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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO · GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

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

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Volume XII

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New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Anderson, Clarence William. Pony for Three. Macmillan, 1958. 45p. \$2.50.
2-3

Three children were given a pony, and they were able to ride him all three at once. The pony was very happy until the day he broke his leg by stepping into a woodchuck hole. The children took very good care of him until he was well, and then they made sure that the pony could carry them easily by mounting him one at a time. When they could all ride together, the pony was again a pony for three. A slight story, repetitious (although pleasant and realistic) illustrations and little originality in conception are redeemed to an extent by the kindness to animals that is described and by the simplicity of the happenings.

Ad Atwater, Montgomery Meigs. The Ski Lodge Mystery. Random House, 1959.
7-9 184p. \$2.95.

Another fast-paced tale about Brad Davis, the Snow Ranger of Avalanche Patrol. All the staff of the ski lodge are annoyed by the behavior of Victor Kohler, a guest of the owners, the Rolands. Kohler, an internationally known mountain climber, has discovered uranium in an abandoned tunnel, and is using his skiing activities to mask his attempt to purchase the property. One Ranger has already been hospitalized by a contrived accident when Brad comes to Snowhole Lodge. A series of clashes between Kohler and Brad gives impetus to the plot; finally the Rolands' plane is isolated in the mountains, and in rescuing the family, Brad loses an avalanche, almost loses his life, and exposes the villain. Background of the work of the U. S. Forest Service is fascinating, writing style is lively and the mystery credible, but the melodrama of plot and the superficial character development are less than satisfying.

Ad Bauer, Helen. Water; Riches or Ruin. Doubleday, 1959. 121p. \$3.
3-5

An advocate of conservation, the author describes the loss and damage that man has suffered from careless waste of water. She writes of erosion and floods; and of the dams, the irrigation projects, the reclamation by planting that men have instituted to control and conserve the precious natural resource. One section, entitled "Water for thirsty lands," is about California. Style is informal and gives an effect of loquacity, replete as it is with italicized words and exclamation points.

R Bendick, Jeanne. The First Book of Airplanes. Watts, 1958. 65p. \$1.95.
3-5

A third re-writing of the book first published in 1944 under the title The First Flying Book. The author explains how planes fly, the parts of a plane, the different kinds of engines that are used, the way that the Civil Aeronautics Association controls traffic, and the many and varied tasks that airplane pilots perform. The style of writing

is a great improvement over the 1952 edition, much up-to-date material has been added, and an index is now appended.

NR Berkey, Ben. Liberty Hill. Denison, 1959. 78p. \$3.
4-6

The story of Benjamin Blake, a boy of fourteen who was sent on a mission during the Revolutionary War and was wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill. His great moment came when General Washington congratulated him as a hero. Poor writing style, with many grammatical errors and trite phrases; inadequate proofreading contributes errors in punctuation and spelling.

M Blair, Dorothea W. Roger: A Most Unusual Rabbit; drawings by Hilary Knight.
4-6 Lippincott, 1958. 63p. \$2.50.

Roger was an excellent portrait painter; Roger had genteel ways; Roger went to London to make a name for himself. While many of his patrons (all of the nobility or royalty) were mildly surprised to be associated with a rabbit, London society was quick to recognize Roger's genius. In fact, Roger was appointed Court Painter. Humor does not emerge successfully from this tale; the restrained and artificial elegance of the conversation seems quite separated from the fantasy of a personified rabbit whose behavior is consistently human. The gentle satire of the social world is the sort to appeal to adults rather than to children. Illustrations combine details of costume and furniture of the period, and amusing caricature.

Ad Blough, Glenn Orlando, ed. Young People's Book of Science; illus. with photo-
6-9 graphs and drawings. Whittlesey House, 1958. 446p. \$4.50.

A collection of excerpts from 19 books by such authoritative science writers as Jeanne and Robert Bendick, Margaret Hyde, Lynn Poole, and Herman Schneider. Many of the books from which selections have been made are important and staple items in most collections, and the chief use of this anthology will be as an introduction to the reading of the full text of the original book or of other science material. Probably more useful in home collections than any other, since the reader who is already interested usually requests material in a specific area. Although footnotes give sources, there is no indication of source in the table of contents. The collection has comparatively little astronomy or biology.

R Boardman, Fon Wyman. Roads. Walck, 1958. 143p. \$3.50.
6-8

An unusual and interesting book with many drawings, maps, and photographs. The roads of ancient civilizations are first discussed; next the roads of the Incas; the roads of Europe from the Dark Ages to the evolution of the modern turnpike are next described. The roads of North America are discussed in detail, from the Indian trails to the superhighways of today. The last chapters deal with modern roads the world over and with the process of road building. Index is appended. A comprehensive and briskly business-like style of writing and a wealth of information in this book.

R Bothwell, Jean. The Promise of the Rose. Harcourt, 1958. 187p. \$3.
7-10

A romantic tale of India in the sixteenth century. Aruna, who had lived alone since the death of her learned and beloved father, has been told by the Emperor that a marriage has been arranged. Aruna, attracted to a young adventurer named Qasim, is unhappy at the prospect of marriage. Visiting the Emperor's court, Aruna becomes involved in court intrigue and Qasim emerges as the Emperor's friend and agent, a Pimpernel character. Interesting background, good writing style and convincing plot provide an entertaining reading experience.

Ad Boys' Life Treasury; selected by the editors of Boys' Life; illus. by Hamilton 4-7
Greene, et al. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 480p. \$4.95.

A selection of approximately 80 stories and articles from Boys' Life, the official magazine of the Boy Scouts of America. Material has been selected for this anthology from issues published since 1947. There are humorous stories, adventure tales, sports stories and sports articles, detective stories and tales about Scouts. Some of the well-known writers included are B. J. Chute, Jim Kjelgaard, James W. English, and William Saroyan. Quality of the selections is variable—some good, some mediocre writing.

Ad Bradbury, Bianca. Mike's Island; illus. by Charles Geer. Putnam, 1959. 128p. 3-5
\$2.50.

Mike knew that he was going to have a wonderful week at the beach when a new family came to Sawyer's Point with a boy his own age. George and Mike were directed by Mr. Sawyer, a native, to a small uninhabited island to dig for treasure. Although they had to be polite and include, at parental insistence, a Girl, the boys had fun—they even found that the girl was a good companion. The youngsters called the island "Mike's Island"; their delight was great when Mr. Sawyer, who owned the land, gave Mike a permanent lease in return for taking care of the property. Not an outstanding story, but pleasant, and the conversation has convincing spontaneity. Good fare for the slow fifth grade reader.

M Breetveld, Jim. Getting to Know Malaya; illus. by Haris Petie. Coward-4-6
McCann, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

A brief and fairly superficial introduction to the Federation of Malaya. As in the other books in this series, the geography, history and political organization of the country are described; racial and religious groups are noted; educational, cultural and industrial patterns are explained. The writing is rather careless; in places, a jarring change of tense, or an unexplained bit of information. For example, it is stated that the Federation consists of nine states and two settlements; why Malacca, which is on the mainland, is a settlement is never clarified.

R Bronson, Wilfrid Swancourt. Goats. Harcourt, 1959. 64p. \$2.95. 3-5

In chatty and informal style, the author presents a great deal of information about goats. Background material gives added interest to the practical information on raising a goat or a herd of goats. Housing, feeding, training, and dairying are described. Useful for the reader who needs the facts to help him raise goats and readable enough to be enjoyed for itself.

M Buckmaster, Henrietta. Lucy and Loki; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Scribner, K-2
1958. 32p. \$2.50.

Loki was a dog, Lucy a cat; Lucy spurned Loki's friendship until the day that the dog protected her from three large dogs. Then Lucy decided that she would try to behave like a dog herself. Several incidents—baths, for instance—made her realize that being a cat wasn't too bad and when she kept the three large dogs at bay one day she decided that she was an expert cat indeed and could hardly wait to tell Loki. A read-aloud picture book with slight plot and unconvincing personification, redeemed somewhat by the attractive illustrations.

