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**BULLETIN
OF THE
CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS**

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. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey Sutherland, Editor.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 19

June, 1966

Number 10

New Titles for Children and Young People

Anckarsvärd, Karin. The Riddle of the Ring; tr. from the Swedish by Annabelle MacMillan; illus. by Michael A. Hampshire. Harcourt, 1966. 188p. \$3.25.

R
5-7 Translated from the Swedish, a good junior novel about an adolescent girl and her friends. Tommi is fourteen, interested in a boy for the first time, and very self-conscious about the fact that Henrik might be interested in her. The two are thrown together in part because Tommi has an acute problem: she has lost a very valuable ring that had just been given her mother. The ring, left by chance in a jacket pocket, has disappeared while the jacket was hanging in the school cloakroom. The ring is found, most logically; while hunting for it, Tommi and Henrik stumble across some stolen jewels. No connection, and there seems, therefore, no particular point. The plot is not really important in itself, but some of the more positive aspects of the story are dependent on it—the involvement, for example, of a boy at school who steals. The problem of Lennart's thievery is nicely handled by the author, both as regards the teacher's behavior and the attitudes of the children in the class. In general, the book is particularly good in the classroom scenes and in the relationships of individual students.

Annixter, Paul. The Cat that Clumped; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Holiday House, 1966. 35p. \$2.95.

R
K-2 Yes, there are a lot of books about animals who want to be different, but this book is different. Written with a light touch and in sprightly style, a read-aloud story about a cat that wanted to be a horse. To the despair of his family, Hubert clumped; he tried to pace, he ate oats, he even had a catty sort of neigh. Hubert lived in a barn owned by the Baron, who loved horses and bred them for racing and hunting. Some rats, grateful for Hubert's neglect of them, provided artificial hooves of a sort, so Hubert clumped. The Baron saw this and was so amused that he brought Hubert in as a house pet, and had a small track made around which Hubert raced. Total happy ending. The story is delightfully illustrated; author and artist clearly see eye-to-twinkling-eye.

Bawden, Nina. Three on the Run; illus. by Wendy Worth. Lippincott, 1965. 224p. \$3.75.

M
5-7 First published in England in 1964 under the title On the Run, an adventure story with some weak aspects and some very strong. The small

print and the vocabulary level make the book fairly difficult for a reader who would be interested in children as young as the three protagonists seem to be; the characters are well-defined, but several of them hint of stereotype. The relationships are good, and the story has pace and some suspense, but the plot is contrived, and it needn't have been. Ben (one of the three Mallory children of The House of Secrets) is now eleven; he meets Thomas, an African boy who is being kept under surveillance in the house next door; Thomas, whose father is a political prisoner, is the pawn in a power struggle and he has a good uncle and a bad uncle. Ben discovers that Thomas is to be kidnapped by his bad uncle, so the two boys decide to run away. The third member of their trio is a small, tough Cockney girl who is hiding out alone so that she won't be taken by "The Welfare" while her mother is in the hospital. And so on. The children are an interesting trio, and they could easily have met under more credible circumstances.

Beadle, George. The Language of Life; An Introduction to the Science of Genetics; by George and Muriel Beadle. Doubleday, 1966. 242p. illus. \$5.95.

R
9- A lucid, comprehensive, and authoritative book on genetics; written with only the necessary minimum of scientific terminology and illustrated with diagrams that are carefully labelled and placed. The writing style is smooth, the use of clarifying analogies being particularly deft. The authors give enough background information and scientific history to place research and discovery in genetics in perspective in relation to the state of scientific knowledge, and give most vividly a picture of diffusion, the overlapping, the slow building of a body of knowledge. The meat of the book is, of course, in the examination of the accumulating information about genetics: the unraveling of biochemical complexities of form and function from the early work of Mendel and Garrod to the ferment of research that resulted in the synthesizing of DNA and the cracking of the genetic code. A relative index is appended.

Beck, Barbara L. The First Book of the Ancient Maya. Watts, 1965. 87p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

R
5-9 A competently written and meticulously illustrated book about the Maya, with material on the lives of the common people, on the priests, on Mayan knowledge of mathematics and astronomy, on art and recreation, and on Mayan history up to the time of the Spanish conquest. There is less material on the life of the ordinary Maya than there is in Bleeker (The Maya; Morrow, 1961) but there is enough; this treatment of the subject is particularly good for the coverage of some of the lesser-known cities and stunningly beautiful buildings. An index is appended.

