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*Bulletin
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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 XIV

April, 1961

Number 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Adler, Irving. Mathematics; Exploring the World of Numbers and Space; 6- illus. by Lowell Hess. Golden Press, 1960. 91p. (Giant Golden Books) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated by charts and diagrams, that gives brief explanations of many mathematical subjects ranging from the simple to some that are quite complex. Lucid though the explanations are, their usefulness is limited by the brevity of treatment. Only one page is devoted to finite and infinite numbers, for example, and of the two pages that discuss square root, half the space is given to illustration. Some biographical material is included; some of the articles show the application of mathematics in daily life: "Mathematics and Music" or "Calculating Machines", for example. For the young person who is fascinated by mathematics, the book is probably not sufficiently expanded, but it is perhaps most useful to the potential young mathematician with some background but an undeveloped proficiency. Teachers will find the book useful to supplement the curriculum.

R Ahern, Nell Giles. Teenage Living. Houghton, 1960. 326p. illus. \$3.95. 7-12

A very good guide for the adolescent interested in dating, hygiene, grooming . . . all the problems of growing up. The author uses intermittent but related fictionalized passages about a specific group of young people and their problems to add interest to the text and to illustrate topics under discussion. Dates, parents, clothes, diet, parties, individuality, manners—all are discussed in informal style. A comprehensive and pleasant book, well-indexed. The author has included reading lists, films and specific suggestions about each area in a section at the back of the book, divided to correspond with the chapter topics.

Ad Allan, Mabel Esther. On Stage, Flory! Watts, 1961. 185p. \$2.95. 7-10

Flory Ronald, having convinced her parents to let her try a career on the stage, gets a job with a company that is putting on an experimental play at the Edinburgh Festival. She is successful in a small part and she falls in love with the young producer of an amateur group that is also performing. The theatrical background is interesting, and it is handled in realistic—not melodramatic—fashion. The characterizations are not quite as well done as they are in other books by this author, and the story is so heavily saturated with Edinburgh atmosphere that it competes with the theatrical details in a rather obtrusive manner.

R Anckarsvärd, Karin. The Robber Ghost; tr. from the Swedish by Annabelle 5-7 MacMillan; illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1961. 187p. \$3.25. Translated from the Swedish, published under the title Tag Fast Spöket. A good

teenage story translated smoothly and giving an excellent picture of the adolescent group in Sweden today: enough difference to lend interest, enough similarity to ensure identification on the part of the reader. The robbery that takes place in a suburb of Stockholm involves the new boy who has made himself unpopular; the involvement is credible, and gives pace and color to the story. The appeal of the book is, however, more in the perceptive and sympathetic portrayal of the high school in-group: they are real, lively, and engaging.

R Asimov, Isaac. Breakthroughs in Science; illus. by Karoly and Szanto.
6- Houghton, 1960. 197p. \$4.

First presented as serialized material in Scholastic Magazine, twenty-six brief biographies of people famous for their contributions toward progress in knowledge. The discoverers here cited worked chiefly in the biological or physical sciences; although they are described quite briefly, their important contribution is given in a crisp and lively report that may well excite the reader to further investigation. Biographees included are Archimedes, Johann Gutenberg, Nicolaus Copernicus, William Harvey, Galileo Galilei, Anton Van Leeuwenhoek, Isaac Newton, James Watt, Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, Michael Faraday, Joseph Henry, Henry Bessemer, Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur, Gregor Johann Mendel, William Henry Perkin, Roentgen and Becquerel, Thomas Alva Edison, Paul Ehrlich, Darwin and Wallace, Marie and Pierre Curie, Albert Einstein, George Washington Carver, Irving Langmuir, Rutherford and Lawrence, and Robert Hutchings Goddard. Illustrations in black and white are attractive, and an index is appended.

Ad Audsley, James. The Book of Ballet; illus. by Grace Golden and with 15
7- plates from photographs. Rev. ed. Warne, 1960. 111p. \$2.50.

Comprises materials on the history of ballet, famous dancers, the ballets themselves, and the language of ballet. The book will be of less interest to readers in the United States than to those in England, since the book emphasizes the English ballet, according to England a separate chapter on its ballet history, following the first chapter that gives ballet history in Italy, France and Russia. The photographs are interesting; the drawings are awkward. Although not smoothly written, the text gives a great deal of information: the information is detailed enough to suggest that the audience for the book will be those readers who are already interested in this art form. It is unfortunate that there is no index.

NR Barr, Cathrine. Hound Dog's Bone. Walck, 1961. 32p. illus. \$2.25.
K-2

Two fox pups watch a camper's dog enjoying a bone; they steal the bone and are chased by the dog, who is followed by his owner; the bone is recovered by the dog, and the little foxes watch with anticipation as the dog is given a new bone. Much of the text is devoted to rather dull details of the chase, and the ending is anti-clamactic. Illustrations are mediocre, with some double page spreads showing the foxes as being the same size as the hound dog and others that show them as much smaller.

R Bell, Thelma Harrington. Thunderstorm; illus. by Corydon Bell. Viking,
6-9 1960. 128p. \$3.

A comprehensive discussion of the topic, prefaced by a chapter on myths and superstitions about thunder and lightning. The author describes the formation of a thunderhead well, but some of the diagrams are not placed to best advantage in relation to the text: for example, in a series of diagrams A, B and C the only reference to B comes two pages later, when the author refers back to B. An interesting chapter describes airplane flights in storms; the text analyzes the electrical and meteorological processes involved and describes men's search for knowledge about light-

ning. Miscellaneous material is gathered into an informal last chapter. A brief index is appended.

Ad Bentley, Phyllis. The Young Brontës; illus. by Marie Hartley. Roy, 1961. 7-9 136p. (Famous Childhoods Series) \$3.

A competently written book that concentrates on the childhood years of the Brontë children, with the last two chapters devoted to their adult lives, their writings, and their early deaths. The author, in writing for children, has written with a pace that is slower than that of her writing for adults: the details of school life, of the moors, and of the industrial revolution are somewhat obtrusive. The characters are real, but they are not vivid. Although it is longer and has a slightly more difficult vocabulary, White's Wild Decembers (Dutton, 1957) is a story of the Brontës so absorbing that it can be enjoyed by readers in the upper elementary grades as well as by those of high school age.

