PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
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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New Titles for Children and Young People


An award-winning book of 1963 in Sweden, this is the story of a country doctor in the early part of the century, and of the way in which the doctor and his boy were able to help another boy. Ten-year-old Jon, who rode in the buggy with his father whenever possible, learned a good deal about medicine and a good deal about life that way. He found that his classmate, Rickard, lived in a slum; admiring Rickard, Jon found it hard to get past the barrier of economic difference, but the two became friends. With the doctor's help, Rickard was given an opportunity for advantages that would have been denied a slum child despite his potential ability. Good family relationships and a convincing development of friendship between the boys are more important than the slight story line; some of the episodes and situations to which Jon is exposed when he goes on calls are dramatic, with just a slight flavor of Dickensian portrayal of conditions that call for social reform.

Behrens, June. Soo Ling Finds a Way; pictures by Taro Yashima. Golden Gate, 1965. 28p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.

A read-aloud book with illustrations that are not up to Mr. Yashima's usual fine standard. Both illustrations and text are pleasant but not impressive; the storyline is slight and realistic. Soo Ling's grandfather operates a hand laundry, and he is apprehensive when a laundromat opens across the street; the little girl suggests that Grandfather iron right in his store window to attract customers. The owner of the laundromat asks Grandfather to work in his store and they become partners. Although Grandfather is in a stereotype business, the treatment is dignified; the solution of the problem is pat, but the problem of the small businessman is one that is seldom considered, and it is presented here with simple realism.

Bell-Zano, Gina. The Wee Moose; illus. by Enrico Arno. Parents' Magazine, 4-6 yrs. 1964. 42p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.03 net.

An oversize picture book with large, clear illustrations and a slight plot about an animal that seeks his identity: unoriginal, save for the fact that the tiny mouse on a farm mistakenly looks for a wee moose because he doesn't realize that the farmer (who called him that) had a Scottish accent. The mouse consults several farm animals, is finally told by a real moose that he is on the wrong track, and is delighted when a wise old owl produces another mouse; the wee moose and his new friend Fifi go back to the farm together.

Teffera lives in a small Ethiopian village, and he is left in charge of the household and of the family's flock when his father is taken to the hospital in the city. Teffera has met white men before, and he is wisely wary of Mr. Sam Jones, a stranger who offers help with the sheep. The boy finds himself liking the American, yet he feels it is his duty to set a trap—in case, just in case the stranger is deceiving the villagers. When Mr. Sam Jones proves to be only what he has said, a stranger who has come to help, the boy is both embarrassed and relieved. Only when he has admitted to the stranger that he set a trap, and he finds that the man thinks it showed wisdom on Teffera's part, is the boy at ease with his conscience. The illustrations are quietly handsome, the story has a simple dignity; in describing the cultural conflict between old and new—and the range of reactions amongst the generations—the author is most perceptive and sympathetic.


A small book, engagingly illustrated, that tells an exaggerated variant of the Omnipotent Nanny tale. The combination of rather close print, plentiful Briticisms, and a certain amount of possibly obscure latent content will limit the audience somewhat; since the story romps through episodes that have considerable fanciful nonsense, it is well-suited for reading aloud to younger children. Nurse Matilda appears only to families in Really Dire Need; and the Browns have a huge family of extremely naughty children. In fact, they are never all named; occasionally the author begins a catalogue of their crimes, citing the perpetrators, and it always ends, "And all the other children were doing simply dreadful things too." By her magic powers, fearsome Nurse Matilda teaches her enfants terribles how to behave. As they improve, so—in their eyes—does the appearance of Nurse Matilda; by the time they are trained to her satisfaction, Nurse Matilda must leave them to go on to another batch of naughty ones.


Ann, seventeen, goes to Williamsburg to visit her beautiful cousin Gail, and meets an attractive boy on the train. Already planning to get a job and stay in Williamsburg, Ann is pleased that Walt is to be there too. When her landlady takes Ann into a shop, the friendly shopkeeper gives Ann an amber flask, a flask that disappears after some mysterious thefts. Ann, who is afraid of heights, heroically climbs a chimney when the thief, for whom she has set a midnight trap, pursues her. Mediocre writing style, exaggerated characterization, and a melodramatic plot.


