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Bulletin
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June 1960 · Vol. XIII · No. 10



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.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XIII

June, 1960

Number 10

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Allen, Gwenda. Oliver; pictures by Hilda Boswell. Warne, 1959. 68p. \$1.50.
3-4

Oliver is a boy of eight: imaginative, gentle, calm. The writing is fanciful, but not fantastic; it has nice original touches. For example, Oliver visits some gypsies in their caravan and gives some silver to have his palm read; when it is time for him to go, the fortune-teller's husband (who has been reading the daily newspaper) tips Oliver as he leaves, gravely telling the boy that this is a lucky sixpence. There is a slight British flavor in the vocabulary. Most of the chapters were originally published as stories in The School Journal of the New Zealand Department of Education, and are suitable for reading aloud to younger children.

M Andreas, Edna M. Explorers and Penguins; illus. by Marilyn Miller.
3-5 Scribner, 1959. 90p. \$2.75.

A collection of anecdotes about penguins, most of the episodes being of a humorous cast. A good bit of information about the birds may be garnered from the book, but little that is not easily available elsewhere. This is not as useful as the books by Lauber (Coward-McCann, 1958) or Darling (Morrow, 1956) on the subject; as recreational reading it suffers from a "cute" writing style that leans heavily on italics, exclamation points, and words in quotation marks.

Ad Ayer, Margaret. Getting To Know Thailand; written and illus. by Margaret
4-6 Ayer. Coward-McCann, 1959. 64p. \$2.50.

Emphasis in this book is on the way of life of the mass of people in Thailand, much of the text being devoted to details about clothing, games, religious customs, etc. There is very little information about Thai history and geography, and only one brief paragraph devoted to the present government. A brief list of sources and a one-page index are appended. The chief weakness of the book is in the rambling and random structure; there is no separation of parts of the text, and the author moves in rather haphazard fashion from one aspect of Thai life to another. For example, a page on kite-flying and games leads to two pages on temple dance, then a page each on language and on physical appearance, then on to clothing and to Thai superstitions.

R Borten, Helen. Do You Hear What I Hear? Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 40p.
K-3 illus. \$2.75.

An interesting book, not quite as effective as Do You See What I See?, but excellent still. Because the first title dealt with visual experience, the concepts involved, even when intangible, could be related to something on the printed page; here the auditory factor makes additional demands on the child's understanding. Like the first book, this one needs interpretation by an adult. Mrs. Borten describes the differences in sounds—how they are made and how they affect the listener—with a sharp perception

and evocative imagery. Illustrations are stylized, colorful, and varied so that color and design conform to the sound being described.

NR Brown, Margaret Wise. The Diggers; pictures by Clement Hurd. Harper, 4-6 1960. 29p. Library binding, \$2.19; Trade binding, \$1.95. yrs.

A picture book about all kinds of digging. First the animals: mole, dog, worm, rabbit, and mouse. Then a pirate, then a man in the city whose work was taken over by a steam shovel. The steam shovel dug right under the river to the country side (?); then a "man put a train in the hole, and the train ran right through the hole." The steam shovel then cleared a path through a mountain for the train. These descriptions of engineering operations seem somewhat less than adequate; and the book is not in balance, since it begins with a description of varied activities and then proceeds to move from a man to a steam shovel and its work in an extended incident.

R Burt, Olive (Woolley). Space Monkey; The True Story of Miss Baker. Day, 4-7 1960. 64p. illus. \$2.50.

A most interesting and timely book about Miss Baker, the tiny squirrel monkey who was sent into space in the nose cone of a Jupiter rocket. The author describes the screening process by which the animal was chosen, the ways in which she was tamed and trained, and the way she is now spending her time in retirement. Photographs are interesting, although not all are informative. Amply borne out by the photographs is the fact that Miss Baker is a most beguiling animal, so that the reader will probably excuse an occasional sentimental note in the text.

Ad Carlson, Natalie (Savage). The Tomahawk Family; pictures by Stephen Cook. 4-6 Harper, 1960. 170p. \$2.75.

"In the moon when the leaves of schoolbooks begin to turn, two Indian children were spending the last days of their summer vacation thinking about the new school year." Eight year old Alice Tomahawk looks forward to school on the South Dakota reservation and the chance to learn to be a good American. Her ten year old brother Frankie is doubtful—half longing for the days when a Sioux warrior hunted buffalo. Their Grandmother, with whom they live, prefers to remain, in her own pouting words, "an uncivilized old Indian." With the help of a tactful teacher Grandma and Frankie are both won over to accept some of the white men's ways while still preserving the dignity of the old customs. Authentic background and turn of phrase; the story moves at a good pace with varied and often amusing incidents. Except that Frankie fails to accept responsibility for some of his misdemeanors, developmental values are excellent throughout: good family and interracial relations. A minor flaw is the credibility of Frankie: age ten, and he believes, for example, that the bow sent by the Crunchies company was made just for him by Chief Lone Wolf even though it is marked "Made in Japan."

Ad Cerf, Bennett. Book of Laughs; illus. by Carl Rose. Random House, 1959. 1-3 65p. (A Beginner Book) \$1.95.

A series of brief anecdotes about a little boy named Marvin, illustrated in cartoon style. Some of the jokes are rather distasteful, some depend on comprehension of a play on words, some are non-sequitur humor. Two examples of the type of material: Marvin asks if the teacher will be mad at something he did not do. No, she won't be. Marvin is glad, because what he didn't do was his homework; and—he is asked by the teacher how many eggs there will be if she lays one here and another there. None, replies Marvin, because the teacher cannot lay eggs. Despite the weaknesses, the book will be useful both because it serves as material for beginning readers and because there is so little available for independent reading at the age at which this type of simple joke has most appeal.

R Cleary, Beverly. The Hulabaloo ABC; illus. by Earl Thollander. Parnassus, 3-6 1960. 36p. \$2.95.

yrs.

An alphabet book that is different. Each letter is the base for a brief bit of rhyme; each rhyme describes some activity; all the activities are those of a small boy and girl on a farm. There is no attempt to use familiar or easy words as a mnemonic device; rather, the author seems to have chosen to write a descriptive phrase that might be remembered. For example: "G is for grunt. That's the pig. Nothing moves him. He's too big." Or, "S for Sh-h-h. Hear a squeak in the hay? Hush. It's a mouse who scuttles away." The farm theme gives unity and interest, and the illustrations are well matched to the text in light humor as well as subject.