R Bevens, Margaret. McCall's Book of Everyday Etiquette; A Guide to Modern Manners by Margaret Bevens with the Editors of McCall's Magazine; 9- illus. by Mircea Vasiliu. Golden Press, 1960. 370p. \$5.

Well-organized and comprehensive, a useful guide to customs and manners; a good relative index makes this an excellent reference book. The author writes with simplicity and common sense, using clear illustrations; the section on silverware, for example, shows silhouette drawings of all types of knives and forks. The contents are divided into general areas: manners in general, people who help and serve us, meeting people, public manners, business etiquette, communicating with others, household equipment and its uses, entertaining at home, religious ceremonies of children, funerals, travel manners, etc.

R Blough, Glenn Orlando. Who Lives in This Meadow; A Story of Animal Life; 2-4 pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1961. 48p. \$2.50. Describing the various species of animal life found in a meadow, the text emphasizes the ways in which animals are adapted to their environment, and indicates (without use of difficult vocabulary) the interdependence of some plants and animals. Dr. Blough shows how, within the meadow, the environment differs; he describes the ways in which insects, birds, fish, reptiles and mammals eat and hunt, how they are adapted for these purposes and for protective reasons, and how differences within a species may indicate specialized adaptation.

NR Borer, Mary Cathcart. Sophie and the Countess; illus. by W. F. Phillips. 5-7 Watts, 1960. 207p. \$2.95.

Set in England in 1860, the story of two children of a theatrical family; Sophie, who is eleven, and her younger brother live in poverty with their grandfather, a puppeteer. Lured to London and kidnapped by an unscrupulous manager, the children run away to encounter in melodramatic style the prison and the workhouse. The Countess of the title is a puppet, used in part as a device to reunite the family. The book has a plethora of trite devices: the lame, rich boy who buys the children's dog; his kind father who provides a home for the reunited family at the end of the tale; the cruel manager and his fat, vain wife; the stern matron of the workhouse. Stereotyped characters and situations, mediocre writing style and elaborate plot.

M Borg, Inga. Plupp Builds a House. Warne, 1960. 27p. illus. \$2.50. K-2

A read-aloud book about a small elf who had no house; he examined the homes of several animals, but decided that they were not for him. The animals helped him build just the right kind of house; they built a raft and all went for a sail, the lake froze overnight, and they all went home and went to sleep. Unoriginal story, and

illustrations that do not compare with the beautiful work done by this author in Parrak. The conversation of the animals is a combination of ordinary words and phonetic representation of animal sounds—rather jarring; the lemming begins all his remarks with "Esky-tesky, it is beautiful" or "Esky-tesky, the water looks very cold."

R Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). The Christmas Ghost; illus. by Anna Marie K-3 Magagna. Day, 1960. 44p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.81 net. An unusual Christmas story to read aloud; tender, strong, and honest. A small boy is told by an old man that there is a ghost that walks at Christmas—the ghost of his oldest friend. Jimpsey, frightened, tells his parents about the ghost and is reassured by their calm; he wakes at night and, thinking he sees the ghost, slips out of the house. It is the old man walking in the moonlight, and he explains to Jimpsey that there is really no ghost—that he walks with the memory of his friend. In very simple terms he tells the boy that people who have died come back in loving memories; for the child who listens to the story being read aloud, this is a gentle approach to death and a good explanation of a ghost.

Ad Carleton, Barbee Oliver. The Secret of Saturday Cove; illus. by Charles 4-6 Geer. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961. 168p. \$3.50. Not unusual in plot, the story of a brother and sister who find a long-lost family treasure. Despite the use of rather familiar devices (the new boy who has an expensive boat and a nasty manner...the tycoon who is outwitted by a seemingly mild old sailor) the book is enjoyable. It is enjoyable because the author has created believable characters, because the values in the story are excellent, and because the writing has suspense and humor. Perhaps the most interesting nuances in the writing lie in the manner in which the characters react to each other in a changing pattern.

Ad Carlson, Bernice Wells. The Right Play for You; illus. by Georgette Boris. 4-7 Abingdon, 1960. 160p. \$2.50. The first section of the book gives general advice on choosing a play for particular needs and gives advice on adapting the play by changing dialogue, number of characters or the roles of minor characters. Twenty original plays are included in the book: each has an explanatory preface, staging and costuming suggestions, and suggestions for making changes in the play. The plays themselves are adequate material; the book cannot assure the reader that he or she will be able to write or re-write dramatic material successfully, but it may well stimulate him toward attempts at creativity.

Ad Carlson, Natalie (Savage). The Song of the Lop-Eared Mule; pictures by 4-5 Janina Domanska. Harper, 1961. 82p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A Spanish extravaganza about the adventures of Pedro, a mule who ran away from home because he found out that his master had been lying to him. Pedro was taken over by a gypsy family, then sold to an actor with whose troupe Pedro was billed as a singing mule. Eventually Pedro came back to the farm, where his industry ensured prosperity for the family. Mrs. Carlson evokes the Spanish atmosphere and the humor of the Spanish gypsy, but some of the humor and the references seem sophisticated for the middle grade reader. Pedro is invested with mental processes that are human rather than equine; while this is treated as light nonsense, it is somewhat jarring to have a mule that "thought he was a horse" and "thought he was the lead mule of a four-mule team."

R Cavanna, Betty. A Touch of Magic; drawings by John Gretzer. Westminster, 7-10 1961. 189p. \$2.95.

Based in part on historical fact, and with source material listed, a Revolutionary War novel that is written with pace and color. Set in Philadelphia, the book tells of the lives of three girls: Hannah Trent, a Quaker, for whom the war years meant privation, work and worry; her friend Nancy Shippen, who married unhappily after a brilliant social career; and Nancy's cousin, Peggy Shippen, whose marriage to Benedict Arnold ended in disgrace and expatriation. Unusual as period fiction because of the picture it gives of the social set whose only concern during the war was enjoyment—whether the town was occupied by patriots or British. Good characterization, and a very restrained and pleasant love story.