Ralph Tardy, a young artist, has been sketching an English country scene when he is injured while helping a young woman whose horse is out of control. He loses his sight, albeit temporarily, and the young woman gives up a dog she loves to be trained as a guide dog for Ralph. Ralph recovers his eyesight, the dog loses his; the two who love the animal find they love each other. The book has some interesting information about training and it has some good descriptions of country scenes; it is slow-moving, however, and sporadically sentimental. Occasionally the dog is given credit for rather subtle emotions: "The dog had no way of knowing why Marian had appeared so withdrawn, and felt, obscurely, that perhaps he had offended her." The writing has, also, a curiously Victorian flavor. Ralph has refused to give his dog to a blind boy, knowing that each dog has to be trained for a special individual. A crowd of farm hands, angry when the boy dies, are throwing stones through Ralph's window when they are driven off. Ralph's comment next day, when they come around to apologize, "They turned out to be jolly good fellows and I've promised to join them in the pub for a pint
Joe, a junior in high school, is resentful when a teacher reprimands him; he decides to quit school and work. For a short time he works full-time as a replacement, but he finds that his employer won't keep him on because he is a drop out; in fact, he can't find a job. He gets a door-to-door job, then finds his employer is dishonest and goes to the police; he finally realizes he must go back to school, and he is relieved of long-masked feelings of guilt when the school authorities welcome him back and he admits that he had been a quitter. The message of the book is worthy, the storyline is believable but slow-moving, the writing is pedestrian.

A small book about a tiny house; pleasantly illustrated, the brief story is told in a modest style that is here and there a bit choppy: "She put the sign in the window. Then she spread the cookies out on the tablecloth. Then some people came." The little house, squeezed between two tall buildings, is used for a playhouse by two little girls—although nobody has given them permission; they invite elderly Mrs. O'Brien in and decide that she ought to bake and sell cookies there. The landlord appears on the scene and acts fierce until he tastes the cookies; then he agrees that Mrs. O'Brien could probably earn enough with her good cookies to pay the rent and turn the neglected little house into a cookie shop. Not saccharine, but just this side of too sweet.

Ad Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. Jon the Unlucky; illus. by Esta Nesbitt. Holt, 4-6 1964. 95p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.27 net.
A romantic story of a lost lad who, approximately a century ago, met another boy while wandering in a snowstorm in Greenland. Thus did Jon find the lost colony that was almost a legend, the colony of descendants of tenth-century Norwegians who had fled the more powerful Eskimos. Jon was spared by the people of the Valley because he was able to read their ancient records; eventually he was fully accepted. The book is based on history; the author gives some historical background in a brief final section, and she notes her own additions to the facts. An interesting story, tightly constructed and gracefully written; the ending seems anticlimactic, since the dramatic unveiling of a sort of Shangri-La is vitiated by a dying fall in the tempo of the book.

Ad Dahl, Roald. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; illus. by Joseph Schindelman. 5-6 Knopf, 1964. 162p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.29 net.
Not by any means an ordinary book, this is called by the publisher an "Uproarious morality tale." It is indeed a morality tale, it has some uproarious moments, and it has a good deal of common sense. It also has a few labored moments and a few belabored ideas, not so many that the book is not enjoyable, but enough to make it seem too long. Living in abject poverty with his parents and four ancient grandparents, little Charlie Bucket is one of five children who are chosen to visit the factory. A never-never land, the factory is peopled by small folk and owned by a jolly eccentric; as each of the other four children shows his weaknesses (and the author happily rants about his pet peeves) little Charlie, a sort of junior grade Billy Budd, survives all tests and inherits the factory, a delightfully fantastic institution.

A well-organized and lucidly written history of the islands of the Pacific Ocean, the emphasis being on the past but the text covering contemporary cultures. Mr. Day discusses theories of migration and histories of migratory peoples, distinguishing be-
tween fact and theory; he describes cultural patterns and local idiosyncracies of dress or diet as well as broad differences or similarities among tribes and peoples. The writing style is straightforward, informative, and objective; endpaper maps and an index are included.