R Buehr, Walter. Bread; The Staff of Life. Morrow, 1959. 80p. \$2.75. 3-5

The story of bread is told in a smoothly written combination of anecdote, conjecture, and fact. The interesting development is traced from the first cultivation of grain to the eating of raw flour, from the first unleavened loaves to the Egyptian discovery of

raised dough, and from the first home ovens to the huge and complicated commercial processes of industrial baking today the interesting development is traced.

Ad Buehr, Walter. The Crusaders. Putnam, 1959. 96p. \$3.
5-7

A book that concentrates on the First Crusade at the close of the eleventh century. The author discusses the background of European feudal structure and the motivations of the Crusaders, describing the four armies that marched to Jerusalem and telling in detail the battles of Nicaea, Antioch, and Jerusalem. The last fifteen pages of the book survey briefly other Crusades, especially the ill-fated Children's Crusade. Mr. Buehr is candid in his description of the behavior of the marchers, which was not always exemplary. The emphasis on only one of the Crusades limits the value of the book, and the omission of a map is regrettable.

R Carson, Rachel Louise. The Sea around Us; adapted by Anne Terry White.
5-8 Simon and Schuster, 1958. 165p. (A Deluxe Golden Book) \$4.95.

An excellent adaptation, for young readers, of the original version. Oversize pages display to advantage an impressive collection of drawings, photographs, maps and charts; most of these are in color. Many young readers who might not otherwise read this fine book will be attracted by the format; those who read the original edition may, however, enjoy the unusually distinctive style of Miss Carson's writing. Some of the topics explored are the formation of oceans, the tides and the currents, marine flora and fauna, the ocean floor and volcanic activity, products obtained from the sea, and many others.

M Chaney, Maryel and Ronald. Timothy Tattercoat; illus. by Garry MacKenzie.
4-6 Houghton, 1958. 181p. \$2.75.

Timothy is an old merry-go-round horse that stands in the O'Leary garden in a home in the west. To this home has come Ronnie, whose widowed mother has married Lance O'Leary; in the garden Ronnie and his new father establish headquarters for nature study. The nature lore is presented in interesting fashion, but there is no real story line. The introduction may be confusing to some readers, since it tells of the time when Timothy, abandoned as junk, is rescued by a nine-year-old Lance O'Leary, and in this part of the story Timothy is personified. Later, he is simply an old toy horse. The difference in approach and emphasis between the introductory section and the story proper may, in fact, discourage the reader who—not aware that the body of the book is informational nature lore—finds no appeal in the beginning of the book.

NR Christensen, Haaken. Little Bruin Keeps House; tr. from the Norwegian by
1-2 Siri Andrews. Abingdon, 1959. 24p. \$1.75.

A young bear and a fox go to an island cabin for a vacation; they keep house and cook. The bear's parents come to visit and are impressed by the way Michael and Little Bruin have taken care of the cabin. The style is flat and the action moves slowly with no apparent direction and with irrelevant incidents. Illustrations are not attractive.

R Chubb, Thomas Caldecot. The Byzantines; illus. by Richard M. Powers. World,
7- 1959. 127p. \$2.95.

Third in a series of books about the major cultures of the world (The Arabs, The Sun Kingdom of the Aztecs). The story of the power of the Byzantines begins, in this account, with the description of the Crusaders who, in 1203, turned from their route to attack and plunder the Christian city of Constantinople. The author then describes what the Crusaders found, and goes back to the founding of the city by Constantine the Great in 330 A.D. The learning, the technology, the pride and wealth of a civilization that prospered for a thousand years, are made real and exciting by the vivid writing and colorful detail. Absorbing and instructive. A bibliography is appended, also a

chronological chart that correlates events in the Byzantine Empire and the rest of the world from 300 A.D. to 1500 A.D.

Ad Cochran, Joanna. Let's Go to the United Nations Headquarters; illus. by Alan 3-4 Moyler. Putnam, 1958. 47p. \$1.95.

A description of the United Nations buildings and of some of the structure and procedure of the U. N. This is a rather scanty treatment of the United Nations organization per se; emphasis is on physical plant, and the information about function of the U. N. is scattered through the brief book. Useful for reading by a child who expects to visit the U.N., the book serves as only a very superficial introduction to the United Nations in its operation. Could be read aloud to younger children.

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Army Engineers; Fighters and Builders. Coward- 5-7 McCann, 1958. 48p. \$2.

A survey of the military and civilian projects in which the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army has been and is engaged. Large photographs and a small amount of text on each page, in the usual Colby format, give topical treatment. A prefatory section gives a history of the service.

Ad Colby, Jean Poindexter. Dixie of Dover; A Boy and Dog Story; illus. by Mary 4-6 Stevens, Little, 1958. 92p. \$3.

While his father was in the hospital, Gerry Montgomery had been given a Welsh Terrier pup that he named Dixie. The puppy was instrumental in helping Gerry make friends in the new home to which he moved with his mother and sister when Mr. Montgomery died and the three left Dover and moved to Brookline, there to build life in a new pattern. The Brookline neighborhood to which they moved was rundown and was populated by a typical mixed urban group. The crux of the story is the problem of accepting—and being accepted by—the people and groups who are "different." A good story of human relations, in which the lesson is offered, rather than being hammered home; the book is weakened by the neat solutions to minor problems: i.e., Mrs. Montgomery's father conveniently owns a house into which they can move and there is a job at the library just at the time Mrs. Montgomery decides she will have to work.

R Commager, Henry Steele. The Great Declaration; A Book for Young Americans; 6-9 drawings by Donald Bolognese. Bobbs-Merrill, 1958. 112p. \$2.75.

A remarkably evocative description of the evolution of the Declaration of Independence. Giving first the background of the state of Colonial affairs, Mr. Commager uses the writings of the founding fathers to dramatize the drafting and debate, the stormy voting and the triumphant acceptance of the historic document. The narrative passages by the author (through which the quoted material is unified) are as moving and vivid as the proclamations and letters themselves.

Ad Cook, Olive Rambo. Coon Holler; illus. by Kathleen Voute. Longmans, 1958. 4-6 178p. \$2.75.

Kenny and Jo Ann Brice, who had been spending the summer with their grandparents, were dismayed when their parents wrote that the two children would have to stay on, and would therefore be going to the little country school at Coon Holler. Scornful of the teaching program and of their classmates, the two city children learned to love and respect their small school. All of the youngsters helped to make two refugee children feel at home. The school appeared in a musical performance on a Kansas City radio program; then there was a money raising program to turn Coon Holler into a community house when a new consolidated school was built. Kenny and Jo Ann had, by this time become so attached to the rural community that they persuaded their parents to move there. Pleasant and wholesome, although the pat ending of the book is very sentimental.

R Coombs, Charles Ira. Wings at Sea. Morrow, 1958. 223p. \$3.75.
6-9

A comprehensive picture of the aircraft carrier illustrated by approximately 100 photographs. The development of naval aviation and the training of personnel are discussed, but the emphasis of the book is on the more technical aspects of air-carrier operations. The launching procedures and safety devices used in landing, and the utilization of radar in carrier control are described in text and illustrated in photographs. Types of aircraft, guided missiles, and problems of the future are discussed in the final chapters. Glossary and index are appended.

R Dalglish, Alice. America Begins; The Story of the Finding of the New World; 3-5 with pictures by Lois Maloy. Rev. ed. Scribner, 1959. 64p. \$3.

A revised edition of the original 1938 version. There are some deletions and quite a bit of new material, including mention of the explorations of Cabrillo and Coronado. Illustrations have been revised: colors are different, background and figures changed and some of the full-page illustrations are now printed in halves on verso and recto. Captions of pictures are omitted in this edition; some of these omissions make identification difficult. The text, a simplified account of the major explorations of North America, is excellent, and is improved by the changes that have been made.