R Cone, Molly. Only Jane; drawings by Velma Ilesley. Nelson, 1960. 160p. 6-9 \$2.95.

Jane Taylor was fifteen. Awkward and angular, not popular with boys but wishing she were. She banked so much on the pretty new dress . . . and then found out none of the girls were dressing up. She had a date for the club dance with a house guest, and Freddy turned out to be a drip. And too short. But Jane's luck turned when she helped the ignominious Freddy in a beach accident in which he was hurt: a new boy named Bob Henderson turned up at the scene. Freddy couldn't go to the dance . . . and Bob WANTED to go with her. Jane had a wonderful time. Easy, spontaneous writing replete with humor and insight; the characters are real and natural. Mrs. Cone captures the adolescent and her problems with much the same sympathy and commonsense that makes the Cleary books a delight to read.

Ad Crist, Eda. Mystery of Broken-Horse Chimneys; by Eda and Richard Crist; 5-7 illus. by Richard Crist. Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 189p. \$3.

The teen-age Bonner children, Dodey and Bobby, came to the Pennsylvania mountains with their father for vacation. They quickly made a friend of Randy, who lived on a neighboring farm; finding that Randy's land was about to be lost because the deed was missing, the two plunged into detective work. The mystery itself is solved in a logical fashion, but the credibility is weakened by repeated coincidences and by extraneous bits of description. For example, this reaction seems a bit melodramatic: "The shadow of a cloud moved over the rocks, and the air became chill. Dodey's lips formed another word—'evil' . . ." Characterization is adequate, writing style has pace despite the melodrama, and the descriptions of nature are excellent.

M Daniels, Jonathan. Mosby; Gray Ghost of the Confederacy; illus. by Albert 6-8 Orbaan. Lippincott, 1959. 123p. \$2.95.

A biography of John Singleton Mosby, the Confederate guerilla leader, that deals chiefly with Mosby's activities during the war. A source of constant irritation to the Union forces, Mosby refused to surrender when Lee had already done so; he was given parole a year later, but was a rebel until his death. While the book has some interest for the historical information it gives about the War between the States, it creates an exaggeratedly heroic picture of Mosby. The writing style is florid and is replete with trite phraseology.

Ad Davis, Russell G. Point Four Assignment; by Russell Davis and Brent 7- Ashabranner; with illus. by Gil Miret. Little, 1959. 246p. \$3.50.

A compilation of brief stories based on reports of Americans working all over the world in the Point Four program. There is variation in the kinds of projects reported on: medical, agricultural, educational, industrial. Some of the writing is in first person, some in third; the style is a bit abrupt, but the material itself is so interesting that it easily overcomes this minor handicap. The reader will glean, from the myriad small experiences in this volume, a picture of the Point Four Program

that is probably more impressive than any general statement. Index is divided into lists of people, "tribes and nationals," organizations, places, problems, and programs and projects of Point Four. Fictional form of presentation may limit audience.

SpC Doane, Pelagie. St. Francis. Walck, 1960. 63p. illus. \$3.75.
5-6

A biography of St. Francis of Assisi that tells of his boyhood, his renunciation of a life of pleasure, his founding of the Franciscan Order, and his preaching mission. Each page of text is written as a separate passage and has a full-color illustration on the facing page. The writing style is heavy and employs rather trite phraseology, and some of the material seems elaborately fictionalized. The book gives factual information, however, and the quietly reverential attitude indicates that it may be useful in religious education collections.

R Epstein, Edna. The First Book of the United Nations. Watts, 1959. 89p.
4-7 illus. \$1.95.

A remarkably comprehensive and clear explanation of the structure and function of the United Nations and its component parts. Mrs. Epstein treats first of the formation and the goals of the organization; next, she discusses the functioning of the six principal organs. Special agencies and commissions are described, with examples of the work they do; examples are also given of the achievements of the United Nations in such crises as Korea and Palestine. The photographs are excellent; index, glossary, and a list of member nations are appended. More serious in approach than Fisher's You and the United Nations (Childrens Press, 1947), the book is up-to-date, objective in attitude, and tremendously useful. The book is also useful for freshman high school students as an introductory book.

NR Everds, Marty. Lionel the Lazy Lion. Crowell, 1960. 42p. illus. \$2.50.
4-5 yrs.

Lionel was taken care of by Mr. Toast, a keeper at the zoo. Mr. Toast was afraid of Lionel, but took care of him well—spoiled him, in fact. All the other animals did things for themselves, but Lionel was waited on hand and paw. When Mr. Toast became ill from overwork, Lionel really suffered and was delighted to see his keeper back; but things had changed. Mr. Toast had learned that if he threatened to send the lion back to the jungle, the animal would be obedient . . . so now Lionel waited on Mr. Toast. Illustrations are stylized and unappealing, text is strained and trivial rather than humorous.

R Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Going Barefoot; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Crowell,
K-2 1960. 31p. \$3.

A rhymed rhapsody on the joys of going barefoot, in which a child expresses his impatient longing for the days of June, and in which he notes at length some of the habits of the animal world as they go about in all seasons—gloriously unshod. Illustrations are very attractive and quite varied, those in color having an exemplary restraint of its use.

R Flory, Jane. Peddler's Summer; written and illus. by Jane Flory. Houghton,
4-6 1960. 158p. \$2.50.

A pleasant period story, set in Pennsylvania in the 1870's. Widowed Mrs. Scoville was having a hard time keeping her eight girls fed, clothed, and warm; it needed the co-operation of all the children except the baby to care for their cabin and farm. Therefore, when nine-year-old Amanda had a chance to earn money by being the sewing machine demonstrator for Mr. Aaron, the peddler, she went happily, although she knew she'd miss the family. Good detail of period, especially in some of the

schoolroom scenes, and good values in the family relationships. Characterization is excellent and the writing is smooth, with delightful touches in the use of fresh, brief descriptive phrases.

Ad Fox, William. From Bones to Bodies; A Story of Paleontology; by William
6-8 Fox and Samuel Welles; drawings by Howard E. Hamman, Jr. Walck,
1959. 118p. \$3.

