of course, found by Tolly. This rather worn theme is used by the author with restraint. The charm of the book, and one which will be enjoyed by a sensitive audience, is the delicate and tender relationship between Tolly and his ancestors from the past, and between Tolly and his great-grandmother.

R Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. Solar Energy; illus. by John Teppich. Crowell,
6-9 1957. 117p. \$2.75.

An authoritative and clear presentation of the ways in which man is making use of energy from the sun. The author discusses the nature of solar energy and the growing need of power from energy in our world. The devices used in trapping this energy source are explained in text and in excellent diagrams: heaters for space and for water, furnaces, cookers, distillers and generators. Chapters on controlled photosynthesis and on obtaining power from wind or sea describe some of the possibilities for future energy resources.

R Buck, Margaret Waring. Pets from the Pond. Abingdon, 1958. 72p. \$1.75.
4-6

Information on buying or making an aquarium, and on plants that can be found or

purchased to fill it, precedes the major portion of the book: a survey of the possible inhabitants of an aquarium. Snails, clams, fish, tadpoles and frogs, salamanders, turtles, crayfish and insects are listed; advice is given on where to find these pets from the pond, how to catch, transport and feed them and care for them. Descriptions and life histories are supplemented by many illustrations. Scientific names are given in the index and appended to this useful book are lists of books, magazines and pamphlets for further reading.

R Buckmaster, Henrietta. Flight to Freedom; The Story of the Underground
8-12 Railroad. Crowell, 1958. 217p. \$3.

An historical survey of the formation and operation of the Underground Railroad that is made more vivid by fictionalized examples of escape episodes. Interesting information about the status of slavery and growth of the abolition movement supplements and clarifies the drama of the railroad. The opposition to the abolitionists in the north, the leadership of men and women of both races, and the role of the Negro after the Civil War are described. A bibliography is appended.

Ad Caldwell, John Cope. Let's Visit Middle Africa; East Africa—Central Africa—
5-7 The Congo. Day, 1958. 96p. \$2.95.

Prefatory sections review the climate and geography, explorers and pioneers, the peoples and tribes, and the tensions and problems among racial groups. Very brief examination is made of each of the countries in East Africa, the Central African Federation, the Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi, and Portuguese Africa. Reference use is not indicated, since the amount of information given about each country is slight and the kind of information varies considerably. The book is interesting, however, and adequate for the reader who wants a general picture or an introductory acquaintance with Middle Africa.

M Cameron, Eleanor. Mr. Bass's Planetoid; illus. by Louis Darling. Little,
4-6 1958. 228p. \$3.

A third book about Chuck and David, the two space travellers to the Mushroom Planet. This time the boys are hunting for Professor Brumblydge, whose Brumblitron machine may start a chain reaction that will unravel the world. From a tiny space station called Lepton the boys espy the Brumblitron; they arrive in time to destroy it and save humanity. Within the bounds of science fantasy, the action is credible. Characterization is less convincing: the children have no depth and most of the adults are exaggerated to the point of caricature, although humor does not seem here intended.

R Carlisle, Norman V. The Wonder Book of Trains. New and rev. ed. Winston,
8-12 1957. 313p. \$3.95.

Originally published in 1946 under the title: The Modern Wonder Book of Trains and Railroadng. Material in the book has been brought up to date and new sections on model railroading and such new devices as the tubular train and the switchmobile have been added. Except for some information about English trains in the historical section, the emphasis is on American railroading, and the coverage is quite comprehensive. Interestingly written and profusely illustrated with photographs. An extensive glossary of railroad terminology is included.

R Carlson, Natalie (Savage). The Family under the Bridge; pictures by Garth
3-5 Williams. Harper, 1958. 112p. \$2.95.

A gay and tender story, particularly appropriate for Christmas reading. An elderly Parisian tramp finds three children huddled in his usual spot under the bridge, where their widowed mother has left them while she works. Old Armand tries to remain aloof, but the children win his heart and, feeling responsible, he brings the whole family to a gypsy encampment for food and shelter. When the gypsies leave, Armand

realizes that he has accepted the role of a grandfather; he gets a job so that all may be provided for. A book in which the basic wants of people to be together and be needed are described with sympathy and with enough humor to keep the tale from being overly sentimental. Beautifully written in a limpid and sparkling style.

M Carpenter, Frances. Holiday in Washington; illus. with decorations by George 5-7 Fulton and with photographs. Knopf, 1958. 214p. \$3.

Jack and Ann Adams arrive in Washington, D.C., to spend their Easter vacation with their uncle, a senator, aunt, and teen-age cousin, Jerry, Jr. None of the characters seems a real person: Jack and Ann are abnormally eager to absorb information, and their relatives only too glib at giving them lectures on the history and sights of the city. Slight as it is, the characterization interferes with the presentation of information, since the author has not successfully integrated her fictional approach with the factual matter. This is evidenced by the inclusion at the end of the book of a "Washington Notebook" (supposedly kept by the conscientious Jack and Ann) which contains various brief facts about the landmarks and institutions of Washington; the main text fails to be well-organized or comprehensive. The book is adequate for giving general information to the prospective visitor, although it cannot be used as a reference book.

R Chafetz, Henry. The Legend of Befana; drawings by Ronni Solbert. Houghton, K-3 1958. 37p. \$2.75.

A Christmas story, pleasing to read aloud and useful as a source for story telling. Befana, who has lost her only child, packs the toys she has saved and goes hunting for the Babe about whom three wise men have told her. She cannot find Him even when she crosses the sea to Italy. Here she distributes her toys on Twelfth Night so that the sad children will be happy—and somehow her baskets are never empty, although she brings toys to all the children in Italy once a year, every year.