Berg, Jean Horton. There's Nothing to Do, So Let Me Be You; illus. by Madeline Marabella. Westminster, 1966. 26p. \$2.95.

M
4-6
yrs. Baby Raccoon, having one of those days when all mother's suggestions for play were not appealing, finally thought of trading places with mother. He started with zeal and quickly became bored and tired. And cross with his parents, who kept coming in and saying they had nothing to do. He finally decided that the thing to do was trade places again, "and I'll go right out and swing, and be glad I have a Mother Raccoon and a Father Raccoon to take care of me." Nothing-to-do has become a fairly familiar theme, and this is an adequate variation, the writing style just a bit flat

and the illustrations pedestrian, with the raccoon family being partly clad (the father wears a sports shirt and bedroom slippers) while several other kinds of animals are shown in their natural state.

Bogan, Louise, comp. The Golden Journey; Poems for Young People; comp. by Louise Bogan and William Jay Smith; woodcuts by Fritz Kredel. Reilly and Lee, 1965. 275p. \$5.95.

R
5-9 A good anthology, the poems grouped in sections by subject: love poems, animal poems, country poems, etc. The format is dignified and handsome; the illustrations preceding each section are attractive woodcuts in a dark green. The selections are varied, the poems ranging from amusing jingles to classics, and the poets ranging from Skelton and Herrick (clearly a favorite of the compilers) to Walt Kelly. Yes, the Pogo Kelly. The anthology is nicely balanced in every sense; sources are cited; author and title indexes are appended.

Bronowski, J. Biography of an Atom; by J. Bronowski and Millicent E. Selsam; illus. with pictures by Weimar Pursell and with photographs. Harper, 1965. 43p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

R
5-9 The very best kind of science writing: simple, lucid, dignified, well-organized and stripped of non-essentials. The diagrams are placed and labelled carefully and there is, out of this matter-of-fact and scientific approach, an honest feeling of wonder communicated: a sense of the marvel of design and continuity in the world about us. The authors define an atom, a molecule, an element, and a compound; they describe the structure of the atom and then trace from its birth in outer space the carbon atom that may be in crystalline form, may be in one's lungs, may be in a flower, may be in DNA . . . or may be in all of these forms at different times.

Burch, Robert. Queenie Peavy; illus. by Jerry Lazare. Viking, 1966. 159p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

Ad
6-9 A story of the depression era in rural Georgia. Queenie is big and tough, a troublemaker in school and a scrapping, rock-throwing hoyden out of school; she has home responsibilities because her mother works in a canning plant. Her father is in jail. Every time Queenie is taunted about this, she fights back; finally she gets into real trouble when she causes a boy to break his leg. After some talks with the principal and with a friendly judge, Queenie decides she ought to curb her temper and to be more cooperative; the first reactions are so rewarding that she turns over a new leaf. The writing has just a little of the dated Penrod-and-Sam flavor, but the book gives a convincing picture of the impact of hard times on a rural community. Queenie's father is paroled; bitter, he violates his parole by carrying a gun and is sent back to jail. This realistically brings home to Queenie the acid fact that her father's leaving jail won't solve her problems, but that she must solve them by herself. One pleasant aspect of the story is in Queenie's relationship with the children next door. Dover Corry is eight and his little sister five; they are Negro neighbors who are better off than Queenie's family, and the two children depend on Queenie for the peculiar kind of affection that is partly shown in child-like imaginative play and partly the protection of a girl who can take an adult role.

Burt, Olive (Woolley). The First Book of Salt; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1965. 62p. \$2.65.

R
5-7 A very good book on the topic, well-organized, quite comprehensive, and illustrated by many photographs of which most are informative. The author discusses methods of mining and processing salt, uses of salt in cooking and in body chemistry, salt in industry and agriculture, and the importance of salt as a factor of peripheral influence in establishing trade route and settlements. Although more difficult in vocabulary level than are the Telfer or Vander Boom titles (also reviewed in this issue) the fact that this book covers the same aspects of the topic—and many more—and has good photographic illustrations indicates that it will be more useful for those readers who can cope with the increased difficulty. An index is appended.