A detailed explanation of the ways in which a paleontologist eliminates, tests, and interprets his findings to reconstruct creatures from the past. The discussion here is limited to land animals and birds, excluding fossil plants, shells, or fishes. The similarities and the important differences in skeletal remains are explored in careful, sedate, and slightly repetitive text. Techniques of preservation and construction are given; a brief bibliography and an index are appended. Illustrative diagrams are on the whole good, but some are not clear and might well have been captioned or had labeled parts.

R Gallico, Paul. Mrs. 'Arris Goes to New York; drawings by Mircea Vasiliu.
8-12 Doubleday, 1959. 192p. \$2.50.

A sequel to Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris, and one that is equally sentimental and humorous. Mrs. 'Arris, a London char, is asked to come to the United States to work for one of her people for three months; she uses this opportunity to kidnap a waif whose father was an American soldier, hoping to find the father. The plot gets thoroughly tangled, Mrs. 'Arris is determinedly quaint and loved, coincidences pop up all over the book—but the light-hearted plot and unabashed exaggeration of character are somehow palatable in an amusing tale that is more enjoyable than believable.

Ad Gay, Zhenya. The Nicest Time of Year; written and illus. by Zhenya Gay.
3-5 Viking, 1960. 32p. \$2.
yrs.

An animal picture book. Spring is the nicest time of year, the author says, because that is when new things appear; and some of the new creatures are shown. Go for a walk with an adult and you may find . . . baby rabbits, or in another place, baby birds, or fawns. The animals are shown on double page spreads, drawn in soft black and white with green in the background. The reiterated theme is rather slight, and some of the animals shown are not very likely to be seen by many children who will see the book: flying squirrels, a black snake, a whippoorwill. No information about the animals is given and no other aspect of spring is presented.

R George, Jean (Craighead). My Side of the Mountain; written and illus. by Jean
6-9 George. Dutton, 1959. 178p. \$3.

An amazing and unusual book, this. It is a first-person report by an adolescent boy who has decided to try his luck in living off the land. Sam has a hard time at first, but as he becomes more proficient at living on his own, he collects comforts of food, dress, and living quarters that provide an enviable life. Vivid descriptions of animal life, and mouth-watering recipes dictated by necessity make Sam's record more real. The thoughts and attitudes he quotes from his diary indicate his maturation and deepening self-perception in a wholly convincing manner. Absorbing reading.

M Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Teacher; illus. by Vie Johnson. Grosset, 1959.
1-2 29p. \$1.

For beginning independent readers, with clear primer print well-spaced on the page. Controlled vocabulary, pedestrian illustrations. Gives a rather pleasant picture of the classroom situation and the exploration of interest extended beyond the classroom, but the role of the teacher is not stressed through most of the book, so that the last pages, in which one of the children decides that she will be a teacher like

Miss Jones, seem to be rather artificially wedded to the text.

Ad Guillot, René. The Blue Day; tr. by Gwen Marsh; illus. by Margery Gill.

3-4 Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 44p. \$2.50.

First published in France in 1958, this is a fantasy about a Dutch doll that had been abandoned in an attic. Every day the lonely doll Mieke asked the crow at the gable window if the day had come yet . . . for the blue day was the dolls' day: the day that all the forgotten dolls walked out of their houses and into the woods where the fairy listened to their wishes. When Mieke's blue day came, her wish was granted; she was transported to a place in a sunny land and had a whole day of playing with a real baby. The author begins and ends the tale in first person, injecting a quasi-allegorical note into his remarks. This, plus the fairly difficult vocabulary, will tend to limit the audience for the book; it is already limited in its appeal because of the feminine subject and the fanciful writing.

Ad Hall, Natalie. The World in a City Block. Viking, 1960. 44p. illus. \$2.50.

2-4

Nick D'Amico was lonely and envious when his older brother joined the Merchant Marine and went off to see the world; he left Nick a letter that said there was a surprise for Nick if he could guess the meaning of the statement that there was a world in their own block. Nick, making delivery rounds (his mother baked excellent Italian bread) as his brother had, soon found that he learned from friendly customers a great deal about their countries. Chinese, Swiss, Hungarian, Greek, French, Puerto Rican: from countries all over the world, and they were all right in his block. Valuable for its attitudes on neighborliness and intercultural understanding, the book is hampered somewhat in its message because the construction and purpose are so obtrusive. A pleasant picture of the New York scene, a bit idealized.

R Haskell, Arnold Lionel. The Wonderful World of Dance. Garden City, 1960.

7-10 95p. illus. \$2.95.

An impressive addition to an excellent series. Oversize, profusely illustrated by photographs and diagrams that are colorful, diverse, and well-integrated with the text. Mr. Haskell describes the evolution of the dance and dance forms, with an especially interesting section on the ritual dances of the Orient. Biographical material about some of the most famous dancers and choreographers is included; there are many diagrams given in amplification of those parts of the text that deal with dance notation. Of special interest to the devotee of the dance, the book is also admirably suited to the reader who has only general interest and background; it never becomes too technical. The treatment is somewhat diffuse, probably because the author moves back and forth as he relates dance forms to each other or to aspects of the culture in which they exist.

R Hoban, Russell C. Bedtime for Frances; pictures by Garth Williams. Harper,

3-6 1960. 28p. \$2.57 library ed.; \$2.50 trade ed.

yrs.

An enchanting picture book with winsome illustrations and a text in which there is humor and a real sympathy for the maneuvering of the reluctantly-retiring young. Frances is a badger, but her blatant moves to forestall sleep are universally child-like. Mr. Hoban has a felicitous way with conversation; Frances is simple, natural, and absolutely transparent; her parents are pleasant, patient, and restrained—up to a point. Every parent will recognize that point, and almost surely every parent will enjoy reading this book aloud.

R Hobart, Lois. Patriot's Lady; The Life of Sarah Livingston Jay. Funk and

8-12 Wagnalls, 1960. 274p. \$3.50.

Against a detailed background of the Revolutionary War period, the events in the lives of Sarah Jay and her husband are drawn. The biography begins with that period in Sarah Livingston's life when she met John Jay, rather than with her birth; it is related always to the position and problems of a wife whose husband is a public figure. The book gives sympathetic portraits of Sally Jay and of her husband; Jay, who had the courage to take unpopular positions, has never become a popular American hero-figure despite his impressive record as President of the Continental Congress, Minister to Spain, Governor of New York, and first Chief Justice of the United States. Although the style is somewhat stiff and fact-logged, the author has given a warm picture of the relationship between Sally and her husband and a most interesting picture of relationships among the leading figures of the time.