R De la Mare, Walter John. Jack and the Beanstalk; illus. by Joseph Low. Knopf, 5-7 1959. 52p. \$3.

The classic fairy tale (as told by the author in Told Again) is presented here in a tall book illustrated in distinctive manner. The author's rich style and the flavor of the conversation (Jack to the Ogre's servant: "I'm that dry, mum, with walking, my tongue's like a chip of wood,") are delightful when read aloud. The difficult vocabulary and rather sophisticated style will, however, be most appreciated by older children and for them the format is not as suitable, therefore, as that of the collection reviewed below.

R De la Mare, Walter John. Tales Told Again; illus. by Alan Howard. Knopf, 5-7 1959. 207p. \$3.

Originally published in 1927 under the title of Told Again, and newly illustrated in this edition. These nineteen tales—delightfully retold—are a perennial delight for the lover of traditional fairy tales.

M Douglas, William Orville. Exploring the Himalaya; illus. by Clarence Doore. 6-7 Random House, 1958. 177p. (A World Landmark Book) \$1.95.

Both the title and the jacket blurb are misleading: fourteen of the twenty chapters are primarily concerned with the life of a Tibetan farming-and-trading family, rather than with explorations of the Himalayan mountains. In both the discussions of Tibetan life and of famous expeditions into the Himalaya, information is quite diffuse, and is centered around brief descriptions of incidents. Many of the chapters are extremely short, and the writing tends to be choppy. There is no real feeling given either for the spirit of mountain exploration or for the character of the mountain peoples, which might compensate for the rather poor presentation of information. The subject interest may give the book some usefulness, but it is not as interesting or as informative as books that Mr. Douglas has written on this subject for adults.

SpR Druon, Maurice. Tistou of the Green Thumbs; tr. by Humphrey Hare; illus. by 4-6 Jacqueline Duhème. Scribner, 1958. 179p. \$2.75.

An allegory in fantastic vein. A small boy named Tistou had been sent away from school because he was strangely unlike other children—and indeed he was unusual; he had a green thumb that produced flowers overnight. The prison was covered with flowers and the prisoners were so happy that they refused to leave. Tistou improved

the zoo and the hospital; he caused flowers to grow all over the instruments of war (including his father's munitions factory) and the war ended. The only sad thing, Tistou found, that could not be prevented by flowers was death. Therefore when his friend, Mr. Moustache, died, Tistou went to heaven to look for him; in the fields golden flowers grew to spell out the message of Tistou's identity: he was an angel. The originality and delicacy of the tale and its allegorical significance will appeal to those relatively few children who appreciate nuance and spirituality. The style is rather self-consciously fanciful and the ending is a disappointment.

M Durell, Ann. My Heart's in the Highlands. Doubleday, 1958. 212p. \$2.95.
7-9

An American girl, Jill Brown, attends a Scottish university for a year; she becomes a better student, has a love affair, and learns humility from her peers. Since Jill is rather unpleasant and insensitive, her conversion is suspiciously quick and complete. The background of the old Scottish university town and its college traditions is interesting, and the weaknesses in the plot are redeemed somewhat by the insights into the personalities of some of the characters, particularly the minor ones.

Ad Eager, Edward McMaken. Magic or Not?; illus. by N. M. Bodecker. Harcourt, 4-6 1959. 190p. \$2.95.

The author has in this book abandoned the device of having his characters magically assume the mantle of literary figures, and this is all to the good, for he writes extremely well. Here Laura and James, who have just moved to a small town, find new friends; all of the children seem a bit precocious, but they are believable. For every event that occurs, the children wonder if it is, at last, the magic they are expecting; there is always a perfectly logical explanation, however, so that they are never sure—is it magic or not? The style is deft, action is fast-paced; dialogue is especially natural and humorous. Only at the close of the book does the story bog down somewhat in an involved episode of long-dead cousins, twin desks, secret drawers, and ghosts that merge, and, in this episode only, a logical explanation does not exist.

M Forsee, Aylesa. American Women Who Scored Firsts. Macrae, 1958. 253p.
7-9 \$2.95.

Ten brief biographies of famous American women, written at a superficial level and in eulogistic style. The book is designed to show readers what can be accomplished by hard work and tenacity, and each biography incorporates some advice from the subject. The details of each career and the advice are mildly interesting, but cannot serve as vocational guidance. The chief value of the book lies in the possibility that it will encourage the reader to investigate some of the excellent full-length biographies and autobiographies of these famous women. The ten subjects are Florence Allen, Marian Anderson, Katharine Cornell, Amelia Earhart, Marguerite Higgins, Juliette Low, Agnes de Mille, Eleanor Roosevelt, Kate Smith, and Lillian Wald.

R Frank, R. Flashing Harpoons; The Story of Whales and Whaling; illus. by John 6-8 O'Hara Cosgrave. Crowell, 1958. 183p. \$3.

An extensive discussion of the history of whaling, the present status of the industry and the procedures of catching and processing whales by modern methods. The regulations about hunting seasons and maximum catch, and the regulations set by the International Whaling Board are described; the jobs of the groups of workers on a factory ship, and the minute details of equipment and procedure are told. A history of the whaling industry and a section on famous tales of whaling round out the comprehensive and interesting book.

Ad Franklin, George Cory. Rocky, the Famous Bull Elk; illus. by Carl Burger. 4-6 Houghton, 1958. 138p. \$2.50.

The story of a bull elk, leader of his herd and credited by the author with unusual and almost human intelligence. Rocky, it is stated, actually exists; the author has fictionalized some of the animal's known exploits. The story of the elk is interesting and his activities are credible, but the references to being "considerate of the young of other animals" or to the thinking processes weaken the book as a realistic presentation of wild life.

R Gage, Wilson. The Secret of Crossbone Hill; illus. by Mary Stevens. World, 3-6 1959. 184p. \$2.95.

David and Kathy Vance, vacationing at a South Carolina beach cottage, knew that somewhere on mysterious-looking Crossbone Hill there was treasure. They even found some clues. After some peculiar adventures in the swamp, the two youngsters found a Box; this turned out to be a roll of film—precious to the owner only. The owner was a scientist, the film had pictures of some rare egrets, and the person most interested in the secret was Mrs. Vance, an ardent bird-watcher. Kathy and David are very real children, and the Vance family relationships are very well drawn. A credible story written in pleasant style, with smooth plot-line and sprightly dialogue. The way in which David (rather scornful of his mother's interests) is drawn into an interest in birds himself is one of the appealing qualities of the book.

NR Gard, Robert Edward. The Big One. Duell, 1958. 184p. \$3. 7-9

Jan's father had told her about a family tale that there was a secret fortune cached away, so after his death Jan went to the old town in Kansas where her great-grandparents had lived. There was no fortune, but Jan did find happiness when she met Tip, who was looking for his Big Chance in life, just as Jan was. The Big One was a fish, and Tip had told Jan that he must catch the Big One in order to know what his fate was to be. (It is not explained why this is.) It was Jan, however, who caught the fish and Tip was bitter until he realized that the Big Chance is to want the best for other people. The rather strained symbolism of the book is accompanied by an involved plot about the town librarian, who has a clue to the hidden treasure in an old scrapbook. Tip rescues the book from the floodwaters at some risk to his life. An involved and unrealistic story.

R Garelick, May. Double Trouble; illus. by Arthur Getz. Crowell, 1958. 118p. 2-3 \$2.50.

It was raining and Steve had sniffles. No school. What was there to do? Steve had played Hidden Treasure at a party, so he decided to hide some things for his parents to find. And he made a paper plane out of what was, although he didn't know it, the rent check. That was Wednesday, and on Thursday Steve couldn't remember where he had hidden his mother's watch (the Treasure). Family relations were a bit strained, especially when Steve's mother couldn't find her glasses on Friday. When she did come upon them, and realized she'd misplaced them herself, she felt a bit more lenient about Steve's forgetfulness. On Saturday the watch turned up—in a picnic basket. A pleasant story of everyday affairs and small boy behavior; easy to read and valuable in its presentation of family relationships.