Bush, Helen Brandon. Mary Anning's Treasure; illus. by Paula A. Hutchison. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 144p. \$3.25.

Ad
4-6 A highly fictionalized description of the fossil-hunting career of Mary Anning; Mary, who had helped her father gather fossils to be sold as curios, went on—after her father's death—to collect and sell in order to earn money. She also earned fame when, at the age of twelve, she organized a team to unearth a "crocodile" backbone and found, in 1811, what proved to be a fossil ichthyosaurus; later she made two other great finds. The writing style is a bit slow-paced and the first part of the book is rather heavily laden with information in the guise of dialogue, but the paleontological information is interesting, the atmosphere of the small sea-side town and the genteel interest of the time in "curiosities" is quite vividly evoked. Illustrations of fossils are good, illustrations of characters in the story being more pedestrian; a brief bibliography and a one-page index are appended.

Carruth, Ella Kaiser. She Wanted to Read; The story of Mary McLeod Bethune; illus. by Herbert McClure. Abingdon, 1966. 80p. \$2.25.

Ad
4-6 A biography of Mrs. Bethune that is written in a simple style and has a mildly adulatory tone; the illustrations are adequate. The author gives a balanced treatment of the subject's life and her accomplishments, although the book gets off to a slow start. There is little character delineation, the impact of Mrs. Bethune's drive and dedication evincing itself through descriptions of her achievements.

Cavanah, Frances. The Secret of Madame Doll; A Story of the American Revolution; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Vanguard, 1965. 189p. \$3.50.

M
4-6 A story of the American Revolution, set in and, for part of the story, close to Williamsburg. A small girl is given a beautiful doll, and the family treasure, some diamonds, is put inside the doll; the toy disappears and is later found. It had been hidden by a small Negro boy with a penchant for playing funeral. The story has some historical background that is of interest, but it is often quite laboriously incorporated into the fictional framework. The Negro characters are handled in quite stereotyped fashion in both the text and the illustration; the writing is often stilted.

Chester, Michael. First Wagons to California; illus. by Steele Savage. Putnam, 1965. 96p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

Ad
5-7 A story about the first wagon caravan to cross the mountains is written in a rather stolid style; the material is adapted from Stewart's The Opening of the California Trail (University of California Press, 1953) in which one original source was the memoirs of one member of the expedition, Moses Schallenberger. Mose, then seventeen, was with a train of forty wagons that went to California from the Iowa Territory in 1844. What with encounters with Indians, brushes with starvation and drowning, and being marooned in a snowbound cabin, the story has drama and suspense, the account being somewhat modified in appeal by the flat writing.

Christopher, Matthew F. Too Hot to Handle; illus. by Foster Caddell. Little, 1965. 127p. \$2.95.

Ad
3-5 Not unusual, but a good baseball story for middle-grades boys; the illustrations are fairly pedestrian. David Kroft feels that he ought to be better than he is at third base; he's good enough to play in the Grass-hopper League, but he isn't good enough to keep up the family tradition. David's father and his two older brothers have been excellent players, but David is shorter than the others. This is the theme, and the solution of David's problem is his sensible and realistic acceptance of his own limitations. Although there are a few threads of sub-plot (a neighbor who likes David comes to a game and learns to enjoy baseball) most of the text consists of descriptions of games.

Ciardi, John. The King Who Saved Himself from Being Saved; illus. by Edward Gorey. Lippincott, 1965. 44p. \$2.95.

R
4-6 A small book, a brief narrative poem, a series of illustrations with small details, precise and humorous in a reflection of the light mockery of the story. Mildly spoofing the stereotype hero (all blast and derring-do) and mildly protesting against those who won't leave well enough alone, the poem describes a peaceable kingdom with a drowsing king, a slightly bovine princess, a gentle giant, and a suffering, coryzatic queen. A hero roars in and announces his intention to slay the giant, win the princess, and be rewarded by half the kingdom. The king politely rebuffs the hero, announces his satisfaction with the status quo, warns the obdurate hero, and then regretfully shoots him. Pleasant nonsense, not lesson-bearing, but not frothy.