Ad Hutterer, Franz. Trouble for Tomas; tr. from the German by Joyce Emerson; 4-6 illus. by Irene Schreiber. Harcourt, 1959. 121p. \$2.50.

Translated from the German and originally published in 1959. Set in a small fishing village on the banks of the Danube, this is the story of Tomas, who lived with his widowed mother, his sister Anka, and a much loved donkey, Jascha. Forced by a moneylender, Timothy, to sell Jascha, Tomas' mother does so without telling the boy. Tomas is heartsick. The donkey is bought back for him, in the end, by a kindly circus man who is grateful because Tomas has brought back two lost bears. Plot is a bit strained and the characters tend to be flatly good or bad, but the writing is lively and informal and the setting is delightfully presented.

R Johnson, Gerald White. America Grows Up; A History for Peter; illus. by 5-8 Leonard Everett Fisher. Morrow, 1960. 223p. \$3.75.

The second volume of a trilogy, the first of which, America Is Born, was reviewed in the November, 1959, issue. Like the first volume, this has a sweep, a scope, and a fresh approach that make it a joy to read. Mr. Johnson is both objective and sensitive; he explores the larger issues of United States history and the forces that move toward events. The reader is made aware of the temper and the tempo of the times, and of the men who shaped our history. The book begins with the formation of the thirteen colonies into one union of states, and ends with the United States about to engage in World War I. Again, in this volume, the illustrations by Mr. Fisher are dramatic and powerful. An excellent and comprehensive index is appended.

R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Christopher Columbus; text illus. by Polly Jackson. 2-4 Follett, 1960. 32p. (A Beginning-To-Read Book) \$1.08 net—library ed.; \$1 trade ed.

Controlled vocabulary and sentence-length in a simplified biography. Mrs. Judson has achieved, within this framework, a readable and straightforward account, although one misses her usual literary style. The illustrations are, unfortunately, not attractive; one page shows a young Columbus, clinging to a spar when wrecked at sea, face adorned with a beaming smile.

Ad Justus, May. Lester and His Hound Pup; pictures by Joan Balfour Payne. 4-5 Hastings House, 1960. 48p. \$2.95.

Lester and his father raised hunting dogs in the Tennessee mountains, and Lester's own dog, Funny, was much coveted by a mean, dishonest neighbor, Old Mr. Ben Bailey. On his twelfth birthday, Lester was permitted to go into town alone for the very first time; he found some money in his pocket and bought an old hunting horn. It was put to good use, too, because Old Mr. Ben Bailey had gotten Funny and tied him up, far off in the woods, and it was because he heard the horn that Funny broke away and ran to his master. Background and conversation give the flavor of the Great Smoky Mountains way of life pleasantly. The relationship between Lester and his father is a warm one. The story is limited in appeal by a static quality in development of the story line.

M Kay, Helen. A Summer To Share; illus. by Polly Jackson. Hastings House, 2-4 1960. 48p. \$3.

An unpretentious story about two small girls and their new friendship. Merry thought she'd enjoy having the summer to herself when all the other girls went to camp, but soon found that she was lonesome. Her mother asked a girl from the city to come visit them, and Merry liked Susan, except that she was afraid of country noises and animals. Helped by her mother, Merry learned to make allowances for the fact that Susan was homesick and was learning new ways. Rather dull and unimaginative writing style; there is little movement in the plot, but the relationships are good and the friendship values especially so.

Ad Kendall, Carol. The Big Splash; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Viking, 1960. 217p. 5-6 \$3.

The story of a group of children who are working to prepare a float for a hospital fund contest; in order to earn the entrance fee, they must sell souvenirs for the hospital fund drive. A sub-plot is concerned with the chicanery of a brash young public relations man, but the major part of the story line is based on the progress of the souvenir sales and of the float construction. The writing has pace and humor, the latter emerging chiefly in the dialogue of the children, who are highly individual. They are perhaps slightly exaggerated and precious: completely entertaining but not completely believable.

Ad Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Stormy. Holiday House, 1959. 190p. \$2.95. 6-9

Allan Marley and his father had been running a shooting lodge, guiding sportsmen for waterfowl shooting. Mr. Marley was now in jail, having lost his temper and beaten up a man who had to be hospitalized for a month. Allan was therefore overjoyed when the stray dog he rescued from the ice became a companion that relieved his loneliness. Stormy was an excellent retriever, persistent and courageous. The story line concerns Stormy's training and prowess; also involved is a feud with neighbors. As in other books by this author, the greater interest of the book is in the descriptions of outdoor life and animal behavior. Stormy is somewhat sentimentally handled, but the lover of dog stories to whom the book is directed will probably not object.

R Krasilovsky, Phyllis. Benny's Flag; pictures by W. T. Mars. World, 1960. 3-4 34p. \$2.50.

Told as fiction, the true story of the contest held to design a flag for Alaska which was won by a boy of thirteen. Benny Benson, an Indian orphan who lived in a mission home and attended Territorial school, entered the school contest in 1926 with no expectation of winning. He loved his country deeply, and he put into his design the symbols that meant so much to him: the blue of the Alaskan skies and of the forget-me-not, the flower of Alaska; the North Star for Alaska's northern position; the Big Dipper to stand for strength. The style is rather sedate, but has a simplicity and directness that somehow befit the story of Benny. The illustrations are very handsome and they show the Alaskan background with informative detail and variety of mood and scene. A good read-aloud book for younger children.

Ad Krauss, Ruth. Open House for Butterflies; pictures by Maurice Sendak. K-2 Harper, 1960. 46p. \$1.50 trade ed.; \$1.84 library ed.

A second book of definitions and explanations by the author of A Hole Is To Dig; like the first book, this small volume has variety of treatment, with some double-page illustrations, and some pages that have several captioned drawings in differing sizes. The gay, capering figures by Sendak are no less charming; the text seems a bit repetitious. Perhaps this is the penalty the author pays for having written a previous book so entertaining that it has become familiar. At any rate, while most of

the text is engaging (for example, the lovely "A baby dances with its feet in the air"), some statements have a latent content that demand perhaps too much: for example, "Look! I'm running away with my imagination." To appreciate this, the child must be familiar with the reversed original.