NR Chönz, Selina. The Snowstorm; illus. by Alois Carigiet. Walck, 1958. 28p. 4-5 \$3.50.
yrs.

Translated from the German, the stilted verse-form possibly being due to translation. Ursli, who is decorating his sled for the children's sled parade, sends his little sister to the spinning woman for yarn. Here she has to wash a floor to earn yarn tassels, and this delay brings her out into a heavy snowstorm. Ursli finds the child by tracing the bright yarn showing through a snow slide under which she lies. Eventually the parade is held, the sled is decorated and a party is given. In the spring the children plant a new tree where the storm demolished the old tree that used to shelter the birds. Covers of this oversize book are of board so thin it is difficult to avoid bending them. Story is contrived, but the full-page illustrations are delightfully individual and gay.

R Cleary, Beverly. The Luckiest Girl. Morrow, 1958. 288p. \$2.95.
7-10

Shelley is invited to spend her junior year of high school with the family of her mother's college room-mate, who live a casual life in southern California. Shelley enjoys the family life and the new school, and she falls in love with Philip, handsome and athletic. Not until the end of the year does Shelley realize that she has more in common with Hartley, but she has by now matured enough to know that her love, although it is genuine, is not permanent—she has learned to say goodbye. A moving and honest story of adolescence, well-rounded and frequently humorous. The relationships between children and adults, and among the children and young people, are portrayed with perception and told with restraint.

R Coombs, Charles Ira. Rockets, Missiles, and Moons. Morrow, 1957. 256p. 7-10 \$3.75.

The author describes a missile launching, and goes back to trace the development of rocketry and to explain some of the physical laws of motion, force and propulsion. The models in use, and some of the problems of missile development are detailed, with particular attention to problems of defense. A chapter on Project Vanguard precedes an interesting section on the prospects of future satellites, the contributions to knowledge that they may provide, and the possibility of lunar flight. Illustrated with many photographs and diagrams; a glossary and a lengthy index are appended.

Ad Dodson, Kenneth MacKenzie. Hector the Stowaway Dog; A True Story; illus. 4-6 by Peter Spier. Little, 1958. 146p. \$3.

A true story about a dog who appeared on a ship bound for Yokohama. He was reserved, but not unfriendly; he seemed to be familiar with shipboard life. In harbor at the end of the trip, the dog barked excitedly at the sight of a man in a sampan, then jumped overboard. This was his master, whose ship had left port without the dog, Hector. While the book is about an unusual circumstance, the conclusion—that the dog was a stowaway whose action had a purpose—seems unwarranted. The dog was on the ship and he did see his master at the end of the voyage: the book refers to Hector's "search" as though its purpose were an established fact. The portion of the book that goes back to recapitulate the life of the master has material about his childhood that seems irrelevant.

Ad Downing, Charles, ed. Russian Tales and Legends; illus. by Joan Kiddell-6-9 Monroe. Oxford, 1957. 231p. \$3.50.

Folk literature from various regional Russian sources, adapted by the author from the original versions. Listed first are a dozen heroic tales with the repetition of phrase, the exaggeration of accomplishment, and the use of symbols found in all legend. "The Lay of Prince Igor" is presented in poetic form, although the original is in prose: the author cites precedent for this. The remainder, and longest section, of the book is devoted to the traditional folk tales which are moral and humorous—good storytelling material. The stories are marred somewhat by an unusual amount of conversation where narration might be more effective.

NR Drury, Maxine Cole and John P. A Career for Carol; decorations by Foster 7-9 Caddell. Longmans, 1958. 216p. \$3.

Carol Latimer dreamed of an operatic career but there seemed to be no way that she could afford to go to music school. Mother had offered to sell their waterfront home, but Carol and her brother refused to accept this sacrifice. They went into the lobstering business, during the course of which Carol fell in love with the young man who gave them a hand, their widowed mother met an eligible bachelor, their equipment was damaged by a storm and they caught a man who had been robbing their lobster pots. All this seems an unusual amount of activity for one summer, and the solution of all problems adds little to the credibility of the book.

M Dudley, Ruth Hubbell. The Tiptop Wish; illus. by Paul Galdone. Crowell, 1958. 3-4 115p. \$2.50.

The twins, Poppy and Flip, have an urgent wish: they want to vacation at the beach. When they hear that a friend of their mother's is leaving her cottage for a session at summer school, they write her secretly, suggesting that she stay in their home and they spend the six weeks at her beach cottage. Although father has to change his summer plans, the vacation is arranged and the tiptop wish comes true. The book has humorous passages, but the action is diffused by several sub-plots. The chief weakness of the story is the fact that the children take matters into their own hands:

although the adults agree to the plans, the unilateral action of the children might have led to an embarrassing situation, and is a dubious example to set before young readers. Vocabulary may prove a bit difficult for those to whom the subject would be of most interest.

Ad Emery, Anne. A Dream to Touch. Macrae, 1958. 190p. \$2.75.
7-9

Marya Rose faces most of the family and personal problems common to teen-age novels. There is a gulf between the children and their immigrant parents because the children are Americanized and the parents cannot understand them. To Marya falls the responsibility of keeping her younger brother Peter from becoming involved with a gang of delinquents. Her boyfriend Tony she is unable to influence, and finally she is forced to break up with him. In addition, she is competing for a National Merit Scholarship, without which she cannot attend college, and she is challenged as first violinist of the Chicago Youth Orchestra. Each of these problems is eventually overcome, and in a reasonably realistic manner; the family decides to move to a housing project and Marya wins her scholarship and regains the first chair, and finds a new, more understanding boyfriend. The story, and especially the family relationships, is interesting. However, the comparative ease with which Marya solves a great number of problems, each of which is material enough for a story of its own, seems unrealistic and detracts from the book's value as a picture of teen-agers' problems.