SpC Goldberg, Nathan. The New Illustrated Hebrew-English Dictionary for Young Readers; illus. by Arnold Lobel; design and art supervision by Ezekiel Schloss. Ktav, 1959. 96p. \$3.95.

A dictionary planned for beginning students of Hebrew, although it may prove useful to more advanced students, since the words given are used in idiomatic expressions. Format is attractive, with enough blank space on the oversize pages to make the text easily legible. Notes on use and the grouping of derivatives add to the usefulness of the book. Can be used by a student alone, but is probably best suited to classroom

collections. Should also be considered for usefulness in general library collections.

M Goodspeed, J. M. Let's Go to a Supermarket; illus. by Ruth Van Sciver.
2-4 Putnam, 1958. 47p. \$1.95.

Describes the storage and preservation of different kinds of food in a supermarket, some of the equipment such as baskets, cash register, and disposer of empty bottles. Refrigerated rooms, meat packaging and some sources of supply are also discussed. The procedures mentioned are not used in all supermarkets; another weakness is the inclusion of many small details in text and illustration that are not important. The book may be of some use in the study of community life. Not as useful as Bendick's The First Book of Supermarkets (Watts, 1954).

Ad Graham, Benzell. That Big Broozier; illus. by Paul Galdone. Morrow, 1959.
2-4 80p. \$2.75.

Broozier was a very large dog and a very lonesome one. Somehow all the people to whom he made friendly overtures were inclined to depart. Fast. Even when he smiled with his nice, white, sharp teeth. Broozier was picked up by the dogcatcher's truck one day and at the animal shelter met a very friendly boy. Then they lost each other—but all ended happily in this classic plot of boy meets dog, boy loses dog, boy gets dog. Broozier is an engaging character, and the humor of his naive puzzling about human beings is presented in deft style.

NR Grant, Bruce. Pancho; A Dog of the Plains; illus. by Paul Galdone. World,
4-6 1958. 185p. \$2.75.

Pancho was a large shepherd dog that had been injured by Apache Indians and was able to distinguish them by scent. Travelling with some miners, Pancho was left to guard their supplies when the horses were stolen and the men had to hike back to the Ranger station for help. Twelve days later, relief arrived; Pancho was found holding an Apache at bay up a tree although he was nearly starving. Poor style, little characterization, and an exaggerated and sentimental depiction of canine intelligence throughout the book. The attitude toward Indians is derogatory at times.

Ad Hammond, Cleon E. The Marine Corps; From Civilian to Leatherneck; illus.
9- by William Hawkey. Viking, 1958. 178p. (Armed Services Library) \$2.

Like other volumes in the Armed Services Library, this book examines the history and the structure of one service arm. The author discusses the basic training received at boot camp, Marine Corps schools established for specialized fields of study, the diversity of careers in the service, and the possibilities when participating in the officers training program. Life at a typical Marine Corps base is described, and the Marine Corps Aviation program is explained. Information is as full as it is in the other books in the series, but the text here abounds with trite phrases and worn clichés. The attitude toward the Corps is unpleasantly and extravagantly laudatory, and the author is unnecessarily patronizing toward the citizen who waits to be called rather than volunteering for service.

R Harvey, Lois F. Cotton Growing; illus. by James Frew. Melmont, 1958. 32p.
2-4 \$2.

A useful informational book about the way a California cotton crop is seeded, weeded, sprayed, and harvested. The story form—a family that participates in the cotton-growing venture—serves as a pleasant vehicle for the factual material. The newest machinery, irrigation and pest-spraying methods are introduced; the way cotton is picked and packed is described.

Ad Hastings, Evelyn Belmont. The Dairy; illus. by Frans Van. Melmont, 1958.
1-2 32p. \$2.

A description of the dairy industry from the operations at the farm—including the care of cows, and how they are fed and milked—to the mechanical processes involved in the preparation and distribution of dairy products. The rather dry style limits appeal, but large type and short sentences make the book useful as supplementary curricular material for units on farm life or community life.

R Hoff, Syd. Sammy the Seal; story and pictures by Syd Hoff. Harper, 1959. 64p. 1-2 (An I Can Read Book) \$2.50.

Another delightful book for the beginning reader, drawn in cartoon style and with enough sophistication to engage an older slow reader. And adults. Sammy is permitted by the keeper at the zoo to go out and see the world. Sammy ambles casually about the city streets, seeing the sights, dropping in (literally) a bathtub to the annoyance of the gentleman about to bathe, and participating with bland good humor in a schoolroom program.

Ad Holt, Isabella. The Adventures of Rinaldo; with pictures by Erik Blegvad. 5-7 Little, 1959. 142p. \$3.

The knight, Rinaldo di Paldo, returning from the battle with just a few spoils of war, has several adventures on his way home: he outwits some enemy soldiers, collects some loving animals that he uses as performers, and garners a handmaiden that becomes his wife, after a pas a deux with a highborn (but no account) lady. Just this much fantasy would have been enough, because the plot has been quite full. Although the author's style is delightful and her whimsy deft, there is too much of everything, since Rinaldo leaves home to rescue his former commander from a bandit; he jousts in a tourney disguised as the Black Knight of Spain, he picks up three stalwart squires named Tom, Dick, and Harry to accompany him. Some of the episodes are eminently well suited to reading aloud or telling, and Blegvad's illustrations are charming.

R Johnson, Annabel and Edgar. The Black Symbol. Harper, 1959. 207p. \$2.75. 6-8

An unusual story, told against the background of the mining country in the Territory of Montana. Barney, hiking westward to find his father, who had not been heard from for a year, fell in with a carnival troupe. The naive youngster believed all that he was told by "Dr." Cathcart, the unscrupulous head of the Miracle Show; little by little, Barney became aware that he was being held captive as an unpaid worker, and that Cathcart was a quack and a villain. He was befriended by the strong man of the troupe, blind Steve, who helped the boy escape. When Barney found his father, they returned to the wagons to unmask Cathcart and to ask Steve to work with them at the copper mine. A tightly knit plot and definitive characterization make this an absorbing story. The glib and amoral Cathcart is powerfully drawn; and the blind man's goodness and intelligence, emerging slowly from his bitterness as he permits Barney to become his friend, are an effective counter-foil. A weakness of the book is the specious gullibility of the carnival audiences; Barney has the same naiveté, but it is consistent with his personality and age. The title does not seem particularly pertinent; it refers to the mark left by the Vigilantes, who are mentioned several times but whose activities are not part of the tale.

R Johnson, Crockett. The Frowning Prince. Harper, 1959. 32p. \$1.50. 2-4

Once upon a time, a little prince frowned, and he firmly maintained that his frown was immovable. His mother was kind and his father was rather annoyed; they tried and tried to make the prince laugh, but the frown stayed. The king made overtures of peace to a neighboring royal family who had long been hostile, because the princess was known to have an irresistible smile. The smile was the only hope—and it worked. That is, it worked once the prince realized that everybody had believed in his frown.

A delightful nonsense tale with a satisfying traditional happy ending. Some younger children will enjoy having the story read aloud and readers above fourth grade can enjoy the sophisticated humor.

Ad Johnson, Crockett. Harold's Circus; An Astounding, Colossal, Purple Crayon
K-1 Event! Harper, 1959. 62p. \$1.50.

Another book about Harold, whose magic purple crayon creates his world as he goes. This time, Harold starts by walking a tightrope (drawing it in the air ahead of him) and becomes involved in a series of performances at the circus. The way in which Harold uses the crayon is not as clear as it was in Harold and the Purple Crayon; therefore the technique is a little confusing for those who have not read the previous books and for those who have, this tale is a little repetitious.