A florid and discursive biography of the well-known professional basketball player, with most of the text concentrating on pro games or on spectacular moments of court action. The material is put together in what seems a sort of cut-and-paste arrangement of brief anecdotes, conversations, or descriptions of games. The writing style is slangy, often melodramatic and very often saccharine. The author's viewpoint is occasionally obtrusive: in discussing Cousy's loyalty to friends, for example, Devaney cites an occasion in which Hornung was involved. Banned for a year for betting on his own sport, Hornung was asked by Cousy to a banquet. "Hornung had always been a lively one, the kind everybody liked, but right after his suspension was announced, the phone in his Louisville home didn't ring very often. Lots of people don't like to run with losers." The book will not give the reader insight into the game of basketball as does McPhee's long article on Bradley in the January 25, 1965 New Yorker; the game descriptions are chiefly vehicles for praise of Cousy.

Mary and Tom Shannon, while sailing on a holiday visit to the United States with their mother, purchase a souvenir of Ireland: a model of an Irish round tower. A note in the base of the statue starts Tom and his shipboard friend, Max, on a hunt for the hiding place of the stolen bank money mentioned in the note. Without the help of parents or officials, the boys find the loot buried on a small Canadian island. The story has suspense, but the plot is dependent on so many coincidences and contrivances that it is awkward.

An oversize book that combines five frames of alphabetized words per page with cartoon-style drawings in which there is some character-continuity and a great deal of nonsense humor. Each frame gives the word itself, a picture, and either a repeat of the word in the same or another form, or a definition, or a phrase or sentence in which the word is used. The book is enjoyable in many ways and it should serve to expand and reinforce the vocabulary of the child who has already learned to read, but it does have limitations as a dictionary since some of the frames do not provide clear identification. For example, "bump" shows a bicycle going over an obstruction, with no other words in the frame, and "about" shows an animal sitting in a small plane on the ground, with the sentence, "Aaron is about to go up."

A sequel to The Popular Crowd, in which Sue Morgan learned during her sophomore year at high school that it was possible to be content without keeping up with the Joneses. Now a junior, Sue becomes concerned about the problem of cheating; the school paper has a series of articles on the subject and Sue agrees with Hank, the editor, that cheating is a losing game. Yet the boy she has been dating has cheated, and she knows Don has some good qualities . . . where does she stand herself? When a school election is nullified because of cheating, Sue realizes where she stands: she would rather lose than be in office illegally. An honest book about a common problem,
with Sue choosing integrity in a way that is not pompous or moralistic. Written in an easy style, the story has good and varied characterization, warm family relationships, and realistic problems often ignored in junior novels, such as father losing his job and an older brother flunking out of college.

R Frasconi, Antonio. See Again, Say Again; A Picture Book in Four Languages; woodcuts by Antonio Frasconi. Harcourt, 1964. 27p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.30 net.

In the same format as See and Say, words and phrases in French, English, Spanish, and Italian are each printed in a coded color, with a guide to pronunciation given for each word. The pictures are charming and colorful, the text is useful. To some degree the book will be enjoyed by younger children, but the phonetic guide ("stahs'yohn-mawng an-tehr-dee" is stationnement interdit) requires either some background or some guidance, so that the older reader will find the book still more enjoyable.


A fine novel, unusual in background and beautifully written; the scientific details and the island background are vivid, the characterization is perceptive. Luke's father is doing research on herring gulls; the family lives on a bleak island, and Luke wishes he could get a job instead of having to work with his father. Discouraged by the lack of interest in his work, Dr. Rivers is ready to quit when the government asks his help in clearing Logan airport of birds, since birds have caused a plane crash. Luke goes along, again obedient and again wishing to break away; encouraged by another older biologist, Luke makes a declaration of independence and goes off to do his own research on gulls. There are in the book some fascinating scenes in which the herring gulls are described, and family relationships are sympathetically drawn—that between Luke and his father being almost a case-history struggle between a father and son.

Ad Hancock, Ralph. Mexico. Macmillan, 1964. 117p. illus. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.70 net.

A good survey of Mexico past and present. The author writes with authority and the book has broad coverage and a balanced treatment. The writing style, however, is rather wooden and the book lacks the impact of Hobart's Mexican Mural (Harcourt, 1963) although that is written for a somewhat older reader. The first half of the book describes the early civilizations of Mexico, the second half the recent history. Mr. Hancock gives a good deal of the sort of information that will be useful to visitors to Mexico; he also describes festivals, the growth of literacy, the arts, the political scene, and some aspects of the relationship between Mexico and the United States. An index, a list of suggestions for further reading, and a list of recordings are appended.