M London, Julius. Weather and Climate; illus. by George Geygan. Home Library 5-6 Press, 1960. 33p. (Children's Introduction Series) \$.69 trade ed.; \$1.95 library ed.

A survey of the various aspects of meteorology, in which each topic is discussed in a double-page spread, of which roughly one-third of the space is given to illustration. Some of the topics included are geography, winds and pressures, clouds, rain, lightening and thunder, the atmosphere, the earth and the sun, and temperature. The book is quite inclusive, but cannot, in the format, devote enough space to any one aspect of the subject. Explanations are quite clear in some sections, but not full enough—although accurate—in others. The same material is presented to much better advantage by Wyler in The First Book of Weather (Watts, 1956) or, for more extended treatment, by Adler in Weather in Your Life (Day, 1959). In the trade edition the last page of text is printed on the inside back cover. The brevity of treatment indicates a younger audience than the vocabulary difficulty implies.

Ad Lorenz, Clarissa. Junket to Japan; with photographs from Peter Bell's excursion. Little, 1960. 187p. \$3.50.

Material (partly fictionalized) from the letters, photographs and diary of a young man who visited Japan as an American Field Service Exchange student. Peter Bell lived for two months with the Okajima family in suburban Tokyo. The author has written Peter's report in first person, and some of the vocabulary and tone seem authentic, if flippant, adolescent usage. The book contains a great deal of information about life in Japan today, and it describes quite vividly some of the people with whom Peter became well acquainted. There is far too much that is personal, and there are, perhaps because Peter is only sixteen, many statements that seem somewhat condescending.

NR Martin, Patricia Miles. Chandler Chipmunk's Flying Lesson. Abingdon, 1960. 4-5 64p. illus. \$2.50.

yrs.

Eight stories about the animals of Blackberry Acres. In the title story, a chipmunk tries parachuting with an umbrella, flying like a bird, and flying by holding the tail of a kite. Other episodes are about twin ducks named Daisy (yes, both), another lesson for Chandler—this time he learns to swim—and the efforts of Ernie Woodpecker to learn right from left. The animals are coy and unreal, there is little humor in the situations, and the illustrations are quite pedestrian.

Ad Miller, Alice P. The Heart of Camp Whippoorwill. Lippincott, 1960. 125p. 3-5 illus. \$2.75.

Penny was delighted when her postcard came . . . she was going to Fresh-Air Camp for Girls. Some of the camp ways were new to her, and she didn't like everything about camp at first, but Camp Whippoorwill soon seemed wonderful. The heart-shaped sign that had been nailed over the lodge door was missing, and Penny decided that she would find it and that it would be magic. And one magic thing the heart would do would be to enable the camp to open next year—somehow. Penny did find the sign; and, in a roundabout way, it did change the situation so that the charity camp could go on. The book is rather sentimental, but the light style and the very natural behavior of the characters compensate for this to make a most readable story about a type of camp which is too seldom the subject of stories for children.

Ad Monath, Elizabeth. Topper and the Giants; written and illus. by Elizabeth

3-4 Monath. Viking, 1960. 60p. \$2.50.

One afternoon old Mr. Weidhofer told a young friend about an adventure he had in the old country when he was eight. He and his dachshund, Topper, had wandered into the home of a friendly giant, Zori. While they were chatting and eating, there was an earthquake and they found they had been trapped by rocks that fell and blocked the exit. But Topper saved the day: he led the way out and his master followed: using Zori's magic whistle, they called his four giant brothers to help clear the way. The amiable giants are pleasantly drawn and are engagingly illustrated in black and white cuts. The story line is quite slight.

Ad Moore, Beatrix T. Kerry; illus. by E. Harper Johnson. Morrow, 1959. 80p. 3-5 \$2.75.

The story of an Irish water spaniel who was lost, became ill, and almost died. Kerry had been taught to swim after a stick on hearing the command to fetch; hearing her owner's father use the word, she jumped off a ferry in Chesapeake Bay to retrieve a stick. Unable to reach the ferry, Kerry swam to an island, was found and lost a second time, had a fight with a dog pack, and was hurt in the leg. Feverish and starving, she was at last found and taken to a veterinarian; even when she had recovered from her wounds, the dog had no will to eat and was wasting away. To the joy of her family, Kerry's appetite came back and she recovered completely. A rather static style limits appeal, but this is an adequate dog story with realistic animal behavior and good illustrations. Vocabulary simplicity and sentence brevity contribute to reading ease.

R Osborne, Chester G. The First Wheel; illus. by Richard N. Osborne. Follett, 4-6 1959. 128p. Library binding, \$2.85; Trade binding, \$2.75.

An interesting and convincing fictionalized version of the invention of the first wheel. The author refrains from melodrama as he describes the way in which Ashna, a Sumerian boy, tries to improve the unwieldy rollers used under the hauling sledges. The advance is important to a trading people, and Ashna's "fast roller" is much appreciated. The invention is realistically dictated by need and is all too realistically received with some suspicion. Nobody says "This is the first wheel!" The book is well-written, with characters that come alive; the story line is adequate, although the action is slow to start. The book gives a good picture of Sumerian culture, and it will be useful for supplementary curricular reading.

M Paschal, Nancy. Prescription for Two. Westminster, 1960. 207p. \$2.95. 7-9

A fairly patterned teen-age romance. Dorie yearns for the medical career on which her brother is about to embark, although he is only doing this to please his father. The fact that their father has had a heart attack and cannot work makes both young people try harder to be content in their chosen roles; Dorie decides that she will compromise and become a pharmacist. When her brother has to leave medical school because he faints repeatedly, Dorie's educational path is cleared financially and her parents accept the fact that their son will not be a doctor. The book also carries a double love affair as an appeal. While the writing is pedestrian and the plot development standard, there are two aspects of the story that deviate from the routine: Dorie's love affair is perfectly ordinary and realistic, and the fact that one can make a mistake in choice of career is made acceptable.

Ad Patchett, Mary Osborne Elwyn. Brumby; The Wild White Stallion; illus. by 6-8 Gerald McCann. Bobbs-Merrill, 1959. 224p. \$3.

Brumbies are the wild horses of the Australian bush country, and to young Joey Meehan breeding some of the brumby colts seemed the most desirable thing in the world. Some of the ones he saw he gave names to, and he was desolate when some of the ranchers captured his favorites. The book follows the story of several partic-

ular horses as Joey encounters them; especially it tells of the splendid stallion he had named Brumby. Not outstanding in plot, but well told; the Australian background gives additional interest.