M Johnson, Eleanor Noyes. Mountaintop Summer; illus. by Bernard Case. Broad-
4-5 man, 1959. 164p. \$2.50.

The Thurlow family rented their house and sold their chattels when Mr. Thurlow's health required that they go to the mountains. They found an abandoned cabin and had a wonderful summer. Father got well, and was offered a job teaching school there, Mother made money by selling paintings of mountain flowers and Joey and Janie contributed to the family income by selling pine cones that had been treated with chemicals to burn in colors. The family relationships are well drawn, but several weaknesses mar the book. Joey acts much younger than a boy of twelve would and Janie, who is nine, is alternately precocious and naive. The minor characters are stereotyped: the city tripper, overdressed for a mountain weekend; the kindly country storekeeper. The Thurlows themselves are a little too brave and resourceful to be credible.

Ad Kerr, George P., tr. The Odyssey; with illus. by John Verney. Warne, 1958.
7- 247p. \$2.50.

An abridged version of the original, translated by the author in simplified form and with some minor characters omitted. The episodes of the story are told in chronological order rather than the flashback technique of the original. Mr. Kerr states, in a prefatory note, his conviction that Homer cannot be read with profit when translated into colloquial English; he has tried to preserve the grandeur and sonority of the original. He has succeeded in being authentic in spirit, but his prose is rather dull. Illustrations have little appeal. Well organized but not as well told as the versions by Church and Colum.

R Kuskin, Karla. Just Like Everyone Else. Harper, 1959. 32p. \$1.50.
K-2

Jonathan James was just like everyone else. . . . On each page he is pictured in one of the familiar morning routines. He brushes his teeth—just like everyone else; he comes down to breakfast—just like everyone else. The illustrations of these familiar activities are charming, but the delight of the book is the surprise ending. It is an inspired touch.

R Landis, Lawrence C. The Air Force; From Civilian to Airman; illus. by James
9- E. Bama. Viking, 1958. 181p. \$2.

An informative and well-written addition to the Armed Services Library. The author discusses the youthfulness of the Air Force and of the spirit found in this service, and gives the background of its mission and its history. The qualifications and training at several levels are described, as are the varieties of assignments and the commissioned service for officers. The expanding frontiers of air service and the future role of the Air Force are discussed in an interesting closing chapter. Index and reading list are appended.

Ad Larom, Henry V. Ride Like an Indian!; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1958. 140p. \$3.

Jerry was not too happy that he was the poorest rider at the dude ranch, and was given a slow and gentle horse, Old Applesauce. One day he met a friendly boy named Sam who said that Applesauce was really an Indian pony who could be trained to race. Jerry and Sam practiced together in secret, Sam teaching Jerry to ride like an Indian. When the day of the race came, Jerry won in a close contest with Garth, a boy who had been patronizing and disagreeable. Jerry's parents were there to see the victory, and in a rather elaborate ceremony around the campfire, he was adopted into Sam's tribe by the old Indian chief. A disappointing pat ending to an otherwise realistic story.

NR La Well, Betty Lou. Toooooot!; A Train Whistle Counting Book; illus. by Paul 5-6 Julian. Melmont, 1958. 25p. \$2.
yrs.

Designed for the beginning reader, but the vocabulary is heavily weighted, and the first page and concluding song require adult assistance. The preliminary page explains the uses of train whistles as signals. A story is told, in first person, of a little toy train; for each situation, the reader is asked how many toots of the little whistle should be sounded. The questions do not make sense unless the first page has been read to the child. The answer is given on a separate page, with a picture, a digit, and the word "toot" printed the requisite number of times. The book concludes with an unimaginative train whistle song. The arrangement is rather elaborate for the purpose.

R Leighton, Margaret (Carver). The Secret of Smugglers' Cove; illus. by Mary 4-6 Leighton Thompson. Ariel, 1959. 143p. \$2.75.

A well-knit adventure story with characters who show intelligence and courage quite within the bounds of credibility. Nancy Hill, age eleven, has come to spend the summer with her aunt and finds that the region was, in days past, a smugglers' haunt. The coins and sword-hilt that she unearths prove to be more interesting than valuable. The sub-plots are kept in proportion—a sullen boy who becomes increasingly friendly as he is encouraged and praised, and a young couple whose fate is brought into sharp focus at the time Nancy becomes involved in their affairs.

NR L'Hommedieu, Dorothy (Keasbey). Little Black Chaing; illus. by Theresa Sher- K-2 man. Ariel, 1958. 55p. \$2.75.

Chaing is a Chow puppy who looks like a bear. All the other animals are in doubt as to whether Chaing is really a dog, and he begins to wonder himself. Chaing tries living with some bears in the woods, and the experiment fails, so he returns home to find reassurance from his mother and acceptance from the other animals. A contrived story on a rather worn theme.

R Lifton, Betty Jean. Joji and the Fog; illus. by Eiichi Mitsui. Morrow, 1959. K-2 64p. \$2.50.

Another appealing book about Joji, the scarecrow whose friends the crows ate worms instead of rice and helped Joji at his work. When a terrible fog rolled in and occupied the farmer's bathtub, sending his fog out over the whole community, who ended the crisis? The crows held a meeting, and thought of a plan. Joji was (at some sacrifice to his straw) detailed to scrub the fog's back, and he secretly pulled the plug. With no water, the fog was uncomfortable and went back to sea. A charming book; as in Joji and the Dragon the striking black and white illustrations, distinctive in themselves, are a perfect complement to the text.

M Lifton, Betty Jean. Mogo the Mynah; illus. by Anne Scott. Morrow, 1958. 64p. K-2 \$2.95.

Mogo simply wouldn't behave the way the other mynah birds did; when they all sat

looking one way, he looked in the other direction and when they all learned to speak, Mogo would say only "Nevermore." He was bought by a boy whose family became rather annoyed at Mogo's tricks but whose friends loved the bird. Mogo was sent away but when he frightened some bank robbers and was seen on television, the family wanted him back and made a hero of him. The author's style is deft but the story itself is contrived and the dénouement unsatisfying.

R Lomask, Milton. The Secret of Grandfather's Diary. Ariel, 1958. 181p. \$2.75. 4-6

When Denny and Joan came to their grandmother's house for the summer, they found that there had been mysterious robberies going on: only old toys had been stolen. Peter, the son of the woman who worked for Grandmother, was suspected, although nobody knew why he should want worthless toys. The clue came from a page in Grandfather's diary and the mystery was solved in a plausible fashion. Characters are perceptively drawn, and the writing style is lively and smooth.

R Long, Laura. De Lesseps, Builder of Suez; decorations by Clotilde Embree 6-8 Funk. Longmans, 1958. 154p. \$2.75.

The father of Ferdinand de Lesseps was a member of the French Foreign Service, and a friend of Napoleon. When Napoleon went into exile, de Lessep's career was in eclipse. Young Ferdinand followed in his father's footsteps and was assigned to a post in Egypt in 1832. Here he became interested in the account of a proposed canal that he found in an old book. Years later, de Lesseps wrote to the viceroy of Egypt, who had been a pupil of the Frenchman years before; in the letter, the subject of an inter-oceanic canal was broached. Fifteen years after the first plans were made, the Suez Canal was completed. Even the failure of the Panama Canal project does not lessen the vivid portrayal of a determined and dedicated man. Despite the dull style, this is an interesting biography, the chief emphasis of which is on the building and planning of the Suez Canal.

R Lovelace, Maud (Hart). What Cabrillo Found; The Story of Juan Rodriguez 4-6 Cabrillo; illus. by Paul Galdone. Crowell, 1958. 182p. \$2.75.