Coit, Margaret L. Andrew Jackson; illus. by Milton Johnson. Houghton, 1965. 154p. \$3.50.

R
7-10 A most perceptive biography, not adulatory but militantly candid about the deficiencies that made Jackson so controversial a figure—yet written with a swell of sympathy for the unhappy personal life and the political sniping suffered by Andrew Jackson. Jackson's childhood is only lightly touched upon; the major part of this biography is devoted to his career, military and political, and to his years in office as President. Were this a weak biography (which it is not) it would still be a splendidly vivid depiction of the power struggle and the factional bitterness that preceded and produced the Civil War. A brief bibliography and an index are appended.

Crane, Caroline. A Girl Like Tracy. McKay, 1966. 186p. \$3.75.

A junior novel about seventeen-year-old Kathy Allen whose older sis-

R
7-9 ter is retarded. A girl like Tracy has to be protected when she is beautiful, and the Allen family's life is built around Tracy; in order to take care of Tracy when her mother is at work, Kathy has to rush home from school every day. Sure that Tracy can be taught some things, Kathy tries to teach her to shop and cook—it doesn't work. Knowing that Tracy needs recreation, Kathy takes her to a movie—they have a fight because Tracy wants to join some tough boys. Eventually her parents agree with Kathy that Tracy needs professional help; Kathy instigates this after she realizes that her mother is ashamed of Tracy as well as feeling overprotective in her love. Kathy acquires a boy friend in the course of the story, a boy whose Ukrainian family is drawn with affection; realistically, Alex simply goes off to military service, with no dramatic ending. Realistically, Tracy begins to enjoy her school, with no miraculous changes; realistically, Mrs. Allen accepts the fact that Kathy was right about Tracy, with no more than a grudging acceptance.

Dahl, Borghild Margarethe. Good News. Dutton, 1966. 160p. \$3.50.

Ad
7-9 Two college girls who are taking a course in journalism put out a small newspaper as their course project; in addition to the fact that they have little capital, no experience, and no cooperation from the professor, they have a problem in human relations. Marit's family are long-established residents of the small Norwegian-American community in the midwest; Emily's family are newly-arrived Negroes who run a laundry. The girls do a successful job on the paper through persistent hard work—and the cooperation of their families; they also contribute to a library project and to acceptance of Emily's family and some of the other Negro families who have moved into the town. The attitudes and relationships in the story are impeccably worthy; the book is weakened by a pat situation or pat solution here and there, and also by the fact that the newspaper itself is the focus of the book, but—for the larger part of the story—there seems to be no connection between the project and the college class.

Dobler, Lavinia. Great Rulers of the African Past; By Lavinia Dobler and William A. Brown; illus. by Yvonne Johnson. Doubleday, 1965. 120p. \$2.95.

R
6-9 Five brief biographies of rulers of African kingdoms, their reigns spanning the years 1312-1617; illustrations are not particularly attractive but give some details of costumes and dwellings; each biography is preceded by a map. The subjects: Mansa Musa, Ruler of Mali; Sunni Ali Ber, Sultan of Songhay; Askia Muhammad, the army leader who took over the throne from Sunni Ali's son; Affonso, the Kongolese Prince who became a Christian King; Idris Alaoma, Sultan of Bornu. Written with simplicity, a book that is particularly useful because of the unusual material it contains. A guide to pronunciation, chiefly of personal names and of place names is appended, as is a brief index. There is no documentation, but the special consultant for the book is a university professor who is an expert in the field.

Duggan, Alfred. Growing Up with the Norman Conquest; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Pantheon Books, 1966. 217p. \$3.95.

R
7- A delight. Mr. Duggan's writing has style, vivacity, delightful wit, and the easy familiarity with detail that is born only of deep knowledge. As in Growing Up in 13th Century England, the book views a series of households and the communities and socio-economic strata of which they are

a part. Here the time is July in the year 1087, and the households are those of a Norman baron, a socman, a Londoner, a peasant, and a cloister in which live the children whose parents have dedicated them to a monastic life. A most enjoyable and informative book.

Field, Gordon L. The Minoans of Ancient Crete; illus. by Peter Mullin. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 100p. \$3.50.