R Fedder, Ruth. You, the Person You Want To Be; illus. by Algot Stenbery.
8-12 Whittlesey House, 1957. 224p. \$3.50.

A discussion of the problems of the late teen years, and of the ways in which young people can work to achieve maturity and integration of personality. Discussed in detail and illustrated by examples are the problems of family relationships, rejection, guilt feelings, parent images, etc. In an encouraging way, the author indicates the possibilities for people to help themselves to change and improve. Issues of particular concern to the later teen years are considered, each in a chapter: dating, marriage, life work, schooling, and ideals. The writing is sincere, sensible and sympathetic. There is a tendency to repetition as these interrelated problems are discussed.

R Fisher, James. The Wonderful World of the Sea; consultant, Gwynne Vevers;
6-9 art, Eileen Aplin, et al.; diagrams, The Isotype Institute and Jeffery Lies;
maps, Geographical Projects, Ltd. Garden City Books, 1957. 69p. \$2.95.

Like the other books in this series, this is an oversize book profusely illustrated with maps and pictures in color. Coverage is broad rather than deep, since the author surveys many aspects of the sea. The formation of the oceans and their relationships to wind, sun and other natural forces and processes are told in an excellent introductory chapter. Evolution of animal life and the varieties of the species that now exist are next outlined. The remainder of the book treats of man and the sea: the progress in navigation, exploration and utilization of the natural resources of the sea.

Ad Françoise. Chouchou. Scribner, 1958. 32p. \$2.95.
K-2

The hard-working little donkey, Chouchou, was bought by a photographer and used in the studio for posing with customers. All the children loved him, but when Chouchou bit a child who was feeding him, he was put in jail. His friends declared that the accident had happened because the child had held the sugar the wrong way, and they lined up to feed Chouchou and prove it. The donkey was liberated—the photographer's business grew—Chouchou took part in the wedding procession when his master was married. A gay, slight, and improbable tale. Some of the illustrations show Chouchou's white muzzle (referred to more than once in the text) and others do not.

R Freeman, Don. The Night the Lights Went Out. Viking, 1958. 48p. \$2.

K-2

Thacher didn't mind a bit when it snowed so hard he couldn't go to school. He played train indoors and he built a log fort and played Indians outdoors. When the power lines came down in the blizzard that night, Thacher enjoyed eating by firelight and pretending to be a pioneer. His parents missed the use of the radio and the dishwasher and the clock . . . but not Thacher: he enjoyed it. He did until he found he couldn't run his electric train, and when the lights came on, all the electrical equipment began to go again. Lithographed illustrations are handsome. The plot is slight, but the story will be enjoyed by all children who have had the experience of having the lights go out and can remember the excitement of the changed atmosphere.

R Freeman, Ira Maximilian. All About Electricity; illus. by Evelyn Urbanowich. 4-6 Random House, 1957. 141p. \$1.95.

Simplified explanations of various aspects of electricity relating in many instances to familiar phenomena. How electricity is used in the telephone or radio, how it works in generator or electron tubes, and the basic principles that apply to all electrical functioning are described and are illustrated in simple diagrams. Indexing is thorough.

R Freuchen, Peter. Whaling Boy; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Putnam, 5-7 1958. 127p. \$2.75.

A tale that is powerful and sensitive in mood, and is an absorbing adventure story. Per List, who lived in a whaling community, was not quite twelve when he signed on as cabin boy with Captain Englebrect. Per has some rough experiences and some exciting ones. The great climax of the voyage is, for Per, his discovery of a large lump of valuable ambergris; in appreciation of the wealth this adds to shared profits, Per is accepted by the crew, as he has not been before. The real story is the whale hunt. A book remarkable for its unity of plot and its sustained atmosphere, vividly underlined by dramatic black and white half tone drawings.

R Godden, Rumer. The Story of Holly and Ivy; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Viking, 2-4 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

A tender story of lonely people brought together at Christmas. Ivy was the only child left in the orphanage for the holidays, and she pretended that she was going to her grandmother's. In fact, she went to a strange town and looked for a grandmother; she wistfully looked into the window of a toyshop and wished for Holly, the Christmas doll. Holly was hoping desperately that she would find a girl for Christmas. Mrs. Jones, who had no children, wished also for a little girl with whom to celebrate Christmas. With infinite charm, their lives are joined in a tale that has both emotional appeal and literary merit.

NR Govan, Christine (Noble) and Emmy West. The Mystery at the Deserted Mill; 4-6 illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Sterling, 1958. 152p. \$2.50.

The five children who call themselves the Lookouts are at their clubhouse, an abandoned log cabin, when they find a mountain boy named Viney watching them. Viney's family use thick southern mountain dialect and, while depicted with some sympathy, present a marked stereotype of hill-billy. Grandpappy, who spends his time sitting in a rocker on the front porch, disappears. The children find he has been kidnapped and hidden in an abandoned mill. The kidnappers prove to be scoundrels who were trying to intimidate the old man so that he would sell his land. The plot is lurid and the freedom of the children to become involved in such dangerous activity is hardly credible.

R Graham, Rosemary. Flying O'Flynn; illus. by Catriona Macdonald. Dodd, 4-6 1958. 136p. \$3.