What the Spanish explorer Cabrillo found in 1542 was the land that is now California. In search of the China Sea, Cabrillo sailed along the coast and into San Diego Bay. The author appends a rather extensive source-list for her research on Cabrillo's explorations; the book also describes his service in Guatemala and Mexico prior to the voyage along the West Coast. While Cabrillo is the central figure, this is not a biography; although the first landing on California terrain is the prime event of the book, the activities of the Spanish conquerors in Central America and Mexico are given equal consideration. Easy reading, despite the somewhat choppy style; material is well organized. Maps are not included; index is.

M McKown, Robin. Publicity Girl. Putnam, 1959. 189p. \$2.75. 7-9

Edwina Fiske found that she enjoyed working at a publicity agency despite her annoyance with a brash young man named Erick who didn't do much work but enjoyed getting credit for Edwina's projects. She had even more trouble getting along with Eric when a change in the agency organization forced her to work closely with him. She had been dating Harry Dawes, who worked for another publicity firm, and they decided to work together. Meanwhile, Eric had planted an already-published story as original, and had blamed Edwina when this was discovered. Everything ended happily when Eric's calumny was unveiled and the reluctant advertiser signed a contract with Harry's firm. Principal characters never come alive, although some of the minor ones are very well drawn. Edwina's single year with the firm is filled with an amount of intrigue and excitement that is not realistic, but there is some interest in the operation of the agency as career information.

R McLeod, Emilie Warren. Clancy's Witch; pictures by Lisl Weil. Little, 1959. 3-4 39p. \$3.

Pleasant nonsense about a witch that unhaunts a house. Clancy suspected that strange things were going on in the deserted house: lights where there was no electricity, a load of furniture that consisted of seven pots and thirteen brooms. Upon investigation he found a brisk and friendly witch who had just finished her task of unhaunting the house and who helped Clancy think of a spell to achieve his own wish. He evolved a spell for a family of children to move in, and sure enough, they did! Original and breezy writing in a book that is well suited to reading aloud to children below third grade.

M Marino, Dorothy (Bronson). Good-Bye, Thunderstorm. Lippincott, 1958. 31p. 3-5 \$2.25.

yrs.

Three children who live on a farm are playing one day when a thunderstorm starts. The youngsters run for home, but the youngest worries about the animals being out in the rain. Once in the house, little Davy sees that all the animals have found shelter themselves and decides that maybe a thunderstorm is fun after all. After the rainbow, Davy waves goodbye to the storm. It seems improbable that a farm-bred child should worry about cats or hens being out in the rain. The story, slight though it is, tells of a familiar experience in the process of becoming acquainted with one's environment.

Ad Memling, Carl. The Little Bear's Mother; illus. by Gene Fern. Ariel, 1959. 3-6 41p. \$2.75.

yrs.

The story of a small bear with curly black fur and a bright red cap, who didn't do any of the things bears usually do. This bear spent the day with his very loving mother, who fed him in his highchair, and told him a hundred stories after naptime and took him to toystore windows. At night his mother was put to bed by her mother, because the little toy bear's mother was a little girl named Maya. At this point in the story, the girl is pictured for the first time, having been shown in the illustrations on previous pages only as a white shadow, which may confuse some children. A pleasant picture book, but not an outstanding one.

R Merriam, Eve. The Voice of Liberty; The Story of Emma Lazarus; illus. by Charles W. Walker. Farrar, 1959. 179p. (A Covenant Book) \$2.95.

A biography of Emma Lazarus, whose words are quoted on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Emma, born in 1849, was one of a large family, and began her career as a poet early. The Lazarus family had been in America since the fifteenth century, and their social and economic status made it easy for the young writer to meet some of the famous literary figures of her day: Emerson, Channing, Stedman, and Browning. Emma became increasingly interested in Jewish causes such as the adjustment and schooling of immigrants, the establishment of a homeland, and the translation of Jewish literature. Her work for Judaism and its importance in her own writing (both prose and poetry) indicate that the book will probably be useful in collections for religious education as well as for general collections.

NR Montgomery, Rutherford George. In Happy Hollow; illus. by Harold Berson. 3-4 Doubleday, 1958. 128p. \$2.50.

Only three little spotted skunks were still living: Elmer, Plumey, and Grammer. Elmer fancied himself as an acrobat and he entered the Summer Festival contest in Happy Hollow, an animal Utopia that was a man-made sanctuary. Plumey, meanwhile, had wandered off and had been caught and caged. Elmer did not win the contest, which ended in a free-for-all fight, but he did eventually find Plumey, who had tricked a raccoon into letting her out of the cage. Happily they set out to find their way back to Grammer

together, feeling that they had seen enough of the world. Coy and contrived personified animals and a strained plot.

R Moore, Patrick. Isaac Newton; illus. by Patricia Cullen. Putnam, 1958. 123p. 6-8 (Lives to Remember) \$2.

Newton's boyhood and his student years at Cambridge are very briefly described; the paramount interest of this biography is the work that Newton did in several fields and in his writing. The author relates, throughout the book, the work of the great scientist to work of other men of his time and to the background of the times in which Newton lived. The style of writing is rather heavy, but the material is well integrated and there is no irrelevant writing. Although Newton's family life is not given in detail, there is enough description of his personality given so that he emerges clearly as an individual.

NR Nickerson, Jan. Date with a Career. Funk & Wagnalls, 1958. 247p. \$2.95. 7-9

Saphronia Lee Adams was called Lee by her friends and Saphronia by her grandmother, with whom Lee was spending her senior year of high school while her mother (an actress) was on tour. Lee had problems not unusual in stories about teen-age girls: getting along with her grandmother, getting along with unfriendly girls, finding a boy friend and choosing a career. Grandmother was stiff and old fashioned, but she turned out to be understanding. The career was settled by Mother coming to town (just after Lee had held her first fashion show) to announce that a famous New York designer had accepted Lee as an apprentice. Lee's joy was complete when Jock announced at the Senior Prom that he would be going to Columbia and they could be together in New York too. A run-of-the-mill book with hackneyed plot and shallow characters.

M Oliver, Jane. Bonfire in the Wind; illus. by Clare Dawson. St. Martin's, 1958. 6-8 232p. \$2.95.

A story of the Scottish border in 1679. Sir Patrick Hume's dear friend, Robert Baillie, was a political prisoner; thirteen-year-old Grisel Hume went to the Edinburgh prison to see him, disguised as an apple vendor. Mr. Baillie was liberated, but a new danger threatened when Sir Patrick himself was implicated in the Rye House Plot. Again Grisel and her brother came to the rescue; their father escaped and the family joined him later in Holland. The historical background is interesting, but writing style is uneven and the characters are not convincing.

M Pain, Nesta. Louis Pasteur; illus. by Lili Rethi. Putnam, 1958. 122p. (Lives to Remember Series) \$2.

A biography in which the vocabulary presents enough difficulties so that the reader could as well turn to a book about Pasteur written for adults. There is but one chapter devoted to the childhood, student days, courtship and marriage of the scientist; the remainder of the book concentrates on his career and his discoveries, and little of Pasteur's personality emerges. Style is pedestrian, but the appeal of the subject gives the book some value despite the dull reading.

Ad Pistorius, Anna. What Dinosaur Is It? Follett, 1958. 29p. \$2.25. 3-5

Lack of organization lessens the usefulness of this volume, written in handbook style; while the dinosaurs described are presented in rough chronological order, this is not explained and the material is not accessible through index or table of contents. Information is accurate, but the text is not as well integrated as it is in Bloch's Dinosaurs (Coward-McCann, 1955).

Ad Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit; pictures by Adriana Mazza Saviozzi.

3-6 Simon and Schuster, 1958. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢.
yrs.

An edition that remains completely faithful to the original and much-loved story of the disobedient little rabbit. While neither the format nor the illustrations have the same appeal as did the original, the pictures are adequate.

M Reynolds, Jessica M. Jessica's Journal; illus. by Peter Spier. Holt, 1958.
4-6 191p. \$3.