M
6-9 A description of archeological work done at Crete, of the interpretation or evaluation of artifacts, paintings, and buildings, and of the partial correlation between legend and reality. The facts given by the text are accurate, but the book is weakened by the occasional interpolation of rather long fictionalized sections, the fictional writing style being no asset. A second weakness is in the occasional wide separation of illustration and corresponding textual reference. For example, a picture of the Toreador Fresco is described thirty pages farther on; an illustration of a statuette of the Snake Goddess is on page 45, and the text describes the statuette on pages 80 and 82. On page 81 a different statuette of the Snake Goddess is shown—very confusing—although it is described on page 80 also. An index is appended.

Flory, Jane. Mist on the Mountain; written and illus. by Jane Flory. Houghton, 1966. 249p. \$3.25.

R
5-6 A sequel to Peddler's Summer, a very pleasant period story set in rural Pennsylvania in the 1870's. Amanda, one of the eight fatherless Scoville girls, had spent the summer traveling about with Mr. Aaron, the peddler and family friend. Amanda, now ten, is again the protagonist: here there is no story line, but the episodic plot has some sustaining threads: one is Amanda's crush on a young artist who falls in love with the oldest sister, and a second is the community attitude toward a shiftless family. Following her mother's example of Christian charity toward the family, Amanda does what she can to help the one member of the Worthington family who wants to improve. Amanda's mother acts as midwife in the delivery of an illegitimate Worthington infant, stillborn, and encounters severe censure. This theme is handled in a dignified manner, with neither melodrama nor sentimentality—simply another realistic note in a realistic story of family life in a rural community.

Fribourg, Marjorie G. The Supreme Court in American History; Ten Great Decisions; The People, The Times and The Issues. Macrae, 1965. 187p. \$3.95.

R
8- A most interesting and useful book, written in a style that is easy yet dignified, giving good background material for understanding of the cases discussed, and providing a bibliography of principal sources for each case. Much of the material is the same as that covered in Acheson's The Supreme Court (Dodd, 1961) but each book approaches the cases in its own way and is no less valuable than the other. Mrs. Fribourg discusses ten cases in depth—and intelligently—and Mrs. Acheson discusses most of the same cases within a broader framework—and intelligently. Two of the cases in the newer book have been heard since 1961. Each case is preceded by a brief synopsis of the problem it presents; lists of Justices of the Supreme Court and an index are appended.

Hirsch, S. Carl. The Living Community; A Venture into Ecology; illus. by William Steinel. Viking, 1966. 128p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

M
7-10

A book that has a considerable amount of information within the rambling text, the weakness of poor organization being aggravated by the chapter headings, many of which ("No Place Like Oikos," "Learn and Live," "The Turning of the Worm") give no indication of the contents. The author covers most aspects of ecology, but the inadequacy of the text is shown, for example, by the treatment of the topic of food chains. There are four citations in the index, all of the references being in the last chapter of the book; none of the four is an explanation of a food chain. Such topics as adaptation, host-parasite relationships, camouflage, communities and niches, man's interference, competition and survival, clocks and cycles, and migration are all touched on, but are diffusely treated. The book is not as well-organized or as competently written as the Life volume in the Nature Library series; the illustrations are not at all comparable.

Hoehling, Mary. The Real Sherlock Holmes; Arthur Conan Doyle. Messner, 1965. 183p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.19 net.

R
6-9

A good biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, highly (and skilfully) fictionalized; the writing has an easy, colloquial flow in dialogue, and is slightly stilted in exposition. The text has a good balance between Doyle's personal life and his writing; there are fewer passages of quotations from Doyle's writings here than there are in Wood's The Man Who Hated Sherlock Holmes (Pantheon, 1965) but there is more background material about family connections, literary circles, and the national scene.

Johnson, Gerald White. The Cabinet; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Morrow, 1966. 160p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.32 net.

R
6-9

Another superb book in the author's series of books on the branches of our government; Mr. Johnson combines to a rare degree the ability to communicate complicated or abstract information with a text that is as lively as it is authoritative. After a brief description of the Cabinet departments today, the history of the Cabinet, from Washington's term of office on, is given; the special value here is that the author consistently points out political realities in cabinet appointments. He considers the causes and conflicts of the time, the demands on the president, the relations among presidents, congressmen, and party leaders. An index and a list of the members of the last three Presidential Cabinets are appended.