A lively lady indeed is the laundress, Mrs. O' Flynn, who can fly in her wash basket. This unusual power was given her by a monarch six inches high in gratitude for her kind agreement to do his laundry. This is one of the many experiences that Mrs. O' Flynn tells young Robin as she irons. Each chapter is an amusing and fantastic tale that can be enjoyed quite separately as this lovable and mendacious heroine weaves stories in which she conquers, rescues, or comforts all comers. The "Introduction" is really the first story in the book.

R Hall, Rosalys Haskell. Seven for Saint Nicholas; pictures by Kurt Werth. 4-6 Lippincott, 1958. 157p. \$3.

The story of a big family living in the settlement that later became New York. The children had many adjustments to make. Maritje especially missed Holland; she would have liked to tell the six youngest children, of whom she had care, that St. Nicholas would come, just as he had at home, but she knew it might be impossible here. The episodes of the action are interesting both as a view of the colonial life and as an account of the ups and downs of relationships in a large family. The children are well differentiated, and the parents emerge as very real people.

NR Hallowell, Priscilla. Hector Goes Fishing; illus. by Don Freeman. Viking, 1-3 1958. 48p. \$2.

Hector, who is seven, goes fishing but he won't let the fish get caught, although the fish tries to convince him that it's the proper thing to do. Then he gets into a discussion with a duck who tells Hector that he is supposed to be taken home to Mother to be cooked and eaten. Hector refuses. He also refuses to hurt a muskrat who expects capture. All these animals bring others of their kind to Hector's rescue when he is set upon by two bullies on his way home. Hector's kindness is the less effective as an example for its unrealistic reward. The conversations of fish, duck and muskrat are not convincing fantasy, and there is a great deal of slang used.

NR Harkins, Philip. Game, Carol Canning! Morrow, 1958. 221p. \$2.95. 6-8

Carol, age thirteen, was new to tournament tennis play. She had to learn to accept defeat and to keep in rigorous training. She learned not to judge others by outward appearance and she learned from an older girl, to whom she lost a match, some of the patience and discipline needed by a tournament player. In the end, she won the Southern California championship. A theme that has been used before—the raw recruit who needs to mature before succeeding—is handled here with little to redeem it: the style of writing is mediocre and the people have no depth.

Ad Hausman, Leon Augustus and Felix Sutton. The Illustrated Book of the Sea; 4-7 illus. by Art Renshaw and Herman Bischoff. Grosset, 1957. 101p. \$3.95.

The living creatures of the marine world are described and pictured in an oversize book. Since all phyla of animals, from protozoans to huge mammalian whales, are included, the space given to each is necessarily brief. While the book has small flaws (descriptions that do not correspond to the illustrations, for example), the information is presented in interesting fashion, a good general survey is given, and the illustrations are highly decorative as well as informative.

Ad Hawkes, Hester. Lee Po's Search; illus. by Haris Petie. Coward-McCann, 2-3 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

The mountain stream has dried, so Lee Po's father, a well-digger, shares the general poverty. Lee Po is sent up the mountain; returning after dark, he brings home no fuel. His parents tell him to look again, and this time his older sister accompanies him and finds that Lee Po has been befriending animals. A squirrel leads the children to a coal pocket, the children rejoice at finding enough coal for the whole winter, and

sister is happy because the woman for whom she sews will let her sit on a stool as reward for some blue feathers she finds. The redeeming feature of this sentimental tale is the kindness to animals shown by both Lee Po and his sister.

NR Hill, C. W. The Adventures of Jock and Jonathan; pictures by Phyllis Denton. 1-3 Warne, 1958. 100p. \$1.50.

Twelve short chapters, each of which is complete in itself, about Jock and his dog Jonathan. The text is very simple, but the vocabulary is too difficult for the simple plot. The activity that takes place in each story is simple and homely: dressing up on a rainy afternoon, going shopping with mother, having a picnic, etc.

R Hodges, Margaret. One Little Drum; illus. by Paul Galdone. Follett, 1958. 2-4 63p. \$2.40.

When Johnny was eight, he got a toy drum for Christmas. He played it all the time, although his mother suggested other toys and his father wished it could be played more softly. When he saw a real drum in the window of a music store, Johnny decided to earn money for it, and he did. Then he saw a bigger drum . . . then a cymbal . . . then a bass drum. Each time Johnny determined to get the new instrument, he found more ways to earn money. He walked dogs, raked leaves, washed dishes and shoveled snow. By the time Johnny could play in the school band, he could look back over two years of work and progress. The story of this determination and industry is told with simplicity and mild humor.

R Icenhower, Joseph Bryan. The First Book of Submarines; pictures by Mildred 5-7 Waltrip. Watts, 1957. 60p. \$1.95.

Written by a Navy officer with experience as a submarine commander. The parts and the operation of a submarine are described and diagrammed in detail and with clarity. The development of submarines is traced, from the first model made in 1620 to the specialized ships used today. The training of submarine sailors and the way of life aboard ship are briefly outlined.

NR Jacobs, Flora Gill. The Doll House Mystery; illus. by Chuck Gruen. Coward- 3-4 McCann, 1958. 96p. \$2.75.

Priscilla inherits a doll house that is a replica of the Victorian mansion in which her eccentric great-aunt Eugenia lived. Annie, the Siamese cat, acts strange when she is near the doll house, and a black cat appears in the neighborhood, also acting strange. Dolls disappear and footsteps are heard in the night. The culprit is Priscilla's little brother; the ending is logical but anti-climactic. The whole plot seems much ado about very little, with all the atmosphere of a genuine mystery, but with little substance.

R Jaffe, Bernard. Chemistry Creates a New World; illus. by Ava Morgan. 7-12 Crowell, 1957. 321p. \$4.50.