Ad Peet, William B. Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure; written and illus. by Bill K-2 Peet. Houghton, 1959. 38p. \$3.

In picture book format, a nonsense tale, in rhyme, about a lion and his friends. Hubert's mane caught fire from a spark, and when he found it had been burned away, he was much embarrassed. The other animals had a caucus and decided that they would try crocodile's tears, so the elephant went off to get some. He did, because the crocodile laughed so hard that he cried. And they all went to sleep waiting for Hubert's mane to grow . . . and it grew, and grew, and grew. The story is a bit too long for the very small child. The humor and style are reminiscent of the work of Dr. Seuss.

NR Ponsot, Marie, tr. My First Picture Encyclopedia; tr. and ad. by Marie 4-5 Ponsot; illus. by P. Brasseur et al. Grosset, 1959. 68p. \$2.95.

Originally published in France in 1958 under the title Mon Encyclopédie en Couleurs, an oversize picture book. Title is misleading; this is not an encyclopedia, and has neither table of contents nor index. The book is divided into chiefly double-page spreads devoted to large topics: Animal Friends and Helpers, Birds of the World (23 are shown), Fun in the Mountains, Children of the World. Some of the single page coverage is even more superficial: one page each devoted to Reptiles and From the First Airplanes to the Jets of Today. Many pages are crowded with pedestrian illustrations. The vocabulary is much too difficult for the picture-book audience, and the format of the book is too juvenile for the child who can understand the text. The fact that successive pages are unrelated may well prove confusing to children.

Ad Radlauer, Edward. About Missiles and Men; by Edward and Ruth Shaw Rad-4-6 lauer; illus. with photographs. Melmont, 1959. 46p. \$2.50.

A description of the construction of a guided missile, with text and photograph on facing pages. Each section (usually one page) discusses briefly one division of labor or one part of the construction itself. The sections are arranged in the order of actual construction, so that the text moves from the work of the preliminary designer and the project engineer to the launching site and the count down. Explicit and informative, although in this brief survey some of the topics are covered only superficially.

Ad Reeves, James. Titus in Trouble; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Walck, 1960. 3-4 46p. \$3.50.

Titus lived a century ago in London, and his dream was to go to sea as a cabin boy . . . but one thing after another happened to Titus. He broke something in an antique shop, therefore was in debt; then he spilled some fruit belonging to an old woman, and had to give her money; then he had a position in a store, and dropped slippery material and the manager fell, so Titus was discharged. Et cetera. Finally he recouped his losses by earning a reward for finding (by accident) some lost family jewels. All of this activity seems even less probable if one judges the boy's age by the attractive Ardizzone illustrations: Titus seems eight or nine. The vocabulary has quite a few British words to halt the reader. The appeal of the book will be in the mild cliff-hanger situations.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Shots without Guns; The Story of Vaccination; illus. 7- with 45 photographs. Rand McNally, 1960. 232p. \$3.50.

Informative and well-written biographies of the men and women who have contributed to the knowledge of vaccination against disease. The work of medical pioneers from

Jenner to the present day is described clearly and enthusiastically, emphasis in the book being on the research procedures used by each doctor or team. While the discoveries of early workers like Jenner and Pasteur have been described many times, the accounts here are succinct and interesting; some of the later contributions are fresh material: the efforts of Dr. George and Dr. Gladys Dick, of Schick and of Sabin. An excellent index is appended.

R Russell, Solveig Paulson. A Is for Apple, and Why*; *The Story of Our Alphabet; illus. by Robert A. Jones. Abingdon, 1959. 48p. \$2.

Large, clear print and good diagrams tell the story of the development of our alphabet. From the first cave pictures, through pictograms, hieroglyphics, ideograms, phonograms, and syllabaries, through hieratic and cuneiform writing to the Phoenician alphabet the course is traced. The ways in which the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans adapted and altered the symbols is described, and, finally, the additions made in the English alphabet. Some information about writing tools and materials, and about the ways in which knowledge about the alphabet and writing spread, gives background to the facts and makes them more interesting. A good job of making simple a long and complicated process.

R Sasek, Miroslav. This Is London. Macmillan, 1959. 60p. illus. \$3.
3-5

An entrancing introduction to the city, in an oversize book with superb illustrations. A line or two of text on each page gives a caption to the illustration; the writing is light and humorous. For example, "From the Old Bailey we go to New Scotland Yard. The people the detectives catch go the other way." Or "Outside the palace you see bearskins. Under the bearskins are Guardsmen. To recognize their regiments, look at their plumes." The illustrations are imaginative, colorful, and evocative. The book gives information about famous tourist sights, but it gives also the mood and tempo of the city by its glimpses of background details and scenes that are typical rather than renowned.

R Sasek, Miroslav. This Is Rome. Macmillan, 1960. 60p. illus. \$3.
4-6

Another delectable pictorial presentation of one of the world's great cities by the author-illustrator of This Is Paris and This Is London. This volume, like the others, is oversize and is filled with beautiful and humorous paintings of both famous landmarks and typical local touches. It is informational, it is evocative and nostalgic. Some historical information is given very briefly, but the pages for the most part are a happy mingling of contemporary life and ancient, historic sites. Some of the captions are straightforward, but others have the same type of humor as appears in the painting: an appreciative relish of the endearingly absurd.

Ad Schlein, Miriam. My Family; illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard-Schuman, K-2 1960. 40p. \$2.75.

A picture book that explores in most satisfactory fashion the question of family relationships. Using the photograph album style in the illustrations, the author has her protagonist wonder first what makes the man in Honolulu his uncle . . . he's not as close as the man next door. Grandparents, aunts, and uncles (including those acquired by marriage) and cousins are discussed. Explanations of relationships are very clear: the book is useful because it describes something every child, at some point, struggles to grasp; it also is of value because it gives a strong sense of the affection and the continuity in family ties. The concept of "closeness" may be confusing to many children.

NR Schwalje, Marjory. Mr. Angelo; pictures by Abner Graboff. Abelard-

3-4 Schuman, 1960. 41p. \$2.75.