A fanciful and episodic read-aloud story based on the author's impressions of his three-year-old son's imaginative flights. Charley is a small boy who industriously sets about the acquisition of wings, having envied some winged pigs. Wings enable Charley to have diverse interesting adventures; for example, flying to the park one night, he finds the trees have become ambulatory and he gets into a tug-of-war with a small tree that is playing with Charley's shovel and won't give it up. Charley extracts himself from difficult situations by singing wee songs. Rambling and ingenious in style, the writing is occasionally flattened by a series of terse sentences. Written in primer style, but not primer vocabulary.
The story of the Fosketts, a London family disrupted by the 1944 blitz. When their mother and small brother are killed, Bob and his young sister Jane are sent to the country. Bob, a radio buff, becomes suspicious at a message he hears while in an Air Corps Training Class. With courage and imagination, he effects the capture of a Nazi spy and of an officer she had been hiding. The first part of the book is realistic, dramatic, and humorous as it pictures Londoners in wartime; the ingenuity used in rationed kitchens, the humor found in shelters, the quiet courage of those who carried on business as usual. The melodrama of the last sequence seems superfluous; believable up to this point, the story is weakened by the fact that young Bob should suspect that the German wife of a local resident is not of Viennese origin while "the villagers adore her" and no adult is suspicious.

A collection of poems intended to stimulate imaginative play; the writing is adequate in style and varied in form, and the selections are loosely united by the theme of playing house. Some selections are dialogue, some are narrative, some are pleasant musing; there is little imagery and little humor, most of the book having the brisk and competent mood of a small child who is busily coping with her pretend-problems.

A good science fiction tale, sophisticated and suspense-filled, with good characterization and mature writing-style; only at the close of the story does the action become rather clogged and confused. Martin Higgs comes to work at a nuclear station in Somerset and steps into an affair with his secretary, Sally; Sally's father dies suddenly and this precipitates Martin's involvement in the strange manifestations of emanations of some kind of power from the station to the countryside about. Mytrons from the main experiment are causing distortions in the thinking processes of those nearby, and a frantic evacuation of the neighborhood takes place, with Martin and Sally having a dramatic last-minute escape from the brain-deranging effects of the mytrons.

One of the best of Hofsinde's many books on diverse aspects of the cultures of North American Indians, neatly organized, straightforward in style, and well-illustrated. The text discusses in detail six major types of Indian homes, giving in each case many facts about construction and use, and giving also some ancillary material about the tribe or tribes using the wigwam or tepee or earth lodge; family customs, food preparation, household equipment, etc. Types of homes other than the six that are described in detail are given brief mention, and a final chapter surveys the homes of Indians today. A map of linguistic-group distribution precedes the text, and a list of tribes within linguistic groups follows it; an index is appended.

A biography of the great tenor, very good in the authenticity of musical detail and balanced in treatment, but weakened by too much fictionalization and by a note of adulation. The illustrations are of poor quality; a brief list of McCormack recordings (currently available, long-playing, and selected) is appended, as is an index. Limited by the writing style, the book will appeal to readers interested in music history, since many famous musical figures—in addition to the biographee—are described.
6-9  149p.  $3.75.
The story of a family of swans, set in a fictional framework but based on observed 
and verified incidents; woven into the story of the swans are two sub-plots about the 
people whose lives they affected.  Krugluk and Cynda and their three cygnets are mi-
grating south when Cynda is injured and the family separated.  Since swans mate for 
life, both parents are lonely and ill; Cynda is cared for by a boy and an older man 
who is a naturalist, and Krugluk by a girl on the Eastern Shore whose interest in 
swans leads to her first love.  All of the material about the swans is fascinating, and 
the stories of Bob and Jennie are believable; the book is weakened, however, by the 
often-contrived way in which characters in the story hold instructive conversations 
about swans.

R  Jewett, Frances L.  Wilderness Treasure; by Frances L. Jewett and Clare L. 
A compilation of eight rather lengthy reports of men who were pioneer investigators 
of the flora of the United States: the Bartrams, Douglas, Nuttall, Perrine, the Michaux, 
and, on their historic journey of exploration, Lewis and Clark.  Each section has a 
small amount of biographical material and an intensively detailed and informative de-
scription of plants discovered or reported.  The writing style is brisk, straightforward, 
and barely fictionalized; were it not for the interpolations of material from letters or 
journals, it might be dry.  The botanical information is given with the unmistakable 
enthusiasm of scientists.  A relative index gives names of plants mentioned in the text, 
with scientific names given in italics.