Ad Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. Desert Dan; illus. by Harper Johnson. Viking, 4-5 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

Desert Dan lived alone with his animals, but his was not a lonely life, because he loved the desert. He added to his animal entourage a baby burro that had been attacked by a coyote, so the burro was frightened. The dog joined Desert Dan's family, but was not accepted by the burro until the time he saved her from a coyote pack. A gentle story, but slow-moving and a plot that is of little interest unless the reader likes animal stories; the writing style is good, and the author establishes firmly the personalities of the animals as well as the character of the kindly old man. The illustrations are realistic and effective in black and white; as in the text, there is an occasional sentimental presentation of the baby burro.

Ad Cohen, Florence Chanock. Portrait of Deborah. Messner, 1961. 191p. \$2.95. 7-10

Although in many ways a patterned novel, this is a book in which the problem of anti-semitism is approached with candor. Deborah's family moves from the south side of Chicago to a small town; she is unhappy about leaving her friends and is dismayed at the lost opportunity for a musical scholarship. The new opportunities for a musical career are handled realistically, as is Deborah's love affair with Steve. The problem of prejudice is treated with restraint; most of Debby's new friends don't care whether she is Jewish or not, but Steve's parents care, and Debby has to adjust herself to the fact that Steve cannot resist parental influence. The writing style is fairly pedestrian, but the author's honesty in presenting human relationships, and the fine values in the book, make the story interesting despite the weakness of the style and the lack of originality in the basic plot.

R Coombs, Charles Ira. Gateway to Space. Morrow, 1960. 256p. illus. \$3.95. 6-10

A competently written survey of space exploration and its promise for the future. In informal writing style, the author describes the organization of Patrick Air Force Base and the operations at Cape Canaveral; through the use of dialogue he describes the launching of a missile. The theories that underlie missile and rocket thrust are discussed, and such problems as fuel, weight, satellite recovery, re-entry and instrumentation are discussed with clarity. Photographs and diagrams are good; index and glossary are appended. Because of topical interest, the book will undoubtedly have an audience of greater range than that indicated by the reading level assigned.

M Daniels, Jonathan. Robert E. Lee; illus. by Robert Frankenburg. Houghton, 6-9 1960. 184p. (North Star Books) Trade ed. \$1.25; Library ed. \$2.80.

An adulatory biography, the greater part of which is devoted to the events—military and personal—of the Civil War years. Indexed, and of use therefore as a source of information about military details, the book is weakened by an ornamented but pedestrian writing style. For this age reader, a better biography is Commager's America's Robert E. Lee (Houghton, 1951).

Ad Daringer, Helen Fern. The Turnabout Twins; illus. by Charles Geer. Harcourt, 5-6 1960. 154p. \$3.

It wasn't planned that way, but Becky somehow ended at the home of her great-aunts for a summer visit when it was supposed to have been her identical twin, Rachel, who went. Becky enjoyed her aunts and she made many friends; she and the other children in the story are drawn with warmth and realism. The book is weakened somewhat by the contrivance of action: the orphan boy who is suspected of stealing money from the Sunday school box is the very boy who rescues Becky and a stray dog in a flood. The vocabulary is difficult for the younger reader who might be most interested in the story line.

M Dorritt, Susan. The Learning Book; pictures by Elizabeth Donald. Abelard-K-2 Schuman, 1960. 40p. \$2.75.

A picture book that does not tell a story, but discusses the different ways of learning in a simple, but slow-moving text. The illustrations are rather pleasant, although they overflow some of the pages; on two pages the print is hard to see because of background color. The author describes some of the things that a small boy named David can do—some of these things he has learned by listening or watching, some by trying again and again. Some things he has learned by asking questions of people, some things he has learned from books; incorporated in the text are the concepts that one must want to learn and that learning is a continuous process. Some pages of the book present concepts well, but the total impact of the book is likely to be confusing, because there are so many concepts for a small child to absorb.

Ad Dreany, E. Joseph; The Magic of Rubber; written and illus. by E. Joseph 5-7 Dreany. Putnam, 1960. 92p. \$2.75.

A description of the production and processing of natural rubber and of the manufacture of synthetic rubber. The author describes the uses of rubber in early history of mankind, its importation to Europe and the United States, and the many years spent by Goodyear and others in efforts to stabilize the raw material into a durable product. The contributions of Faraday and Williams are noted in the discussion of the chemical composition of rubber and the achievement of isolation of the rubber molecule. A glossary and an index are appended. An informative book, but juvenile in format for the vocabulary difficulty, and rather heavy in writing style.

R Eggenberger, David. Flags of the U. S. A. Crowell, 1960. 206p. illus 7- \$4.50.

Describing first the flags of the countries that colonized the New World, the author traces the history of the flags in our country up to the evolution of the fifty-star flag of the United States today. Many drawings are included in addition to the color plates illustrating national, naval, army, and regimental flags as well as the national flag as it evolved. The text is solid with information about the flags themselves and about the historical background to which they are related. The writing style is sedate and rather heavy; chief use of the book will probably be as a reference source, especially since the closing section is a compilation of facts about the flag code and tradition, and since the index is thorough.

Ad Elliott, Bob. Bob and Ray's Story of Linda Lovely and the Fleebus; written 6- by Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding; illus. by Michael J. Smollin. Dodd, 1960. 60p. \$3.

The writing of Bob and Ray will be enjoyed by adults and young people who like the bland excesses and satirized inanities of this specialized sort of humor. Linda Lovely's husband returns after eight long years in Africa and comes down with a highly contagious disease (the Fleebus) that causes the patient to assume a sitting position at all times. The serum that will save the town is in the hands of Linda's

dastardly brother-in-law, available for a Price. An amusing satire on soap opera, although the authors have tossed in additional nonsense that makes the story less humorous: for example, the uncle who makes and saves peanut butter sandwiches. The dialogue is delightful: Linda, talking to Uncle David: "'Perhaps we should call Kindly Doctor John, our life-long friend and family physician, whose hobby is horticulture', suggested the younger and more attractive of the two. 'He's a fine man, Kindly Doctor John is, a graduate of an accredited medical college', added Uncle Eugene, who was older than Linda and a better judge of character."

R Franchere, Ruth. Stephen Crane; The Story of an American Writer. Crowell, 8-1961. 216p. \$2.75.

An absorbing biography, written with candor and objectivity, and with a sympathy that never becomes adulation. Stephen Crane is portrayed as a man dedicated and driven by his passionate need to write, but also as a man who was restless, introspective and irresponsible. Perceptively written, the book describes Crane's life and work from his college years to his early death. A list of sources is appended.