Mr. Angelo loved to cook quantities of one dish rather than varying the menu. He was getting too fat, and so he decided to sell part of what he cooked; when he put up a sign that said "Eatery" customers came—but they didn't stay when they learned that he had only angelfood cakes. He changed the sign to read "Bakery" but again lost his customers, because that day he had felt like cooking only spaghetti and meat balls. Finally he followed a boy's suggestion that he sell only advertised specials. Success. A rather pointless picture book. Mr. Angelo would be acceptable were he either believable or humorous, but he is only dull. Illustrations have a poster-vivid bravado combined with small detail: eye-catching but occasionally distracting, as are the intense colors.

Ad Scott, Sally. Judy's Summer Adventure; pictures by Beth Krush. Harcourt, 2-4 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

Judy's family had always gone to the beach for vacation, and she wasn't sure she'd like a country cottage; she was quickly captivated by the place, however . . . but lonesome. All it took to make a perfect summer was a girl her age moving in next door, and sure enough, when Helen came to play, the summer was complete. A pleasant story, although two rather lengthy incidents—one involving a skunk and the other a swarm of wasps—seem a little forced. Family relationships are described with appreciative warmth and humor.

R Selsam, Millicent Ellis. How To Grow House Plants; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. 5-9 Morrow, 1960. 96p. \$2.50.

A wonderfully useful and complete manual for the reader who has never grown house plants, and a book useful as well for the home gardener who has had difficulties. The text is well-organized, style of writing is brisk and straightforward, and the illustrations are helpful. Mrs. Selsam is particularly adept at giving to the reader just enough background information (and not too much) to clarify the reasons for instructions and suggestions. Some of the areas covered are water, light, fertilizer, potting, propagation, special kinds of indoor gardens (kitchen, miniature, water, etc.), and bulbs. Suggestions are given for plants that are easy for a beginner to grow, and an alphabetical list of common house plants is appended, with brief comments on proper culture for each.

R Shura, Mary Francis. Simple Spigott; illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. Knopf, 4-5 1960. 90p. \$2.50.

A delightful fantasy about a very small spook named Simple Spigott, who becomes the friend and constant companion of three children. Geraldine Tait is ten, her brothers Tom and Tim are nine and seven; they accept with great equanimity the existence of Simple and have some entertaining adventures under his guidance. When Mr. Tait goes to Scotland to teach for a year, the lost treasure Simple had told them about is found by Timothy. Lively writing style and humor enhance this unusual plot; Simple's story of his birth in Scotland under the Old Classic Rules is particularly entertaining.

M Slobodkin, Louis. Up High and Down Low. Macmillan, 1960. 30p. illus. K-2 \$2.50.

Told in verse, the adventures of Billy the Kid and Sam the Lamb. Billy came down from his high mountain, passing Sam en route; each had the same experience in being ignored by the herd. The sheep looked askance at Billy, and the goats on the mountain top frowned at Sam, so each went back to his own, and they were very happy. The slightest of plots. The illustrations are charming in soft pastel tones, with all the animals white; they are quite repetitive, showing sheep or goats in field or on the mountain.

M Slobodkina, Esphyr. Moving Day for the Middlemans; story and pictures by
4-6 Esphyr Slobodkina. Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 40p. \$2.75.
yrs.

The Middlemans had to leave their comfortable home when Mr. Middleman was appointed to a new job in Middletown. They hunted for a new house, but couldn't find what they wanted; finally they followed Uncle Marty's suggestion that they have the house itself moved. So they had all the pleasures of the country and their own pleasant home. The text is dull, and the illustrations are flat and dull in color. The one value of the story lies in the explanation of the way in which a house is moved, although neither text nor illustrations are perfectly clear.

Ad Snow, Dorothea J. A Doll for Lily Belle; illus. by Nedda Walker. Houghton,
3-5 1960. 52p. Library binding, \$2.28; Trade binding, \$2.50.

A pleasant and flavorful story of people living in the back country of the Cumberland Mountains. Lily Belle wanted a doll, and she wanted to earn money; when her friendly overtures ended the long-standing family feud between her folks and Grandma Ledbetter, she had both her wishes. In fact, she went into a flourishing and permanent business venture. Mountain lore and mountain speech are effectively incorporated into the story; a minor weakness in the writing is the use of colloquial expression in the descriptive passages as well as in the conversation: for example, the first sentence reads: "A far piece up the broad new highway that winds over Dogwood Mountain there sets an old log cabin." Illustrated with soft half-tone drawings.

Ad Starrett, Robert S. Find a Career in Medicine. Putnam, 1960. 160p. \$2.75.
7-10

Describes the preparation needed in high school and college years for a medical career, the training itself—medical school, internship, and residency—and the choices of general practice and some of the fields of specialization. Mr. Starrett gives a brief resumé of medical history as a preface to the above, and concludes with chapters on careers in related fields, and on the challenges of medicine in the future. The tone of the writing is a bit evangelistic, and the author talks down somewhat to his audience: for example, "Some day, when you are a little older, you should read the entire history of medicine. It is thrilling reading, and will make you more determined than ever to become a doctor." Most of the material covered is presented in a more interesting style in Coy's Doctors and What They Do (Watts, 1956).

Ad Steinmann, Elsa. Lia and the Red Carnations; illus. by Johannes Grüger.
6-9 Pantheon, 1960. 222p. \$3.

Translated from the German, originally published in 1958, a story of modern Italy. Lia and her family had fled the Po valley floods, and were staying with her grandmother in a flower-growing region. When the news came that the farm in the valley would not be cleared and arable for many years, Lia's family decided that they would stay in the flower business. A sudden frost threatened the flowers; Lia's father saved theirs by using the smudgefires that had once saved their peach crop; the outcome of his success at saving their flowers was that a new co-operative was formed, sparked by his leadership and Lia's speeches. The ending is rather pat: prestige, recognition, and a large amount of relief money solve all problems at once. The unusual background of the lives of everyday country people in modern Italy is, however, interesting. Characterization is not deep, but is believable and consistent.

NR Sutton, Felix. The Illustrated Book about Africa; illus. by H. B. Vestal; cre-
5-6 ated and designed by Archie Bennett. Grosset, 1959. 101p. \$3.95.