A survey of the progress that has been made in the field of applied chemistry. While the author never talks down to his audience, the pleasant ease of style and the clear exposition of basic principles makes the book understandable to those with no background in chemistry. Some of the areas explored are medicine, food and agriculture, synthetic fuels and fabrics, and metal alloys. The discovery of the transuranium elements and the subsequent development of power from nuclear fission are excitingly described, and the prospects of energy from fusion are examined. Diagrams and charts supplement the text and informal biographical notes enliven it.

M James, Norma Wood. Young Doctor of New Amsterdam; illus. by Victor Dow- 6-8 ling. Longmans, 1958. 215p. \$3.

New Amsterdam at the time of Peter Stuyvesant provides the background for this story

of a young medical student who begins life as a foundling and then is discovered to be the heir to one of the wealthy families on the North River. The plot is rather trite and the writing florid, but the story has good pace and provides an adequate, if not outstanding, picture of the period.

R Johnson, Crockett. Harold at the North Pole; A Christmas Journey with the K-2 Purple Crayon. Harper, 1958. 48p. \$1.50.

Harold is at work with his purple crayon again, taking care of Christmas. Discovering that he is on the roof of Santa's house at the North Pole, Harold draws Santa emerging from the chimney. Then he takes care of reindeer, toys and tree. The problem is to get the tree home, so Harold draws fireplace and armchair near the tree; he settles himself quietly in the armchair and waits for Santa Claus to arrive. Facile and imaginative drawing combines with understated text—with the same engaging result that other Harold books display.

Ad Kubie, Nora Benjamin. The First Book of Archaeology. Watts, 1957. 65p. 5-7 \$1.95.

A brief survey of archeology: its history as a science, its methodology, and some of its better-known discoveries. Treatment is slight and organization is episodic, so that the book is sufficient only as an introduction to the topic. It is, however, quite good as an introduction, since it gives interesting highlights of archeological development as well as general information about the techniques used and the importance of the finds.

Ad Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Fair Bay. Morrow, 1958. 123p. \$2.50. 2-4

One summer Trudy went to visit her great-aunt Gertrude, and found that the island of Fair Bay, about which her grandmother had told her so many stories, still existed. Trudy had thought a storm had swept the island away. One day, at low tide, Trudy rode over to Fair Bay on a horse. She found herself in the Fair Bay of sixty years ago, yet she was invisible to the little girls who were playing. She saw her own grandmother, and she found a long-lost music box buried in the sand. The storm comes up all over again, and Trudy just manages to get back to the mainland in a real storm. The concept of parallel time zones implies a reader older than the vocabulary indicates.

R Lauber, Patricia. Penguins on Parade; drawings by Douglas Howland. Coward-McCann, 1958. 64p. \$3. 4-6

A survey of the distribution of the several kinds of penguins, their structural adaptation and habits, and the methods used in one zoo to capture birds and breed them in captivity. Pictures and text are executed with care for detail, and the style of writing is smooth and informal, resulting in well-integrated information. Special attention is devoted to the two kinds of penguins that have been studied in Antarctica: the Adelies and the Emperors.

Ad Lawrence, Mildred (Elwood). Along Comes Spring. Harcourt, 1958. 192p. 8-10 \$3.

Cory didn't have much money, so she planned to do part-time work in college, and not to waste time on social life. Her sophisticated roommate, Paula, is sure that Cory, who loves to design and make clothes, ought to become a designer rather than an English teacher. Cory eventually sees the light about a career based on ability; she also becomes aware of the true value of her faithful beau. The book is not far from the usual first-year-away pattern in which the family at home is fully appreciated, the country girl and the city girl are roommates, etc. It deviates from the pattern in two ways: Cory is not beset with insuperable problems, and the solutions

of those problems that exist are restrained. For example, Cory does not suddenly see the light about her career; she changes with reluctance and a sense of betrayal of herself that turns into relief.

R Leach, Maria. The Rainbow Book of American Folk Tales and Legends; illus. 5- by Marc Simont. World, 1958. 319p. \$4.95.

A collection as delightful as it is useful. From the various kinds of tales and legends the author has compiled a representative sampling of tall tales, scary tales, "brags," local legends, Indian tales, strange stories and stories of men famous and infamous. A section on state lore gives the flower and bird of the state, and some folk custom, always interesting and usually humorous as well. Prefatory remarks about folk lore and comments within the various sections of the book give information about the tales and the forms in which variations appear. The list of sources and a bibliography are appended. A good introduction to folk tales for those to whom this area of literature is unfamiliar, and useful for background information when studying folk literature.

Ad McClung, Robert M. Little Burma; illus. by Hord Stubblefield. Morrow, 1958. 4-6 256p. \$2.95.

Orphaned Ben Forrest runs away from the cruel farmer who is his guardian. He is almost stopped by a sadistic animal trainer, Sarrengo, who wants Ben's dog. Taking refuge with kind Mr. Owen, Ben is tracked down by Sarrengo. Mr. Owen is the owner of Little Burma, the first elephant to be exhibited in the United States; Ben and another boy are hired to care for her and they become very fond of the small elephant. The climax of the book is a courtroom scene in which Ben's guardian comes to claim him, but does not succeed because his meek sister takes courage and testifies against him. The plot is rather melodramatic, but the descriptions of the care and training of Little Burma are good; and the relationship between the two boys who care for her is most perceptively worked out: each boy is a definite personality, and the changes in their relationship develop logically from their behavior.

R MacKellar, William. Two for the Fair; illus. by Nora S. Unwin. Whittlesey 2-4 House, 1958. 61p. \$2.50.