4-6  55p.  $2.75.
Gordon had been sent a lucky seed by his aunt; he didn’t believe in magic—not really 
—but he did like to carry a luckpiece.  When he ran into a group of Little People, the 
RUBLucks, Gordon discovered that there had been since long ago the RUBLucks who 
brought good fortune, and their enemies, the UNLucks, who brought bad luck to the 
world.  Gordon’s knack with a rubber band helps in a crucial moment of the war against 
the UNLucks; transported back to reality by some Forgetting-Music, Gordon forgets— 
as does his friend Debbie—the whole magic episode.  A nice conception, a story written 
in an easy and lightly humorous style; the plot is developed with little pace, however, 
so that the story has a rather static quality.

R  Johnston, Johanna.  Together in America; The Story of Two Races and One Na-
tion; illus. by Mort Künstler.  Dodd, 1965.  158p.  $3.50. 
Not intended as a comprehensive history of the Negro in the United States, this book 
touches on some familiar areas and some of the important figures from the beginnings 
of the slave trade to the formation, in 1905, of the NAACP.  A brief final section de-
scribes the Supreme Court decision of 1953 and the passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 
1964.  The text skims history, but it is well and crisply written, and it gives a good pic-
ture of the long struggles, and of the variety of contributions, of the Negro people.  A 
list of sources, a list of suggestions for further reading, and an index are appended. 
The list of biographies cited is very much out of date, and it is disappointing to find 
the gap between 1905 and 1963, years so important in Negro history.

Ad  Jupo, Frank.  Walls, Gates, and Avenues: The Story of the Town.  Prentice-Hall, 
4-6  1964.  64p.  illus.  $2.95.
A book that traces the development of cities from the first agrarian settlements, 
through the villages and towns of ancient and of medieval times, to the expansion into 
the new world and the large cities of the present day.  Mr. Jupo weaves into the de-
scription the ways in which men become involved with each other when they live in
communities, the extent of their involvement increasing with the size and complexity of the community. While the book gives an adequate resume of the evolution of the metropolis, it is weakened by imbalance: there may be several pages of detail about one period or one city, while other areas are not discussed. Illustrative detail is often informative, but the illustrations are not, on the whole, helpful. The appended index gives further evidence of the random quality of choice of material: Nineveh is listed, Alexandria is not; St. Louis is mentioned, Chicago is not; Marco Polo, mentioned several times, is not cited.

Louisa Adams went from England to Prussia as the bride of a young ambassador; since they lived in several countries before John Quincy was recalled to the United States, her story is colorful; and since they were in the main current of the political scene, her life is imbued with historical events of moment. The writing style is occasionally effusive, and the author's attitude toward Louisa Adams seems adulatory, but the romance and drama of the facts make this an interesting biography.

The sturdy heroine of Meg of Heron's Neck, now twelve, is hired as summer companion to a girl of eight. Melissa's parents have been killed, and her aunt is taking the child to a Maine island; Melissa dislikes her aunt and, because of something she has overheard, believes her father is still alive. This proves to be true, father appearing just after a fire has destroyed the cottage and Aunt May has shown little concern for Melissa's safety. The aunt and uncle are not-quite-believably-nasty characters; the story line is patterned, but most of the incidents and most of the characters are realistic; the island background doesn't permeate the story, but it does emerge occasionally with vivid bits of description.

A highly entertaining book for the beginning independent reader, told in first person by a boy having a bad day. Sam, already late, puts too much sugar in his cereal and his mother's reproof spurs him to eat it anyway. Terrible. His best friend doesn't wait for him, a girl complains to the teacher, he reverses a word when reading aloud, etcetera. Sam and his pal have to stay after school because they have been late after lunch, but life seems brighter when the teacher tells the same girl that she talks too much and will have to stay after school, too. Simply written but not dull, appealing because of the familiarity of the situation; Hoff's illustrations add to the humor of the story and show a happily haphazard mingling of white and Negro characters.