An oversize picture book that describes some of the countries and tribes of Africa, and gives brief commentaries on some of the flora and fauna. While the information that is given is useful, the book has a most haphazard arrangement; it is indexed,

but the table of contents is not adequate for making material in the text easily accessible. Desert peoples and desert wild life are first examined, then the text moves to Egypt and some of its history and present culture. From jungle areas, to river life and then to the plains; these sections (not set apart or labeled separately) incorporate information in rather scrambled fashion. For example, these topical headings follow in order: The Kikuyu, The Zulus, Witchcraft and Magic, Lake Victoria, Nairobi, Safari Land, Animals of the Plains, Elephants, Kruger National Park. The treatment is not well-balanced, except for those sections of the book which are entitled The Birds of Africa, African Insects, The Trees of Africa, etc. The imbalance of the presentation is evidenced by the fact that two pages each are devoted to the art of Africa and to the political scene in Africa today. No map is included, there is little material on contemporary progress, and the illustrations are almost all of savages.

M Syrocki, B. John. What Is a Rock; pictures by Lucy and John Hawkinson.
3-5 Benefic, 1959. 48p. \$1.60.

Large print, simple text, and illustrations that are, for the most part, helpful. Composition of rocks, the three kinds of rock, and erosion are discussed; and two very brief sections describe, superficially, the fossils in rocks and the uses of rocks. A "picture dictionary" illustrates and defines six words; it seems hardly useful to isolate these few. There is no index. Readers who can easily absorb some of the terminology in the book might well want more comprehensive and detailed information. A useful feature is the page entitled "Remember," which recapitulates the information in the section on classes of rocks and is also used after the section on erosion. The illustrations are not useful for identification, as they are in Podendorf's True Book of Rocks and Minerals (Childrens Press, 1958).

M Tichenor, Tom. Folk Plays for Puppets You Can Make; written and illus. by
3-5 Tom Tichenor. Abingdon, 1959. 96p. \$2.25.

Very brief directions are given for making the puppets themselves (stick or hand puppets), the scenery, and the stage. Five plays are included; and the scenery, characters, and action for each are suggested. The five are "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," "The Princess Who Would Not Cry," "The City Mouse and the Country Mouse," "The Little Red Hen," and "Simpleton." Instruction is scant, writing style dull; the only contribution of the book is in the plays it provides. Two other books on the same topic and for the same age reader are better written and more informative: Jagendorf's First Book of Puppets (Watts, 1952) which includes four plays, and Carlson's Act It Out (Abingdon, 1956) which gives different plays for different kinds of puppets. Both of these books give directions for making a great variety of puppets.

R Titus, Eve. Anatole and the Robot; pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey
K-2 House, 1960. 32p. \$2.50.

Another delightful story about Anatole, a mouse among mice, cheese-taster par excellence, devoted father and employee. When the factory owner found he had measles, he asked a cousin to take charge; the cousin put in a robot who took over Anatole's work. Too much speed, no feeling, all automation: the workers preferred Anatole to the robot. A smashing climax establishes Anatole as a hero, ends the robot's life and puts the cousin in his humble place. Illustrations and text are equally charming, having in common a gay and light quality that makes them well suited to each other.

R Van Stockum, Hilda. Friendly Gables; written and illus. by Hilda van Stockum.
5-7 Viking, 1960. 186p. \$2.75.

A third book about the Mitchell family, now settled in a suburb of Montreal. The daily lives of the six children are much affected by the addition of twins, because Mrs. Mitchell is slow to recover and requires nursing care; the iron hand of Miss Thorpe is upon the household. With so many youngsters, the activities and minor plots are

profuse and diverse, but the diversity is in the hands of a craftsman and there is remarkable unity and sustained interest in the writing. Hilda van Stockum has contributed another wonderful family story with a vividly individual characterization, sound values, and a bright, warm humor.

M Watkins, Richard. The Mystery of Willet; illus. by Peter Spier. Nelson, 1959. 4-6 167p. \$2.95.

Clark Howard's father has designed a new model sailboat that he calls Willet; in a trial race Willet is a surprising failure. The boat and Mr. Howard disappear at sea, and Clark spends much time diving for evidence of what went wrong. Eventually Mr. Howard turns up; he has been in hiding, not drowned at all. Secretly he has been preparing a second Willet. Meanwhile, Clark has salvaged Willet I and it is discovered that there has been sabotage. The book reads smoothly, but this is a triumph of style over hackneyed plot and flat characters.

M Williams-Ellis, Amabel (Strachey). Man and the Good Earth; illus. by Robert Eggers. Putnam, 1959. 64p. \$2.

Adapted for American readers from the original version published in 1958 in Great Britain. A book about conservation, the emphasis here being on topsoil. Some of the topics included are pest control, selective breeding, irrigation, and the relation of trees to topsoil. The writing style is too jocular for the informational material it presents, treatment is quite cursory, and there is no index.

R Williamson, Joanne S. Hittite Warrior. Knopf, 1960. 214p. \$3. 7-10

A historical novel constructed around the Biblical story of Deborah and Barak. Uriah-Tarhund, a young Hittite, tells of his flight to the south after his country was conquered. As Uriah traveled and met people of other lands his horizons broadened and his understanding of brotherhood grew. He met, and he fought with or against, unforgettably vivid characters; having fought in the great battle against the Hebrews at Kishon, Uriah in his later years came to believe in the Hebrew God. Fast-paced, with wonderfully convincing background and good characterization; this is good historical fiction and a first-rate adventure story.

M Zaidenberg, Arthur. How To Draw Farm Animals. Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 5-7 64p. illus. \$3.

The author illustrates some of the basic patterns of anatomical proportion of each of the domestic animals included; he also gives some general suggestions about the characteristics of each type. The instructional material is brief and is seldom specific; there are no captions or labels to help the reader identify parts of a drawing. The pages may be of some help to a reader who has already obtained some proficiency.

Ad Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). Big Brother; pictures by Mary Chalmers. 3-5 Harper, 1960. 28p. \$1.95. yrs.

A slight but attractive picture book, with illustrations that have the distinguishable Chalmers' shy sweetness. The text will have the appeal of familiarity to many small listeners: a little sister who cried whenever her brother teased her by pretending to do something awful, until the day she was absorbed in what she was doing and didn't react. Her big brother then realized that he had a companion (instead of a victim) and they settled down in friendly fashion to play together. The resolution of brother-sister differences isn't always that easy in real life, but for both parties the book has some suggestions for improving the situation.

Reading for Teachers

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