R Francoise. The Big Rain. Scribner, 1961. 31p. illus. \$2.95.
K-2

A pleasant picture book that describes a new adventure in the life of Jeanne-Marie. Heavy rains flooded the farm and all took refuge on the second floor . . . except Madelon the duck. Madelon enjoyed the swimming, but she missed her mistress, so she quacked; her quacking brought rescuers who took Jeanne-Marie, her family, and her animals to the village. When the sun came out again, the water receded and everybody joined in cleaning the houses and the streets. An effectively simple and unified story, with just enough suspense for the age of the audience and with a satisfying ending. The familiar style of illustration, colorful and stylized, lends itself nicely to the scenes of the small hillside refuge and the marooned house.

M Frankel, Bernice. Half-As-Big and the Tiger; pictures by Leonard Weisgard. 3-5 yrs. Watts, 1961. 35p. \$2.95.

A read-aloud picture book, with illustrations that are attractive in technique, but repetitive in color (brown and white on yellow pages) and in subject. The story is unoriginal: the smallest of three brothers (deer) proves his worth by three times outwitting a tiger; after this his big brothers call him "Twice-as-Smart" instead of "Half-as-Big."

Ad Hanser, Richard. Meet Mr. Lincoln; by Richard Hanser and Donald B. Hyatt. 6-9 Golden Press, 1960. 132p. illus. Trade ed. \$5; Cloth ed. \$6.65.

A book based on a television program; authentic prints, drawings, and photographs of the period are accompanied by a running text in brief captions or paragraphs. The commentary is dignified, with many quotations from other prominent figures of the era and from newspapers as well as from Lincoln himself. Some of the reproductions—those of the earliest photographs—are fuzzy, but many of them are very clear and many are very moving; many are available elsewhere. A minor weakness is exemplified by the page on which Grant and Sherman are quoted: two photographs are on the page, but they are not labelled, so that the reader who is unfamiliar with their appearance cannot distinguish between them.

Ad Hofsinde, Robert. The Indian and His Horse; written and illus. by Robert 4-6 Hofsinde. Morrow, 1960. 96p. \$2.50.

Another in the author's series of informative books about aspects of the culture of the North American Indian. Rather dry writing, heavily saturated with facts except for one section describing a typical buffalo hunt; the material here is more easily

available elsewhere than that in other books by Mr. Hofsinde. The illustrations are good, although the text describing details of equipment would have been augmented by drawings. Mr. Hofsinde discusses the coming of the horse and the first uses of the animal; the catching, raiding, trading and training of horses; and the breeds of horses used by Indians. He describes the buffalo horse, the war horse, and the medicine horse; he traces the development of increasingly complex equipment; he closes with a brief description of the use of the horse by contemporary American Indians.

M Hogner, Nils. Tanny. Walck, 1960. 48p. illus. \$2.75.
3-4

A fawn, without its mother for the first time, follows a pony back to a farm; here Tanny becomes tamed. She longs for her own kind, goes back to the forest, is rescued by a master during a foxhunt, and is set free; Tanny stays in the woods, but every morning meets her friend the pony at the edge of the farm. A slight story that never comes alive. There is some value in the nature lore and in the kindness shown to Tanny by human beings, but the writing is dull. The relative size in illustrations is confusing.

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. Plants Today and Tomorrow; illus. by P. A. Hutchinson.
6-9 Whittlesey House, 1960. 158p. \$3.

An interesting book about the new botanical frontiers being explored today, with enough background information to make the book meaningful to the reader unfamiliar with the subject. Mrs. Hyde discusses the different kinds of plants that exist, both terrestrial and aquatic; she describes plant explorers and atomic gardens; she surveys the treatment of diseased plants and the plant products used in curing illness. Descriptions of the experimental work being done in growing plants in controlled situations are varied and vivid. An index is appended, as is a chapter suggesting experiments for the reader.

NR Johnson, Allan L. The Mystery of Skull Canyon; illus. by Everett Raymond
5-7 Kinstler. Duell, 1960. 152p. \$3.

Melodramatic plot and stereotyped characters, poor writing style, and poor relationships in a western-cum-mystery story of two improbable boys of fourteen. Doug, who has lived in the city as a semi-delinquent orphan, goes to his uncle's ranch to be rehabilitated; his cousin Jim is relentlessly hostile until the two boys have a fight, after which they are inseparable and engage in ploys against masked desperadoes. The mystery of the rustlers with whom the boys have been shooting it out is solved when the local banker (who holds the mortgage on the old homestead) turns out to be the master-mind; he divulges the fact that there is uranium on Uncle Bill's ranch.

R Johnson, Elizabeth. The Three-In-One Prince; illus. by Ronni Solbert. Little,
3-5 1961. 58p. \$2.75.

A pleasant fairy tale, written with quiet humor; sedate in pace and simply told. Advised by their corps of magicians, a royal couple send out a proclamation that their only daughter is ready to marry—one of the conditions being that the suitor must prove that he is "three-in-one." Nobody quite understands what this means, but one prince does prove that he is, to the satisfaction of the princess, who already had her eye on him; in this story the middle son of three wins the hand of the princess rather than the usual youngest son.

R Joy, Charles R. Desert Caravans; The Challenge of the Changing Sahara.
5-8 Coward-McCann, 1960. 121p. illus. \$2.75.

Illustrated by photographs that are sharp and informative, an excellent book on the Sahara. The author gives good background in the first section, discussing deserts in general, dry deserts in particular, and the three types of desert terrain; he also explores some of the common misconceptions about deserts. Subsequent chapters describe the peoples of the region and the flora and fauna, the history of exploration

and mapping of the Sahara, the possibilities of making fertile the arid wastes, and the development of the oil industry. Written in simple and straightforward style, with a glossary, index, and list of place names appended.

Ad Keats, Ezra Jack. My Dog Is Lost; by Ezra Jack Keats and Pat Cherr. Crowell, K-2 1960. 2lp. illus. \$2.95.