A delightful story, told with grave tenderness and simplicity. When young Gavin realizes that his grandfather, John Cameron, is too crippled with arthritis to get to the Fair, Gavin promises that he will find a way. Grandfather has been to every fair for 49 years. The boy's devotion and candor appeal so much to Sir Lindsay Bruce that he, the great man of the neighborhood, appears on the day of the Fair to drive the Camerons—in the only motor car thereabouts—to Grandfather's fiftieth Fair. The tale has warmth and humor, a lovely Scots flavor, and a happy combination of a few consistent characters and a plot of exemplary unity.

R McNeer, May Yonge. The Canadian Story; with lithographs by Lynd Ward. 5-8 Ariel, 1958. 96p. \$4.25.

Handsomely illustrated and excitingly written, this is an impressive book. Each brief chapter describes an explorer, a scientist, a typical Canadian or a period of conflict. In this topical treatment of Canadian history, the author has been able to choose colorful instances and dramatic incidents; the reader is thereby given a broad picture of the new land that gives a historical panorama without the stolidity of textbook approach.

SpR Mayne, William. Choristers' Cake; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Bobbs-Mer- 6-8 rill, 1958. 160p. \$3.

Another story about the English boys at choir school, this one equally entertaining for those readers who appreciate the understated British humor and understand the musical references. Sandy is a lively boy who annoys both students and teachers with

his pranks. Sandy, who has been afraid that he isn't good enough to become a chorister, finally studies, takes the exams and passes them. As chorister, he is privileged to have the traditional ceremonial chorister's cake. Despite the sophistication of humor and elegance of style, the reader is aware of the loyalty within the school and of the long and solid tradition it has had.

Ad Meyer, Edith Patterson. Dynamite and Peace; The Story of Alfred Nobel.
7-10 Little, 1958. 298p. \$3.50.

A well-researched biography of Alfred Nobel. Much of the book is devoted to the childhood of the biographee and to his family, rather important in a life so influenced by the family and its business. The fact that Nobel was, all through his young youth, exposed to that business, the manufacture of munitions, suggests a reason for his conflicting goals: the production of war material and the establishment of a prize for peace. While it is of interest to read the detailed explanation of the way in which the annual prizes are awarded, it is disappointing that no list of the award winners is included in the book.

R Meyer, Jerome Sydney. The Elements, Builders of the Universe; illus. with
10- photographs. World, 1957. 252p. \$3.95.

An exploration of the man-made as well as the natural elements. A very clear explanation of the structure of atoms is given and is supplemented by equally clear diagrams. A few elements are considered separately, but most of the chapters examine related groups: i.e., "The Alkali Earths," or "Tough Metals That Make Steel What It Is Today." Not easy reading, but an excellent introduction to the subject and also useful as supplementary reading for the beginning chemistry student.

M Miller, Helen Louise. Gold Medal Plays for Holidays. Plays, Inc., 1958.
3-6 432p. \$4.75.

Thirty one-act plays, royalty-free, for all-child casts. The holidays covered are those falling in the school year, from Hallowe'en to Flag Day. Production notes are given in an appendix. The plays are easy to produce and will probably not tax the resources of performers. While the writing is mediocre, the material may be useful as an added source of material for group or classroom use. The values expressed in the plays are invariably worthy, but they are stressed in a purposive way that results in some rather artificial dialogue.

R Morris, Percy Amos. Boy's Book of Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders. Ronald,
7-12 1957. 240p. \$4.

A comprehensive and serious book about amphibians found in the United States, by a staff member of the Peabody Museum of Natural History. Chapters of general information about amphibians and about collecting and preserving them are followed by sections on salamanders, toads, frogs, tree frogs and other amphibians. Classification list gives both the scientific and popular names. For each species is given full information about appearance, habits, diet and habitat. Most species are shown in black and white photographs.

R Nash, Mary. While Mrs. Coverlet Was Away; with drawings by Garrett Price.
3-5 Little, 1958. 133p. \$3.

A light-hearted story about the three Persever children who are left on their own when the housekeeper, Mrs. Coverlet, is called away. Father, a vitamin salesman, is in New Zealand. The children don't tell anyone that there is no adult with them; they try to get along in spite of financial difficulties. First they sell Nervous, a rare cat. Then they market locally a sauce that the youngest Persever makes from a secret formula. The secret ingredient turns out to be all the sample vitamin pills. Characterization is somewhat extravagant but always consistent.

M Nielsen, Jean. Walk under the Trees. Funk and Wagnalls, 1958. 280p. \$2.95.
7-9

Gwen, who has been staying with her grandmother to convalesce from measles, runs off to her aunt's home in Arizona. She finds, to her dismay, that Aunt Fliss runs a cafe and truck stop and that she is expected to work as a cook and waitress. Gwen has been selfish and spoiled, but the influence of the new people she meets in the Mormon community changes her completely. She becomes, tactful, patient, helpful, industrious, etc. The book abounds in sub-plots: Gwen's two love interests, the success of the cafe, the illness of her uncle, the love affair of another waitress, the reform of a selfish sister, Gwen's first art show. Some of the characterization is excellent, but the busy detail and the happy solution of all problems for all characters seriously mar the book.

R Peare, Catherine Owen. William Penn; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Holt, 1958.
6-8 191p. \$3.

A biography for which the author has done careful preparatory work; her adult biography of Penn (reviewed in the BULLETIN, V. XI, No. 11) contains extensive and impressive documentation. The book gives the story of both the man and the Quaker religion to which he was converted. All aspects of Penn's life—his family, his colony in the New World and the financial troubles with that colony—relate to his dedication to the Quaker faith. Penn is drawn with realism and sympathy, and the background of English political struggles is vividly presented.

M Pohlmann, Lillian. Myrtle Albertina's Song; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Coward-
3-5 McCann, 1958. 218p. \$3.