A sequel to Lotta on Troublemaker Street, this is another story that has lightly humorous and realistic situations in a family with three small children. Written with engaging candor and simplicity, the episodic and static story is told by Maria, the middle child, and concentrates on small Lotta's role in the children's ploys and problems. One particular problem is little Lotta's use of a forbidden word; punished for saying "Damn it.", Lotta decides to leave her mother and go back to town and Daddy. She stands, drooping at Grandmother's gate; Mother asks politely if Lotta isn't going to leave, and Lotta says, "I can't ride alone on the train, damn it."

A good browsing book written in informal, anecdotal style; the text is divided into chapters each of which is devoted to a particular sport. In most chapters, the first anecdote concerns a recent president, then the interest of various past presidents (or their actual participation) is described; for example, the chapter on baseball discusses in order Presidents Eisenhower, Taft, Wilson, Hoover, both Roosevelts, Coolidge, Lincoln, Harding, and—again—Taft and Roosevelt, with glancing references to other presidents. This cheerful rambling makes entertaining reading, but—since there is no index—no more than that. A section of photographs is inserted and a brief bibliography is appended.

Mark, the day after his parents are killed in an accident, comes to live with the Wilsons; their son, Chris, is a bit younger than Mark. Chris has a problem also; he has a heart condition that limits his activities. Sometimes Chris is resentful about his condition, at other times he capitalizes on it, and some of the time he is cheerful and friendly. The boys manage to iron out their differences, Mark finding in the process that helping somebody else has helped him, too. The situation as a whole is handled well by the author, but the details often seem either contrived or not fully explained. The characterizations of all of the boys in the story are good; those of the adults seem a trifle weak.

NR MacLeod, Ellen Jane. Island in the Mist. Bethany, 1965. 190p. $2.95. 6-9
A mystery story set in the Scottish Highlands. Kay and Donna are on vacation, their father having come from the United States on business. While they are hiking, Kay hurts her ankle, and they are rescued by a Scottish girl and her dog; the three become very friendly, and the sisters are persuaded to visit Flora. They become involved with criminals who are smuggling stolen paintings because they have been prowling around a deserted castle on an island, a castle in which the thieves are hiding. A slight plot is stretched thin, the characters are either shallow or stereotyped, and the writing style is mediocre.

An immensely detailed and thoroughly documented story of the Halsey-Doolittle raid on Tokyo. The book describes the planning, the training of the crews, and the mounting tension aboard the Hornet. The story of each airplane is told separately, the text moving from one to the other; the author then describes the struggles of each of the combat crews after the raid: some dying, some surviving only to die in Japanese prison camps, some interned in Russia, some led to safety by friendly Chinese. The story is true, exciting, and important; the fact that it is written in a series of comparatively brief episodes is unavoidable in detailing the stories of sixteen separate combat crews, but it seems unnecessary at the beginning of the book, effecting a jerky narrative. Lists of the combat crews, a bibliography, a rather extensive section of notes, and an index are appended.

Ad Milne, Lorus. The Crab that Crawled Out of the Past; by Lorus and Margery Milne; drawings by Kenneth Gosner. Atheneum, 1965. 84p. $3.50.
Although primarily about the horseshoe crab, this book gives a very good simplified recapitulation of the main evolutionary patterns of geologic periods. The authors discuss the horseshoe crab's life cycle, its structure and function, and its unique position of being an anachronistic hold-out in the shifting pattern of adaptive evolution. All the factual material is authoritative, and the creature itself is fascinating. The book is weakened, however, by a slow start (in which a fisherman contrivedly examines a
specimen) and by an occasional awkward tying-in of material when the text has veered from the subject: for example, "All around the horseshoe crabs the kinds of life were changing. But it did not matter to the crabs that the soft-bodied sea worms that they ate were of new kinds, or that . . ."

M Neumann, Rudolf. The Very Special Animal; tr. and ad. from the German by K-2 Theodore McClintock; pictures by Sigrid Heuck. Rand McNally, 1965. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.08 net.
First published in Germany in 1961 under the title Die Geschichte von dem ganz besonderen Tier, a picture book with a fanciful theme. An imaginary beast, the very special animal was unique and was lonely; all other creatures had mates, and the very special animal asked advice, joining first a zoo and then a circus, always hopeful. He was running away from the circus when he saw his reflection in a street mirror; the other very special animal stepped out of the mirror and became his mate, and they went back to the forest together. The illustrations are colorful and stylized, some of the pages seeming overfilled, while others are striking in design. The plot is rather slight, the dénouement anticlimactic and awkward.