A boy of eight, newly arrived from Puerto Rico, goes hunting for his Pepito with a sign that says "My dog is lost." Using sign language, Juanito enlists the help of several other children, an added identifying feature of Pepito emerging with each encounter. When they all query a policeman they find that he has Pepito and has been looking for the owner; there is a joyous reunion. Strong illustrations in red, black and white are not outstanding, but are attractive. The cooperative spirit and the friendliness shown in the story are commendable, but they are not quite believable: the children are too free to roam (they all board a bus for Harlem) and they are too carefully assorted: Negro and white, Chinese, Italian, Puerto Rican. A glossary of the Spanish words is appended.

R Koenig, Richard. The Seven Special Cats; drawings by Peggy Bacon. World, 3-5 1961. 57p. \$2.75.

A delightful story that grows in improbability and humor as it progresses. A cleaning woman, Mrs. Thwinkle, having become friendly with a family of cats, is indignant when she hears that the building in which they live is to be demolished. She predicts retribution, and the cats take matters into their own paws, snarling completely the traffic of New York. Organized cats are ready to march when Mrs. Thwinkle steps in as intermediary. Mr. Koenig has a light, smooth writing style; one scene, especially entertaining, describes the chaos at the United Nations when one of the cats meows and is translated into several languages.

NR Kraus, Robert. The Littlest Rabbit. Harper, 1961. 32p. illus. Trade ed. \$1.95; 3-5 Library ed. \$2.19 net.

yrs. All the other rabbits tease the Littlest Rabbit—some even bully him—because he is so small. He keeps on saying his prayers every night, and he keeps on sleeping; he finds that he has at last grown bigger than a carrot. When he sees another small rabbit being bullied, he remembers how it was when he himself was small and he protects the little one. A slight story, with some humor in text and cartoon-type illustrations; the story is weakened by the aggressive behavior of the rabbits who are bullies and by the fact that some of the animals in the illustrations are dressed as humans while others are just rabbits . . . the characters are consistent in neither case, with resultant confusion.

R Land, Barbara. The Quest of Isaac Newton; by Barbara and Myrick Land; 6-9 illus. by Arthur Renshaw. Garden City, 1960. 56p. \$2.50.

A most lucid and simple explanation of the work done by Newton in the fields of gravitation, mathematics, light, and motion. The authors concentrate on the scientist's work, referring to his personal life only as it affected his studies. The book closes with a brief section that points out the importance of Newton's contribution to present-day scientific progress. Illustrations are variable in clarity, most being adequate but some few needing labelling; an index is appended. The oversize format and large print seem unnecessary for the upper grade or junior high reader for whom the text is suited; despite the format, the book is valuable because of the precision and organization that makes Newton's theories so clearly comprehensible.

Ad Lauber, Patricia. The Quest of Louis Pasteur; illus. by Lee J. Ames. Garden 5-8 City, 1960. 56p. \$2.50.

An oversize book that describes the career of Pasteur, with a brief chapter devoted to his childhood, his youth and marriage, and his work up to the point at which he began his studies on fermentation. For the child who is interested in a more detailed description of Pasteur's pioneering work with bacteria and vaccines, the biography by Grant (Whittlesey House, 1959) is preferable, since it is wider in coverage and gives more scientific information. Well-written and adequately indexed, but the oversize format does not suit the difficult vocabulary; the background in chemistry needed for comprehension is above the level of the upper-grade reader.

R Lewiton, Mina. Faces Looking Up; pictures by Howard Simon. Harper, 1960.
4-6 153p. \$2.95.

Twelve brief stories about a child and a school, each in a different country: Iran, Japan, the Phillipines, Egypt, England, India, France, Israel, Denmark, Russia, Greece, and Nigeria. The stories are simple and realistic, warm in approach and varied in content. Pleasantly informative, a book that will contribute to international understanding.

Ad Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson). Rasmus and the Vagabond; tr. by Gerry Bothmer;
4-6 illus. by Eric Palmquist. Viking, 1960. 192p. \$2.75.

Translated from the Swedish, the story of a boy of nine who ran away from an orphanage and met a kindly tramp named Oscar. Oscar and Rasmus became involved with robbers when they stumbled into an abandoned cabin where the men had hidden their loot. Oscar was under suspicion, but his name was cleared, to the boy's joy. Rasmus gave up a chance for a long dreamed-of adoption to stay with Oscar; he was completely happy when he found that Oscar had a home and a wife—he had acquired a mother and father. Nice writing, but not a believable plot: the authorities are too casual about a runaway child, and the incident involving the robbers is drawn out by contrived delays. Oscar is a colorful, if exaggerated, character; Rasmus is perceptively portrayed. The writing style and the vocabulary of the translation make the book difficult for the reader who might be interested in a protagonist of nine.

M Lipkind, William. Days To Remember; An Almanac; illus. by Jerome Snyder.
5-7 Obolensky, 1961. 145p. \$3.95.

Meant for browsing, an "almanac" that is a compilation of biographical bits, notes on sports, home philosophy, notations of the zodiac, squibs on animals, holidays, comments on popular fallacies: a truly conglomerate assortment. Some of the material is interesting, some is amusing; however, the random and rambling nature of the writing and the mediocrity of some portions of it indicate a rather limited use of the book. For example, the last two entries for the month of March are, on the last two pages, a notation of St. Patrick's Day, a few sentences about the original Robinson Crusoe, a note on the vernal equinox, a commentary on the fact that the shortest and the tallest people are both Negro, and a saying from Jeremy Crabapple (whose wisdom is quoted at the end of each month). A list entitled "People and Dates" is appended, and here again the random nature of the approach is evident: Adams, Alcott, Andersen; Balboa, Bayard, Bolivar, Boone, Buddha, Burns; Carroll, Caruso, Casals, Cervantes, Confucius, Crockett.

Ad Lonergan, Joy. When My Father Was a Little Boy; pictures by Jo Polseno.
4-6 Watts, 1961. 24p. \$1.50.
yrs.

Ad Lonergan, Joy. When My Mother Was a Little Girl; pictures by Veronica
4-6 Galetti. Watts, 1961. 24p. \$1.50.
yrs.

Two little books that describe the everyday activities of children in a repetitive pattern: in each volume, the author writes a brief list of things that have a specific reference - to being sick, going shopping, helping with chores. Each page begins,

"When my father was a little boy," and ends "Just like me." The text has the appeal of familiarity and the concept of masculine role in one volume, feminine role in the other. The texts indicate that mothers and fathers were not always well-behaved when they were small, but the pages are otherwise much alike in pattern. Each book ends with the concept that parents, when they were small, wanted to grow up and have boys and girls who would be just like them.