Myrtle Albertina's uncle had been falsely accused and jailed, but the discovery of the real thief didn't keep the townspeople from regarding him with suspicion. Myrtle Albertina was dismayed to hear that her cousin Tuley would therefore be moving away. She worked hard to convince people that her uncle was a good man, with some success. When Uncle Harvey took her father's place in the mines during an illness, the adults felt more friendly. Their previous conduct does not seem logical in view of their enthusiastic reversal of opinion. Style of writing is easy and pleasant, but the introduction of characters of widely assorted origins is intrusively purposive.

R Pope, Clifford Hillhouse. Reptiles Round the World; A Simplified Natural
6-9 History of the Snakes, Lizards, Turtles, and Crocodilians; illus. by Helen
Damrosch Tee-Van. Knopf, 1957. 204p. \$3.

A simplified version of the author's *The Reptile World*. The habits of reptiles are described: locomotion, diet, defense mechanisms and habitat. Reproduction, growth, distribution, and the relationship of the reptile to man are explored. The second part of the book approaches the reptile world regionally, examining the species found on each continent. An extensive listing of classified and popular names is given for each of the four groups: turtles, snakes, crocodilians and lizards. Excellent relative index.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Men and Women Behind the Atom; illus. with photo-
8-12 graphs. Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 228p. \$3.

An excellent collective biography. The author has included the men and women whose work contributed, directly or indirectly, to the development of atomic power. The sections are somewhat comparable (in length) to the importance of the contribution: for example, there are 27 pages devoted to Marie and Pierre Curie and two pages to F. W. Aston. Both the lives and the work of the biographees are described. The book is therefore a very comprehensive account of the theory and application of atomic energy. While the material may not be comprehensible to all readers, the biographical information is interesting, and the ways in which a fund of scientific knowledge grows across time and national boundaries is illuminating. One flaw in the book is

the placement of photographs, which are frequently in the section following the text that the photograph illustrates.

Ad Sperry, Armstrong. All About the Arctic and Antarctic. Random House, 1957. 4-6 146p. \$1.95.

A book that gives general information and is best used as an introduction to the polar regions. The Arctic is surveyed first: the geography, weather and natural resources, the flora and fauna, and some information about Eskimo inhabitants. The description of the Antarctic gives comparable information about geography, weather, and wild life; it also includes some facts about exploration and Operation Deep-Freeze. Treatment is fairly superficial and there are several instances of careless writing.

Ad Stine, G. Harry. Rocket Power and Space Flight; illus. with photographs and 9-12 line drawings. Holt, 1957. 182p. \$3.75.

A book for the reader who is already acquainted with physics—or an enthusiast about space flight—yet the conversational style will enable the uninformed reader to enjoy it even though he may not fully understand it. The history of rocketry and the physical laws by which rocket engines operate are explained. Various types of rockets are described, and considerable information about safety measures and careers is given.

M Stone, Eugenia. Magpie Hill; pictures by Alan Moyler. Watts, 1958. 150p. 3-5 \$2.95.

A story which puts rather a strain on the gullibility of the reader, if it is to be taken seriously. An Arabian on a camel turns up, ill, at the Bean doorstep. Tad Bean and his friend, Skinny, go off into the desert to hunt for another lost camel, escaped from a circus. They fall in with two cracker-barrel prospectors. All four proceed to search for both the lost camel and a lost mine. They encounter an Indian family. Somehow, all these people, plus a cat and a magpie and a Captain Dimwhistle who appears on the scene, do find the lost mine—and the lost camel, who turns up in a secluded spot with sixteen other camels. The cat has kittens. Style is awkward and conversations slangy and heavy with dialect. Characters are stereotyped, especially the briny captain and the Indians who say "Cat catchum rat." The appeal of the book may be to the sense of humor that enjoys extravagant improbability.

NR Stoutenburg, Adrien. Honeymoon. Westminster, 1958. 160p. \$2.95. 7-9

Claude and Amy go to a winter resort for their honeymoon. They are unhappy when they find out that the young couple in the neighboring cabin, who have been married only two years, are bitter and disillusioned. Claude is rescued in a blinding snow-storm by the other man, Lee. The experience makes a new and better man of Lee. The characters all seem to be rather immature adolescents, and the writing is replete with banalities.

R Streatfeild, Noel. Queen Victoria; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. Random 7-9 House, 1958. 184p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.95.

The life of the Queen is portrayed with affection and competence. The author has so described the long reign of Victoria that she emerges as a very real person. The greatest merit of the book is, however, that without inundating the reader in a flood of names and dates, the historical background and the life of the royal family are presented in just enough detail to enable the reader to understand the cause-and-effect relationship between a sovereign and the events that take place during her reign.

SpC Thompson, Kay. Eloise at Christmastime; drawings by Hilary Knight. Ran-

4- dom House, 1958. 45p. \$3.50.

The sophisticated and irrepressible little hotel-dweller describes her activities at the holiday season. The same busy illustrations and whimsical text that were in the other books about Eloise will no doubt capture the same audience, although some of the pages seem repetitive. Through all the frenzied pages the seasonal excitement and good feeling emerge. Despite format and principal character, this is less a children's book than an adult's book that may also catch the fancy of children. Probably best suited for home collections.

Ad Tor, Regina. Getting to Know the Philippines; illus. by Haris Petie. Coward-4-6 McCann, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

Through a typical Phillipine family, the reader becomes acquainted with the pattern of living in the Islands today. The balance between historical and geographical information is good, and the varied aspects of urban and rural life are presented. Organization of material is rather rambling: i.e., there is no explanation of the official language until almost half through the book, although the reader may gather, from phrases quoted, that more than one language is used. On the whole, the book gives useful and interesting data in an informal and readable manner.