Written by the Curator of a Museum of Primitive Art, this is a book about a colorful group of peoples living in a romantic setting. The writing style is rather heavy and the material loosely organized, however, with detrimental effect; chapters on such aspects of Polynesian life as familial patterns or religious practices often have information that overlaps or duplicates the text in other areas. An index and a list of suggestions for further reading are appended, as is a chronology in which Polynesian history is correlated with important events in world history.

The story of a kibbutz in Israel in 1947, the protagonist a German girl of seventeen, Emmi. Shy and delicate, Emmi was suited neither by physique nor by inclination to pioneer life. As she became imbued with pride and involved in activities, she identified more and more with her companions and their love for Israel. The "cousin" Arab appears in the secondary theme, in which a Jewish girl ends her love affair with an Arab who has been a friend from childhood, as the increasing tensions of imminent partition lead to Arab-Israeli fighting. A good picture of a kibbutz and of the reactions of a displaced person; characterization is very good indeed and the plot development is realistic, the book being weakened by the almost-lyrical closing passages.

A read-aloud nonsense book with rhyming text and with illustrations of variable quality. Small Bill Bell is told by his friend the zookeeper that the one creature not in the zoo is a crocodile. Billy conceives a brilliant plan, packs food and equipment, and goes off to Egypt. He traps the crocodile with a boring book, follows the soporific treatment with capture by a new method: looking at the animal through the wrong end of binoculars. Then the tiny-looking crocodile can be picked up with tweezers and put in a match-box, and brought home to join the zoo. There the tiny crocodile may be viewed through binoculars. The concept is imaginative but does not seem humorous; rather it seems one idea that has a contrived story to lead into it.

R Parker, Richard. The Boy Who Wasn't Lonely; pictures by James J. Spanfeller. 5-6 Bobbs-Merrill, 1965. 141p. $3.50.
Cricket is an only child of nine and he likes being alone; faced with a stay at a house full of young cousins, he becomes ill. His understanding parents know that he needs friends, but don't force him. Sent to stay instead with his grandmother and a maiden aunt while his parents take their trip, Cricket meets a Pakistani child who is as self-sufficient as he is, and he thaws. His circle extends to a few more children, and Cricket realizes what a joy it is to be and to have a friend. A most perceptive story, written with honesty in a deceptively simple style.


Dave, seventeen, was the only member of the Moffitt family unable to find a summer job; all the others were earning money to put into their farm. Dave jumped at the chance to be one of a crew of four on a crab-fishing boat; he earned more than his father did, and he found that he enjoyed the life—except for the hostility of the other crew member his own age. In time Dave came to understand that Tommy had had real trouble that made him bitter, and in time the two became friends. Dave's real problem was deciding whether to go back to the farm with his family or to declare his independence and go on being a fisherman. The story-line is not unusual, but it is tightly constructed and realistic; descriptions of both the Alaskan town and the fishing operations are interesting, and the relationships between Dave and the other members of his family are sympathetically drawn.


A good story for boys, a bit slow-moving until the final sequence, but satisfyingly filled with the detailed mechanics of putting together an entry in a soap-box derby. Vic does his own work but gets encouragement from his parents and his younger sister. The outcome is realistic, with Vic getting last prize; the story has one spoilsport older boy as a foil for the persistence and good sportsmanship of the others.

R Roth, Claire Jarett. *Hospital Health Services*; by Claire Jarett Roth and Lillian Weiner. Walck, 1964. 117p. illus. (Careers for Tomorrow) $3.50.

A useful addition to a good vocational guidance series. After a first rather weak chapter entitled "The Health Team," the authors discuss—in separate chapters—seven of the major careers in hospital service: administration, dietetics, medical technology, physical and occupational therapy, the keeping of medical records, and radiologic technology. They describe the job itself, training and salary ranges, and the sorts of aptitudes and attitudes that might make it easier for the individual considering each career. The text also describes professional organizations, sources of information about training, and the opportunities in the field. A brief final chapter lists additional and related fields of work, notes the limitations that have stood in the way of the non-white medical worker, and points out the fact that a great shortage of trained personnel exists at the same time that increasing numbers will be needed as projected medical programs expand. A divided reading list and an index are appended.