NR Lynch, Patrick. From the Cave to the City; illus. by David Chalmers. St. 6-8 Martin's, 1959. 64p. \$2.95.

First published in 1959, the story of man's progress from the cave to the complex civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Small print and long passages of text make the book difficult to read; the practice of capitalizing (within the body of the text) words that the author deems important is obtrusive. Explaining first the techniques used by archeologists in tracing the evolution of civilization, the author then describes the discoveries and inventions that contributed to progress and spurred other improvements. The organization is topical: priests and kings, the first arithmetic, small things which had great results. Since there is no table of contents, and since the index compiles only the capitalized words, the book cannot be used for reference. Even for browsing, the book is weakened by the random organization: in the section headed "A new way of life" is information about the Chippewa Indians, the wild wheat of Syria, and Egyptian bricks. The topics are related, but the heading gives no clue to the nature of the material.

M Maiden, Cecil. Beginning with Mrs. McBee; drawings by Hilary Knight. Van- 3-5 guard, 1960. 36p. \$3.

Told in jocular style, a round-robin of good deeds. Mrs. McBee helps Mr. Broadhurst with his roses, but tells him to help somebody else rather than repaying her . . . so he does a kindness for an old sailor, who then models a ship for a little girl, who . . . etc. Eventually the recipient of that last good deed takes Mrs. McBee for a ride into the hills she has long wanted to visit. The illustrations have vivacity and humor, the black and white drawings being more attractive than those in rather dulled colors. The theme of the story is pleasant, but each incident is extended by conversation and rather coy description, so that the story moves slowly.

Ad Martin, Patricia Miles. Benjie Goes Into Business; illus. by Paul Galdone. 2-4 Putnam, 1961. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.69 net.

An enterprising boy of eight, Benjie decides to do chores for the neighbors; he mows lawns, runs errands, takes care of pets. He enjoys being able to spend his own money on presents for his family. When winter comes, Benjie makes popcorn to sell, runs errands, baby sits (an eight year old—with five children?) and walks dogs; he decides to put his money in the bank because that is what a man does when he is in business for himself. A rather static plot—an admirable protagonist whose other activities are ignored, so that the story is satisfying but narrow in scope. The illustrations in black and white have verve and humor, but are somewhat in caricature style and not, therefore, in accord with the text.

Ad Means, Florence (Crannell). But I Am Sara. Houghton, 1961. 231p. \$3. 7-10

Sara had managed to get her secret love, Rock Minor, to notice her just before she left to join her widowed father at his home in Mexico. Day-dreaming about Rock, Sara wasted time and disappointed her father, patient though he was with her; correspondence with Rock resulted in his decision to attend the University of Mexico, so that Sara was able to have her love and stay near her father. The Mexican background is interesting, although some of the local characters are somewhat over-drawn: the bellicose cook, Chiquita, and her small husband who—usually intimidated—

rises to the occasion when needed and beats her. The Americans in the story have an unfortunate tendency to repeat Spanish phrases in English, as when Aunt Mit says "Como no? Why not?"—and the Mexicans also have this conversational device, as when Paco says "Es verdad, is truth."

Ad Miller, Helen Louise. First Plays for Children. Plays, 1960. 295p. \$4.
1-4

Some two dozen plays for children at the primary level, many of them for special occasions and holidays; the material is royalty free. An appended list of production notes includes characters, playing time, costumes, properties, setting, lighting, and sound. Many of the plots are about familiar activities, and the dialogue is not taxing. The writing is fairly pedestrian, but the collection will be useful for classroom or other groups needing additional dramatic material.

M Mosheim, Lilly. Elizabeth and Her Doll Susan; with pictures by Audrey Walker.
1 Watts, 1961. 30p. \$1.50.

A book for beginning independent readers, first published in England in 1959. A sentence or two on each page give incidents of an ordinary day in the life of a small girl whose doll is her constant companion in all her activities. Useful as supplementary reading material, but rather dull; Elizabeth's behavior is unrealistically sedate - after supper, she rides the doll on her knee, puts away her toys, dances with her doll, and goes to bed. No friends all day, no pranks, no play with parents.

Ad Mullin, Willard, ed. The Junior Illustrated Encyclopedia of Sports; Willard
6-10 Mullin, ed. and illus.; Herbert Kamm, assoc. ed. Bobbs-Merrill, 1960.
384p. \$3.95.

Divided into sections that cover baseball, golf, track and field, ice hockey, tennis, basketball, boxing and football. The editor lists, in a preface, the names of writers who contributed to the material in each section; there is no indication, within the body of the text, of individual authorship. Each section begins with a history of the sport, and gives brief descriptions of some of the most outstanding men or women in its history. Lists of award winners and record holders are included in each section; photographic illustrations vary in the quality of reproduction. A useful book, but not an encyclopedia; it is limited in use by the fact that there is no index, and the title is misleading in that it does not cover all sports.

Ad Nash, Mary. Mrs. Coverlet's Magicians; with drawings by Garrett Price.
3-5 Little, 1961. 189p. \$3.25.

A sequel to While Mrs. Coverlet Was Away, in which the three precocious Perserver children had kept house for themselves. Now Mrs. Coverlet has won a baking contest and arranged for a neighbor to come in and take care of the children; but all her plans for the children are changed by the youngest Perserver, age six. He has sent for a magic kit—and all sorts of strange and wonderful things happen. Like the first book, this is engaging nonsense, written in lively style. Characters are distinct, but overdrawn slightly, with names being used in the Dickens style: the unpleasant neighbor is Miss Penalty, the minister is Mr. Forthright, etc. The children are not quite believable, but they are delightful, and their story is entertaining.

M Newell, Crosby. Kippy the Koala; pictures by George Leavens; designed by
K-2 Luc Bouchage. Harper, 1960. 30p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57
net.

Photographs of koalas and other Australian animals taken over a year's time have been arranged with a text that tells of a young koala's first venture away from his mother. Kippy hears interesting sounds, rambles off, meets other animals. A wallaby tells Kippy that he will hear a special sound, just for him; when the sound comes,

the Koala recognizes it as his mother's call. The photographs are the usual compilation in such a book: animals in their natural habitat; some of the pictures are fuzzy and the chief interest here is in the fact that these are Australian animals. The running text is fairly pedestrian, although there are occasional poetic phrases.