Joslin, Sesyle. There Is a Bull on My Balcony; Hay un Toro en Mi Balcon, and other useful phrases in Spanish and English for young ladies and gentlemen going abroad or staying at home; illus. by Katharina Barry. Harcourt, 1966. 58p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.67 net.

R
3-5

Another delightful bilingual phrasebook with phonetic spelling and irrepressible nonsense on every page. Here the reader is instructed in the appropriate Spanish conversation for a trip to Mexico; most of the phrases are actually ordinary ones that might be used on any trip. Occasionally there is a nonsensical sentence, such as the title sentence,

but for the most part the humor is dependent on the contrast between the innocuous text and the daft picture. For example, "What's going on?" . . . "And this is when to say it." is illustrated by a picture of the young visitor (female) being hoisted up a long flight of sacrificial stairs by four Toltec-type gents. She looks blank but undismayed; the questioner looks puzzled but undaunted.

Jupo, Frank. Count Carrot. Holiday House, 1966. 38p. illus. \$3.50.

M
4-5 An episodic book about a giant, the material based on the German folktales about the mountain giant, Rubezahl, tales published in German almost two hundred years ago. All of the tales in the book are concerned with humans who are kind to Count Carrot and are rewarded, or with humans who try to outwit the giant—only one of whom succeeds. The stories are rather tepid in style and are often anticlimactic in closing; for example, in one episode a shepherd wants a miracle herb from Count Carrot's garden and having fraudulently obtained it once, tries again; the giant tosses him down the mountainside and he is never heard of again—end of story. The illustrations have humor and an amount of vitality, but they seem overly busy.

Kay, Helen. Henri's Hands for Pablo Picasso; illus. by Victor Ambrus. Abelard-Schuman, 1965. 61p. \$2.95.

Ad
3-5 The story of a small boy in a French village famous for its pottery is based on a true incident in Picasso's life; while he was working in Vallauris, a bakery made a variation of a croissant that was called Picasso's Hand. Here the focus is on small Henri, whose father is a baker and whose grandfather a potter; each wants Henri to follow his profession. Grandfather tells Henri that Vallauris, now a town with no industry, once was a pottery center; when Picasso comes (as he did for many years) the town again begins to flourish and Grandfather happily goes back to work. Henri is torn; he meets and knows Picasso and is enthralled by the man and his work. He decides that he will help bake bread now, but that later he will find out whether his hands are the hands of an artist. A pleasant story, but static; the writing style is smooth and the story is told with no diffusion, but it has no liveliness: no pace or humor.

Keats, Ezra Jack. Jennie's Hat. Harper, 1966. 30p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad
K-2 A slight story, but a riotously vernal and charming set of illustrations; the gay and colorful cumulations in collage-and-painting are exactly right for spring. Or for Easter, or even for Valentine's Day. A small girl is given a hat as a gift and is disappointed by the fact that the hat is unadorned. She tries on such objects as a lampshade, an antenna, and a basket; then she goes out to feed the birds. Jennie goes to church and envies the flowery hats around her (as well she might, since they are floral extravaganzas; their wearers are white and Negro, child and adult) and is utterly delighted when, after the service, her friends the birds swoop down to pile her hat with ornaments. The move from fancy to fantasy is smooth enough, but the ending of the story, right on the heels of this climax, seems abrupt: Jennie walks home, the birds fly off with the nest of baby birds that had topped the hat, and Jennie and her mother wrap and box the beautiful hat.

Leodhas, Sorche Nic. Ghosts Go Haunting; illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Holt, 1965. 128p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.45 net.

R
5-7 Another collection of Scottish tales like the author's Gaelic Ghosts—equally well-written, amusing, and delightfully illustrated. The ten stories in this volume are more than adequate in plot and construction; the great appeal, however, is in the style of writing: sly or lilting idiom and dialect that never seem mawkish or contrived, and an easy, vivacious flow of narrative. A glossary is appended. A joy to read silently or aloud, and an excellent story-telling source.