Ad Sasek, Miroslav. *This Is Ireland*. Macmillan, 1965. 60p. illus. Trade ed. 4-7 $2.95; Library ed. $3.52 net.

An oversize book that comprises, as do the previous Sasek books, an often-amusing and quite informative text that consists chiefly of brief captions (a phrase, a sentence, or at most a few paragraphs) for utterly charming pictures. The book has a little less cohesion than do the books about individual cities, but it does convey atmosphere and give information. Because it attempts to describe an entire country, the book has noticeable omissions, but it is delightful for browsing.
R Schneider, Leo. You and Your Cells; illus. with drawings by Henri A. Fluchere 7- and with photographs. Harcourt, 1964. 157p. $3.75.
A fine job of introducing a complicated topic, and very well illustrated. Mr. Schneider moves from a discussion of the cell in general to the cells of the human body, with a brief excursion (and a lucid one) into the process of photosynthesis. Although at the close of the book the text gives a conventional survey of human physiology and morphology, the major part is devoted to cellular structure and to cell chemistry. Particularly clear and thorough are the explanations of RNA and DNA. Two pages of diagrams of molecular structure precede the index.

7-9
A good junior novel about unrequited love, not unusual in story line, but deftly written and perceptively portraying the relationships within the family of the smitten Elizabeth. Eric is a famous violinist who is spending a convalescent vacation with his aunt; Elizabeth cannot understand why he sees so much of her when more attractive girls seek him out. She falls deeply in love and doesn't permit herself to see the truth until Eric's departure is imminent, when she suffers chagrin d'amour and realizes bitterly that Eric felt safe with her because she was too young for him and was not a threat.

Ad Speevack, Yetta. The Spider Plant; drawings by Wendy Watson. Atheneum, 4-6 1965. 154p. $3.25.
The story of a Puerto Rican family's adjustment to New York. When Mama brought Carmen and Pedro to the city to join Papa they lived in a small, dark apartment in a congenial neighborhood; when they moved to a new home in a housing development, the apartment was nice but the neighbors and the children in school were unfriendly. Through the friends Carmen made when she shared the shoots of her spider plant with her classmates, the members of the family became increasingly comfortable in their new community. Nicely written, awkwardly illustrated, the story is low-keyed and realistic; Carmen and Pedro have problems, but they are neither contrivedly melodramatic nor contrivedly solved. The story is rather slow-paced, adequate in construction but lacking momentum.

R Stern, Madeleine B. So Much in a Lifetime; The Story of Dr. Isabel Barrows. 6-9 Messner, 1964. 185p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.19 net.
A biography of a woman whose life was, a century ago, unusual in many ways in addition to the fact that she was a doctor. Her father, Dr. Hayes, believed that women were truly equal, so that the young Isabel wore bloomer dresses, did janitorial work to help pay for her education, and helped her father on his rounds. At nineteen Isabel married; within one year both of her parents and her husband died, leaving her alone in India. She became an expert at shorthand, worked for Secretary of State Seward, received a medical degree from the University of Vienna, worked with her second husband for prison reform, and went to Russia to plead clemency for a political prisoner. Competently written and thoroughly indexed.

R Wilson, Penelope Coker. Fancy and the Cement Patch; illus. by Frank Aloise. 3-4 Reilly and Lee, 1964. 60p. $3.50.
Ostensibly a story about a boy and his pony, this book is actually concerned with the problem of a child's adjustment to his widowed mother's prospective remarriage. Jamie and his mother live in a ground-level apartment in New York; in their small cemented back yard they keep the pony, Fancy, that was a gift to Jamie. Only when Fancy's illegal occupancy is discovered and when Jamie finds that he needs help fast, does he turn to Howard. He's been rejecting Howard as a possible stepfather, but changes his mind. The happy ending is not at all saccharine, and it is quite logical. Not a story with pace, but deftly written and having a nice combination of prosaic realism and one lightly-handled odd aspect.
Bibliographies

Adult Books of 1964 Significant for Young People. American Library Association, Young Adults Services Division, Significant Books List Committee. 25 copies, $1.00; quantity discount. Available from ALA, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.


Books of the Year, 1964. Child Study Association of America. 32p. $.50 from Child Study, Dept. RE, 9 E. 89th Street, New York, N. Y.