Ad Olden, Sam. Getting To Know Nigeria; illus. by Haris Petie. Coward-McCann, 4-6 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

Written by an author who lived in Nigeria for four years, a competent description of the country; a map of Nigeria is included, but there is no map that shows the country in relation to the continent or to the bordering lands. Although there are occasional generalizations scattered through the text, the writing is—on the whole—dignified. Mr. Olden writes of the various regions and peoples in a way that is both interesting and respectful. The text discusses dress and food, education and religions, dwellings and clothing, agriculture and industry, and the flora, fauna, and topography of the different sections of the country. The illustrations are adequate, with an occasional discrepancy between illustration and text: for example, a description of the headgear of the Hausa tribe is cited as a cap but shown as a turban. A pronouncing glossary, list of important dates, and an index are appended.

R Osmond, Edward. From Drumbeat to Tickertape; written and illus. by Edward 7- Osmond. Criterion, 1961. 126p. \$3.95.

An excellent history of communication. The author traces the first forms of writing—Egyptian, Phoenician, and Greek—the Roman changes in the Etruscan version of the Greek alphabet, the developments of punctuation and of small and large letters. He describes the materials used by these peoples, and the work done in scriptoria; he discusses number systems. From the invention of printing and the widespread use of paper, the text moves to a brief discussion of modern printing equipment, telephone, telegraph and tickertape, radio and television. Well-organized, written with informality but no popularization, and profusely illustrated in an attractive format.

M Pohl, Louis. It's Really Nice! Little, 1960. 31p. illus. \$1.85.
3-5

yrs.

A slight book about some of the things in life that are pleasant: a flower that "smells so sweet", autumn leaves, clouds, rainbows, Dad's hand when you cross the street, etc. Illustrations are pedestrian in technique, and the text is unoriginal. The nice things that are cited may make the small child to whom the book is read more conscious of his environment, but the same ideas are presented in many other books in which the literary quality is superior.

Ad Rand McNally. Rand McNally Book of Nations. Rand McNally, 1960. 93p.
4-7 illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.95.

An oversize book that will be useful as a ready reference source; because of the organization, the book may be useful, as well as, additional material even in the junior high school library though the treatment of each country is necessarily brief. Organized by continents, and prefaced by a double-page spread that gives a political map of the world plus some world statistics. With some exceptions, countries are alphabetized under the division by continent. Each division has a full-page map facing a page of general information; a second double-page spread describes the animals of the continent and some of its economic aspects. The half page of information given for most countries includes population, climate, principal language, monetary unit, etc., with an outline map and a picture of the flag of the country. There is expanded treatment of the United States; endpapers are double-spread maps, one of the world and the other of the United States.

M Seibert, Jerry. Amelia Earhart: First Lady of the Air; illus. by Marvin
4-6 Friedman. Houghton, 1960. 192p. (A Piper Book) \$1.95.

A rather adulatory biography; as a child or as an adult, Amelia Earhart is pictured as the epitome of modesty, courage, kindness, etc. Her career is fascinating and her courage undeniable, but Miss Earhart is not made more impressive by the author's attitude. Useful for the biographical information it gives, the book is pedestrian in style.

M Shannon, Terry. About Ready-To-Wear Clothes; illus. by Charles Payzant.
3-4 Melmont, 1961. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

In rather cursory treatment, the evolution of the modern garment industry is described, and the steps in the manufacture of ready-to-wear clothing detailed. Illustrations are unattractive and add little to the text; while the author gives information, the nature of the subject and the stilted quality of the writing give the book little appeal.

Ad Sherburne, Zoa. Ballerina on Skates. Morrow, 1961. 187p. \$2.95.
7-9

More patterned than is most of the work of this author, the story of a girl who joins a skating troupe. Karen's problem was that she was unusually tall, but her flair for comedy brought her the opportunity to do a speciality number. The love story and the career aspect of this novel are fairly routine, but the writing style is good and the characterizations and values are excellent.

Ad Speiser, Jean. River in the Dark. Day, 1960. 189p. (Your Fair Land Series)
5-7 \$3.50.

A story set against the background of Mammoth Cave National Park and giving a picture of the plight of the private cave-owner whose livelihood has been jeopardized by the advent of national ownership. Drew, a boy whose father is working for the summer as a ranger and naturalist, makes friends with a girl whose family owns a private cave. Jenny's family is under suspicion of vandalism at Mammoth Cave, but her father decides to join the cave system after the two youngsters have been trapped by a flooding of a river underground. The book contains a good deal of information, and it successfully evokes the atmosphere of the silence and beauty of caves. The characters are real, although not vivid, and the one weakness of the book is the way the information obtrudes on the story.

NR Stearns, Monroe. Eric's Journey; pictures by Marlene Reidel; verse by
3-5 Monroe Stearns. Lippincott, 1960. 30p. \$3.
yrs.

An oversize picture book illustrated by bold, bright, rather distracting pictures. The text tells in rhyme—more or less—the story of a little boy named Eric, who wanted to see the world, so he built a boat and sailed off "On a river twice the size of his own / That carries him on past many a town / Until he comes to so foreign a land / With a language he cannot understand." Eric comes to the Black Sea, and emerges so black that people titter at him. His mother hangs him on the line until he bleaches out, telling him that he may not again go to the Black Sea. Humorless, the text is not successful as fantasy; the rhyming is inept; the idea of being colored by the water of the Black Sea is a poor concept, as is the treatment Eric is accorded when this happens.

R Styles, Showell. Sherpa Adventure; illus. by Matvyn Wright. Vanguard, 1960.
7-10 191p. \$3.

A novel about mountaineering based on the experiences of the author. John Fairless, a British lad of sixteen, is taken along by his uncle on an expedition to the Himalayas because a doctor has recommended the altitude for John's health. Left in a Sherpa village while his uncle goes on a climb, John makes friends with a Sherpa boy his own age;

together they do some climbing. John becomes so interested and so proficient that he is able to help effect a rescue of his uncle's party—a dramatic climax to the story. John's success and his improved health occur a bit quickly, but the way in which his friendship with Kami, the Sherpa, spurs him to try new skills is realistic. There is much information about techniques of climbing, but it does not obtrude on the narrative. Good background, and good treatment of the relationships between the boys; the writing has pace and the plot has suspense and a satisfying conclusion.