Although not so stated, this book seems to be a sequel to Barbara Reynolds' Cabin Boy and Extra Ballast (Scribner, 1958). Written by Jessica when she was eleven, the book is in the form of a diary that tells of her family's year-long voyage from Hawaii to New Zealand. Breezy and slangy, the account is filled with descriptions that may appeal to adults as being the cute writing of a little girl, but which are not especially appealing to children. There is some interesting information about the people of the islands visited en route, but much of the text is concerned with food, cats, games, and chores of shipboard life. Perhaps the most valuable part of the book is the impression Jessica gives of the universal similarity among children of different cultures.

Ad Richardson, Tracy. Nicho of the River; illus. by Hubert Rogers. Greene, 1958.
6-7 130p. \$2.95.

An interesting account of the life led by the jungle Indians of Honduras and Nicaragua. Nicho, member of a family of Sambos Indians, meets his test of manhood in taking charge of the family's annual trip down the Patuca River for the year's supply of provisions. The information about the folkways and family relationships, the skills and the beliefs of the Sambos is well integrated in the story of Nicho's trip. The book suffers from a surfeit of excitement and of harrowing incidents.

M Rose, Elizabeth. How St. Francis Tamed the Wolf; with pictures by Gerald Rose.
K-2 Harcourt, 1959. 32p. \$2.75.

A retelling of the legend of St. Francis and the fierce wolf that had terrorized the town of Gubbio. The good man instructed the wolf to stop eating people and he told the townspeople that food should be left out for the wolf, after which the animal behaved most amicably. Indeed, he even let the children ride on his back. A banquet was given at which St. Francis and the wolf were the guests of honor. The illustrations are colorful but harsh; nor does the text reflect the gentle spirit of St. Francis. This retelling is humorous, but lacks dignity; it does not reflect the true spirit of the legend. For reading aloud, a preferable version is Beatty's St. Francis and the Wolf (Houghton, 1953).

R Rounds, Glen. Whitey and the Wild Horse. Holiday House, 1958. 90p. \$2.25.
4-6

Whitey's cousin Josie had been living on the ranch for only a year, so he was patient with her when she said that she wanted to catch a wild horse. When the children found a wild horse that had fallen into a pothole, they secretly visited the animal and fed him; gradually the horse learned to know them and became tame. Uncle Torwal followed them one day, so Whitey and Josie told him all about it and he helped them get the horse out of the pit. The children knew that the horse had gotten away from a wild horse hunter, because the horse's nostrils had been wired, so they were not surprised when a hunter came along and claimed the horse. Uncle Torwal insisted, however, that Whitey and Josie had saved the life of the horse and that he belonged to them. So they took the wild horse home to their own corral. A satisfying story with the same ingenious charm as the other Whitey books.

R Rounds, Glen. Wildlife at Your Doorstep. Prentice-Hall, 1958. 115p. \$3.

5-8

A delightful book about the inhabitants of a back yard: all the myriad creatures of the animal world that are seldom noticed or seen. With infinite relish and sympathy, Mr. Rounds describes the mud dauber stocking a food supply in the nursery, the blue jay parents coaxing a backward child to flight, or a small and business-like spider trapping a large boxelder bug. The material is interesting in itself, but the special charm for the reader is in the style of writing, which is light, affectionate, and deftly humorous.

R Saunders, John R. The Golden Book of Nature Crafts; Hobbies and Activities
5-7 for Boys and Girls; photographs by Roy Pinney; drawings by Rene Martin.
Simon and Schuster (Golden Press), 1958. 68p. (A Big Golden Book) \$1.95.

Reprinted from articles that appeared in Woman's Day magazine; the author is the chairman of the department of public instruction at the American Museum of Natural History. An excellent first book for the young naturalist. Colored photographs and very clear instructions make explicit the ways to collect and mount specimens, arrange and label collections, photograph animals, and many other hobbies and activities.

SpC Scharfstein, Edythe and Sol. My Magic Dictionary; illus. by Cyla London. Ktav,
3-5 1958. 66p. \$1.95.

Second revised edition of a 1951 publication, this picture dictionary is written in masculine form. For each word the English and Hebrew are given, as well as the transliteration. The illustration of the word is accompanied by a sentence in which it is used. Since the reader must be able to apply the transliterated word as well as to alphabetize in English, the book will no doubt be less usable at home than in the religious education class. A dictionary by Goldberg for older beginners is reviewed in this issue. Title is poorly chosen in view of the practical purpose of the book.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Plants That Heal; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Morrow,
6-9 1959. 96p. \$2.50.

Describes the use of herbs by medicine men and the evolution of modern methods of synthesizing and extracting plant chemicals from the old uses of plant remedies to the extracts and synthetic plant chemicals of today; plants with medicinal properties and those with toxic effects are discussed; some of the recent discoveries and their specific (and often dramatic) uses are told. An interesting section on antibiotics and vitamins is included. Appended is a list of plants, with common and scientific names. A most interesting book.

R Sherburne, Zoa. Jennifer. Morrow, 1959. 192p. \$2.95.
8-10

A book that treats with compassion and dignity the problem of alcoholism and its effect on the lives of others. Jennifer's sister had been killed when she dashed out into the street and was hit by a car; Mrs. Martin saw her child die and in her grief, turned to drinking. She had, through the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, recovered completely by the time the family moved to a new town, but for Jennifer there was always the dread that her mother would resume the habit or that the past would be revealed. Just as Jennifer was beginning to feel secure, it was indeed discovered; but Jennifer found that, despite the criticism, some people were understanding. The author has not only described the problem well, but has done so without sacrificing perspective: Jennifer forgets her troubles at times, she has a realistic conflict of reactions—defiant and also ashamed, sometimes sympathetic and sometimes resentful; and the balance between home, school, friends and other aspects of her life is realistically maintained.

NR Sootin, Laura. Let's Go to a Farm; illus. by Marvin Zetlan. Putnam, 1958.
2-4 47p. \$1.95.

The chief weakness of the book is the description of specific equipment, and of crops or animals, on a farm. There is little indication that farms, and their crops, procedures, machines, and buildings can vary greatly. There is a great deal of information given, in a superficial survey of farm life, and the resultant impression is that of a mass of facts with little organization. Style of writing and illustrations do little to mitigate the dullness of the book.

NR Spittel, Richard L. Savage Island. Criterion, 1959. 192p. \$3.50.
6-8

A far-fetched tale in the Tarzan tradition. Young Hans had run away from home and gone to sea, and was the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Alone in the jungle, he learned to fend for himself, made animal friends and eventually encountered and joined a family of aborigines. He acquired learning from a hermit monk, made a pet of a black leopard, risked his life to rescue a white stag, and was captured by a cruel native king. He was rescued from a death to which he had been sentenced by an elephant he had once befriended. The background is Ceylon in the seventeenth century. Pedestrian style does not redeem the unbelievable plot, and there is no reason why a Dutch cast-away should be, as Hans is described, regarded with such admiration by the Vedda aborigines.

R Steele, William Owen. Andy Jackson's Water Well; illus. by Michael Ramus.
4-7 Harcourt, 1959. 80p. \$2.75.

A delightful tall tale. Andy and his cohort, Chief Ticklepitcher, were most upset by the way the townfolk of Nashville were suffering from the terrible drought, so they went off to East Tennessee and brought back a well. Their hilarious encounters with land pirates, snapping turtles and a hoopsnake that wore down until it was the size of a caterpillar are fun to read aloud and are excellent for storytelling. Crisply humorous in the best tradition of exaggerated folk tale.

M Stuart, Merrie. The Airplane at the Airport; illus. by William Perez. Melmont,
1-2 1958. 32p. \$2.

Gives information about some of the equipment used on the field at an airport, and a very little about the procedure (the control tower is mentioned, but no details are given). No facts are given about the station or the hangars and some terms, i.e., "manifest stick," are not explained. Pedestrian writing style. Describes the landing and take-off of an airplane rather than the airport activities. Easy first grade reading with unimaginative use of controlled vocabulary.