R Unnerstad, Edith. The Spettekake Holiday; illus. by Iben Clante. Macmillan, 3-6 1958. 211p. \$3. Translated from the Swedish by Inger Boye.

Modern Sweden is the background for this story of a small boy who spends the summer at his grandmother's farm. Pelle-Göran was very upset by his mother's long illness, but agreed to go to the farm and bring a spettekake to the doctor if the doctor would agree to make Mother well. The boy's adjustment to new surroundings, his eager curiosity and readiness to make new friends are told with warmth and humor. An honest and wholesome charm pervades the book; the people are real and their behavior convincing; the picture of rural life in Sweden today is informative. The translator has apparently contributed to the book the same care and good taste as has the author.

Ad Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). The More the Merrier. Crowell, 1958. 201p. 6-8 \$2.75.

Beany Malone decides to take in boarders when she and her brother are alone in the house for the summer. Andy, Beany's boy-friend, is in a Marine training camp, and Beany arranges a friendship with the shy boy he writes about and the plump and unhappy girl who is boarding with her. She has a misunderstanding with Andy, which is happily cleared up at the end of the book. Much of the action hinges on Beany's slip from good behavior: she steals a roadblock flare and learns what it means to suffer the pangs of conscience. Much like other Malone stories, the book will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many girls because of this very similarity.

Ad Williams, Gweneira. Timid Timothy; The Kitten Who Learned To Be Brave; 3-5 illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Scott, 1958. 65p. \$2.50.
yrs.

A re-issue of the story about a small kitten who is afraid of other animals. His mother takes him to the zoo, so that Timothy may see how friendly all the animals are. Timothy is still afraid, so his mother gives him lessons in humping and hissing. He goes to a toy store and finds the others quite amicable. Then he meets a dog; it is terrifying, but the dog runs first. Timothy proudly reports his prowess; he boasts that he can scare others now. Anybody. Timothy is annoyed when mother carries him away from a buzzing noise, but mother explains that there is a difference between being brave and looking for trouble, and bees are trouble. A pleasant, albeit unpretentious, story. Illustrations are somewhat repetitive.

M Witheridge, Elizabeth P. Mara Journeys Home; illus. by Lucille Wallower.
4-6 Abingdon, 1957. 128p. \$2.

Mara is a member of the caravan of Hebrew exiles returning to Jerusalem after the long years of exile in Babylon. The child is not sure she will be happy in the place she has never known, but looks forward to finding the box of jewels that her grandfather buried sixty years ago on the homesite. On the trip across the desert, Mara discovers some thieves who are planning to steal the vessels of the Temple; she warns the adults and saves the precious vessels. When the group reaches Jerusalem Mara finds the box of jewels. Contrived writing is compensated for to an extent by the unusual setting of this period in Jewish history.

NR Wright, Dare. Holiday for Edith and the Bears. Doubleday, 1958. 55p. \$2.50.
K-1

An oversize book of photographs; characters in the story are a doll and two toy bears: Edith, Little Bear and Mr. Bear. They go to an island and, disobeying Mr. Bear, the two "children" go out in a rowboat. The oars are lost, Little Bear falls overboard and is rescued by Edith. The rest of the summer, no boating. Some of the pictures capture the seaside atmosphere, but most are repetitive poses of the three toys. The story does point a lesson in safety, but this seems a rather elaborate way to do so.

R Zim, Herbert Spencer and Paul R. Shaffer. Rocks and Minerals; A Guide to
7- Familiar Minerals, Gems, Ores and Rocks; illus. by Raymond Perlman.
Simon and Schuster, 1957. 160p. (A Golden Nature Guide). \$2.50.

A handbook that is educational for amateurs and useful for quick reference for professionals. Introductory material on the earth and its rocks gives basic geological information, and activities for amateurs are suggested in identifying, collecting and studying rocks and minerals. Colored diagrams and pictures of specimens aid in identification. Descriptions include information on formation, structure, use and importance.

Reading for Parents

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Gruenberg, Sidonie. The Parents' Guide to Everyday Problems of Boys and Girls. Random House, 1958. 384p. \$4.95.

Hadas, Elizabeth. "Why Fairy Tales?" Child Study magazine, Fall, 1958. Vol. XXV, No. 4, pp. 34-36.

Langdon, Grace and Stout, Irving. Helping Parents Understand Their Child's School. Prentice-Hall, 1957. 508p. \$5.

Larrick, Nancy. A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading. Doubleday, 1958. 258p. \$2.95. Also available in paper-bound from Pocket Books, \$.35. Sponsored by the National Book Committee, Inc.

PAMPHLETS AND BOOKLISTS

Barman, Alicerose and Kehm, Frieda. Your Child and the People Around Him. Science Research Associates, Inc. 57 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago 10. \$.60.

Hirsch, Selma. Fear and Prejudice. Public Affairs Pamphlets. 22 E. 38th Street, New York 16. \$.25.

Hoppack, Anne. All Children Have Gifts. Association for Childhood Education International. 1200 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Washington 5, D.C. \$.75.

Wolf, Anna. Your Child's Emotional Health. Public Affairs Pamphlets. 22 E. 38th Street, New York 16. \$.25.

Booklists from the Child Study Association of America, available by writing to 132 E. 74th Street, New York 21.

Books About Parents and Their Children. \$.75; 10-99 copies, 10% discount.

A Parent's Bookshelf. Single copy free; 5 copies, \$.25.

New Books About Parenthood and Family Life. \$.15; 10-99 copies, 10% discount.