Ad Szasz, Suzanne, Young Folks' New York; by Suzanne Szasz and Susan Lyman. 4-6 Crown Publishers. Lothrop, 1960. 126p. illus. \$3.95.

An oversize book of photographs showing three children in New York scenes that are of interest because of local color or historical significance. The photographs are excellent, and the children are less posed than in most books of this kind; it is regrettable that they look young enough that they may possibly discourage the reader who can manage the vocabulary of the text. There is little omitted from this record that might enthrall a New York visitor; there is, however, some discrepancy here: some of the material is about toy parades and zoos, while other parts of the text give historical details that will be of interest only to an older audience. The authors do succeed in giving a feeling of the tempo, variety and vitality of New York City; the book will be of special interest to those children who have visited (or plan to visit) New York or to those who live there.

R Thwaite, Ann. The House in Turner Square; illus. by Robin Jacques. Harcourt, 6-7 1961. 157p. \$2.95.

The story of two London schoolgirls who become interested in the history and architecture of the Turner Square houses. Joanna, recently moved to London from the suburbs, is at first scornful of everything urban; Audrey, whose family has lived in the neighborhood for generations, enlists Joanna's help in tracing the ownership of one house that has been abandoned. The fact that Audrey's family prove to be the rightful owners emerges in a perfectly logical sequence of discoveries. Written smoothly, with realism and humor; characterization is good and the details of London life—especially the Grammar School—are vivid. The author gives a nicely contrasting picture of the two families: Joanna's middle class situation and Audrey's cheerful lower-class home.

R Udry, Janice May. Let's Be Enemies; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 3-5 1961. 28p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net. yrs.

A small and delicious book in which the text and the illustrations are beautifully paired, each enhanced because of the other. John, in the simple story, is grumbling to himself about the bossiness of his former friend James. Brooding upon this, John goes over to inform James that they are now enemies. James agrees with vigor; a moment later they are happily playing together. The book has that rare quality of portraying children in a way that will appeal to adults without lessening the appeal to small children themselves. There is a point made, but made subtly and with humor.

M Von Hippel, Ursula. The Story of the Snails Who Traded Houses; after a story 3-5 by Gertrud von Hippel. Coward-McCann, 1961. 24p. Trade ed. \$2.; yrs. Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A very small book with a very slight story. A brown snail and a white snail envy each other's houses; they trade and find that they are again envious. They trade back . . . then they are both happy. The text is brief and simple, the illustrations are restrained and pleasant; yet the book seems to have little point. If there is no moral appreciated by the child who hears the story, it is a slim story—and it seems doubtful that very small children would appreciate from the book the idea that one should be content with one's lot.

NR Von Wiese, Ursula. Michael and the Elephant; illus. by Irene Schreiber.
4-6 Harcourt, 1961. 190p. \$2.95.

Published in 1942 in Switzerland under the title Michel und der Elefant. Michael dreamed of taking back to the freedom of the Burmese jungle his beloved elephant, Bob. Staying with an aunt while his parents were away, the boy seized his chance and ran off with Bob to join the circus; here he found success in the ring with Bob, and he found that the clown, Joey, was his long-lost brother. Eventually both brothers, Joey's betrothed, their aunt, and their parents are reunited. Characters are drawn exaggeratedly, the plot is contrived, and occasional evidences of British idiom in the translation are obtrusive. The background of circus life is the only positive element in the book.

M Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. A Boy To Remember. Westminster, 1960. 188p.
7-9 \$2.95.

Karin Berglund, when her father remarries, goes to live with her grandparents in the midwest; Grandpa Berglund is a patriarch whose largesse and possessiveness irk Karin. The relationship between the two and their eventual understanding of each other is the one positive aspect of the book. It is otherwise a patterned story of basketball and love affairs: Karin becomes a star on the girls' basketball team, which wins the state tournament, and she falls in love with unpredictable Steve, who is inconsiderate but sees the error of his ways.

R Walker, David E. Pimpernel and the Poodle; illus. by Alan Howard. Barnes,
K-2 1960. 30p. \$2.50.

A sequel to The Fat Cat Pimpernel, and equally engaging. Mr. Walker writes with humor and vivacity; his animal characters are somewhat unusual, but they are quite believable. Here Pimpernel and his friend Yorick, a French poodle, become heroes by uniting to attack a huge and ferocious dog, Ludovic. Ludovic terrorized and bullied everyone until the day the two friends drove him away forever. The illustrations are gay, and the whole effect is that of a light-hearted ploy. A good story to read aloud.

M Weart, Edith Lucie. The Story of Your Blood; illus. by Z. Onyshkewych.
5-7 Coward-McCann, 1960. 64p. \$3.

A description of the circulatory system, factually accurate but weakened by limitations in style, organization, and lack of an index. There is no division in the text, and this is not alleviated by the fact that there is a table of contents, since the page listed there (as the location of a new topic) shows no clear indication of the fact that a new subject is being introduced. The writing is chiefly informational, but is spotted with popularization that is frequent enough to be obtrusive: for example, in discussing the heart of a chicken, ". . . it is a very strong muscle. Naturally your heart is a lot bigger than this, just as you are a lot bigger than a chicken!" A better book on the subject is Schneider's Lifeline (Harcourt, 1958).

NR Wells, Helen Frances (Weinstock). Cherry Ames, Island Nurse. Grosset,
7-9 1960. 184p. illus. \$1.

Cherry Ames goes with her patient, Sir Ian, to the island off the coast of Newfoundland where he owns an iron mine. Sir Ian is being pressed by a competitor to sell his property, which is financially in bad condition. Cherry is instrumental in saving the mine by solving a mystery that involves an old diary and a band of men who have found that there is silver as well as iron in the mine. The story is a-brim with quaint island characters, Scottish dialect, drama and medical information. The latter is presented in obtrusive doses: one nurse saying to another, for example, "You're going to be a lecturer on psychosomatic diseases, or in plain simple English, those diseases which can be traced to emotional disturbances." It is improbable that anyone with medical training would regard such a term (familiar to many laymen) as other than plain English.

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