Ad Thomas, Henry. George Washington Carver; illus. by Andre Le Blanc. Putnam,
5-7 1958, 126p. (Lives to Remember Series) \$2.

Born into slavery, George was rescued after a raid in which his mother disappeared, and was brought up by his owners, the Carvers. The intelligent boy worked and studied diligently to gain an education. He had become a member of the faculty at Iowa State when, at considerable financial sacrifice, he left to work at Tuskegee, where his research was to achieve lasting fame. This biography has an adulatory tone that the author has avoided in his biography of Edison; it is not as well-written as the biographies of Carver by Harold Coy or Florence Crannell Means; it is, however, adequate in style and balanced in treatment.

Ad Treece, Henry. Perilous Pilgrimage; illus. by Christine Price. Criterion,
7-9 1959. 158p. \$3.25.

The story of a brother and sister who joined the Children's Crusade led by Stephen of Cloyes. Alys and Geoffrey de Villacours, motivated in part by the fact that their father was about to remarry, ran away and became part of the army of 30,000 children who marched to the port of Marseilles and were tricked into capture. Alys and Geof-

frey and their teacher, Brother Gerard, who had followed them, were sold to a Saracen, Abu Nazir, who had known their father. Abu Nazir's employer was the Governor of Egypt and he was very kind to the three French captives. After several hazardous adventures, Brother Gerard and the children were imprisoned and were rescued in the nick of time by a famous French soldier who had overpowered their captor and donned his clothes. The plot is rather lurid and overdrawn, although the style of writing is good enough to hold the reader's attention. The first part of the book is the more interesting, since it makes the atmosphere of the march of the crusading children truly vivid. Characterization is exaggerated. Not quite as good as the author's usual excellent storytelling and writing style, but a good adventure story.

R von Hagen, Victor W. The Sun Kingdom of the Aztecs; illus. by Alberto Beltrán.
7- World, 1958. 127p. \$2.95.

An excellent book about the Aztec culture. The style is dry and formal, although in some sections there is unobtrusive fictionalization. After a broad examination of Aztec history and civilization, various aspects of Aztec life are described: agricultural organization and marketing, ceremonial rites, the calendar and writing, religion and government. Although sedate, the writing is smooth and the book is well-organized. Index, bibliography, and chronological chart are appended.

Ad Ward, Nanda and Haynes, Bob. The Elephant That Galumphed. Ariel, 1959.
K-2 40p. \$2.75.

Tajal was a young Indian elephant who refused, despite parental disapproval, to walk quietly. He galumphed. The monkey, the water buffalo, and the tiger were disturbed by Tajal's noise and his attitude; to teach him a lesson, they chased him. They chased him right into the village, where he disrupted the elephant races and displeased the Maharaja, who gave him a proper scolding. Tajal became the property of the Maharaja and worked happily at pulling logs, galumphing only on special occasions. He had learned that there is a time and place for everything. A pleasant read-aloud story, slightly weakened by the inconsistency of having Tajal shamed by the scolding of a human being when he had not been impressed by the anger of the animals. On one page, the tense is confused; style seems self-conscious; illustrations are soft and attractive.

Ad Warren, Robert Penn. Remember the Alamo!; illus. by William Moyers. Ran-
5-7 dom House, 1958. 178p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.95.

The story of the Alamo is told against the general background of Texan history and as a development of the struggles between Texas and Mexico. As interesting as the conflict itself are the profiles of some of the famous men who took part in the emergence of that very independent nation, Texas, in the days before it became a state. A chapter of history that, aided by Mr. Warren's sprightly style, reads like a most exciting adventure story. There are, unfortunately, several instances of a poor choice of material: a reference to a "purported autobiography" is never clarified, and a description of the uses of the Bowie knife is quite unpleasant.

NR Watson, Jane (Werner). A Giant Little Golden Book of Birds; pictures by
2-3 Eloise Wilkin. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 56p. (A Giant Little Golden
Book) 50¢.

A book that illustrates 46 birds in rather pretty pictures with pretty children in them. A chart in haphazard arrangement—at the back of the book—does not substitute adequately for a table of contents or an index. While the drawings of birds are interesting, they may not prove interesting in such profusion to a small child; for the older child there are many more adequate bird books that he can use alone or with adult guidance.

R Welch, Ronald. Mohawk Valley; illus. by William Stobbs. Criterion, 1958.
7-9 226p. \$3.50.

An exciting adventure story. Alan Carey, a young Englishman, is falsely accused of cheating at cards and is sent down from Cambridge. He goes to the American Colonies to lead a new life as supervisor of his father's land in the Mohawk Valley and gradually he becomes a skilful woodsman. While taking part in the French and Indian War Alan meets the men who were with him at Cambridge; he proves that the cheat had been another man, while he himself had been silent as a point of honor, and he proves his worth as a man and a soldier in the forays and battles of the war. The scaling of the Heights of Abraham in the Battle of Quebec is the background for the dramatic conclusion of the book. Good writing style and good characterization.

NR White, Stewart Edward. The Saga of Andy Burnett; illus. by Albert Orbaan.
7-9 Garden City Books, 1958. 213p. \$1.95.

A condensed version of the book originally published under the title Long Rifle. Aided by his grandmother, Andy ran away from his cruel stepfather and headed West, taking with him the long rifle that Daniel Boone had given his grandfather. He joined Joe Crane, an old hand at mountaineering, and went scouting into the Blackfoot country by way of Santa Fe. Andy became adept at pioneer skills and was adopted as a brother by a Blackfoot tribe. This is rather ordinary western fare, written in pedestrian style.

NR Wilcox, Don. Castle on the Campus. Little, 1959. 232p. \$3.
6-8

John London, a British student, comes to Midwestern University and is very shabbily treated by some of the students in a crudely drawn portrait of the gauche American young. Eventually some of the students on the campus prove to be both hospitable and mature. There is a slight love story, little mention of academic pursuits, and a concentration on an involved plot of delinquent behavior, campus politics, and the team spirit of a group of male students living at an old house called "The Castle."

Ad Yefremov, Ivan. Land of Foam. Houghton, 1959. 304p. \$3.50.
7-9

First published in Russia, this is the story of the African adventures of a young Grecian sculptor in the pre-classical era. Pandion escaped from a ship when the crew threatened him, swam to the shore of Africa, the "Land of Foam," and was taken as a slave by the Egyptians. With two comrades, an African Negro and an Etruscan, Pandion led a slave revolt. After recapture and a second escape, the group of slaves had a succession of arduous and dramatic adventures. The tale is interesting chiefly for the unusual background and the well-developed characterization. The plot is episodic and the writing style is solid and humorless, in places burdened with descriptive minutia.

Ad Ziner, Feenie. Wonderful Wheels; illus. by Gene Holtan. Melmont, 1959. 24p.
2-4 \$2.

Describes the first wheels used for grinding food and for making pottery, and explains how man later conceived the idea of using the wheel for transportation. Lively pencil drawings illustrate these developments and also illustrate the varied applications of the wheel that are familiar objects about us, such as the airplane propeller and the gears of an egg-beater as well as the wheels on vehicles. The book seems rather superficial in its treatment of the topic; it can be used, however, to augment a study of transportation.

Announcement

Mary K. Eakin, former editor of this Bulletin, has compiled a reliable and convenient list of the best children's books of the past decade. For librarians, teachers and parents Good Books for Children is an indispensable guide which reflects important trends in the juvenile field.

An even 1,000 titles—all in print—have been annotated, described, appraised and rated. Each book is listed by author and is indexed by age level in a subject classification which takes account of both general and curricular uses.

GOOD BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Edited by Mary K. Eakin

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Good Books for Children is a selection of the outstanding books recommended by the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books in its first ten years of qualitative reviewing. It follows the Bulletin in rating books according to:

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subject	child-appeal
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