Lightner, A. M. The Galactic Troubadours. Norton, 1965. 237p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

Ad
7-10 A good science fiction story in which three young people rediscover the joy of performing and in which young people on the planets they visit are enthusiastically responsive to the joys of live music and topical lyrics. Nick describes the fun he, Hal, and Wren have singing together and he worries because their behavior is frowned upon. "Why don't they listen to those perfectly good tapes? Why sing?" Since nine months of the year have to be spent underground on their home planet, the citizens are not unhappy when the trio and their music go off on a project-study. Their experiences are interesting, especially on the planet where there is a master race; the story, although set in the inter-galactic future, stresses the importance of cultural differences; and the musical aspects of the story should have tremendous appeal. The writing style and the construction of plot are each just a bit stiff; the plot, for example, adding one romantic partner for each of the original trio, one partner per planet stowing away without the knowledge of the professor under whose aegis the trip and cultural study is being made.

McNair, Kate. A Sense of Magic. Chilton, 1965. 218p. \$3.95.

NR
6-9 Alice Ann Emmons describes her life at Worthington Women's Academy, two years of it. Alice is aware that she is an atypical teenager; she likes to study. At a dance with a school for boys, Alice and her date win the secret prize given by each group to the person who gets the drip-of-the-evening, and they both like it. Only a few of the characters hold the book together, since each chapter is an episode so separated that it might well be a short story. The approach is rather coy and old-fashioned, the humor strained; two adults meet and seem destined for nothing until the girls lend a romantic hand, everybody unites to outwit a tyrannical mother, several girls step in to prevent the divorce of one set of parents, et cetera. Occasionally Alice and her friends seem much older than fourteen or fifteen, occasionally they seem pure boarding-school-for-mula characters.

Marsden, Catharine. The Secret Elephants; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Dutton, 1966. 77p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.46 net.

M
3-5 A story set in Mozambique, where Manuel—son of a Portugese merchant—is aware that the local tribesmen, the Kosas—hold the elephant sacred. Manuel and his best friend, Bolamba, who is the son of the Kosas chief, watch a herd of elephants and feed a baby elephant. When a white hunter shoots at an elephant, the Kosa warriors rise against the white men. Bolamba is hurt and is nursed back to health by Manuel's father;

the herd of Sacred Elephants departs. Clearly the author's intention is to show the friendship between the boys and the respect between adults when mores and cultural differences are not transgressed. The setting and the descriptions of the elephant herd and of a boar hunt are moderately good; a very weak aspect of the story is in the nastiness of the white hunter. When the natives have refused to lead him to the elephants, he forces the two boys at gun-point to take him, and even threatens, "If you do not take me to the elephant herd, I will return to the trading post and shoot your father." The story begins, "Mozambique is in southeastern Africa. The Portugese settled there hundreds of years ago. They found the land fertile and beautiful, the rivers deep, and the veldt endless. So they made friends with the natives, built trading posts and towns, and lived happily and productively." So much for colonial exploitation!

Morgan, Geoffrey. Tea with Mr. Timothy; illus. by Nicholas Fisk. Little, 1966. 121p. \$3.75.

Ad
7-9 An amusing and sentimental story about a cat who is responsible for bringing together two children during the years before and during World War II. The children grow up and fall in love, very properly, and they find a kitten that looks like Mr. Timothy. The writing style is easy and lively, with echoes of Mrs. 'Arris as well as the suggested (on the jacket) resemblance to Mr. Chips.

Neurath, Marie. They Lived Like This in Ancient Mesopotamia; Artist: Evelyn Worboys. Watts, 1965. 32p. \$2.65.

R
3-5 A quite good first book about the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Sumerian cultures, in a continuous text with illustrations that capture the feeling of the original art and artifacts on which they are based. The text begins abruptly with an awkward first page that would be clearer were there a map; there is a map on the last page. This is, however, a minor weakness in an otherwise competent description of life in the land between the two rivers, of the houses, transportation, religion, the development of cuneiform writing, and of the number system. All lucidly presented.

Olds, Helen (Diehl). Lyndon Baines Johnson; illus. by Paul Frame. Putnam, 1965. 64p. (See and Read Books) \$2.29.

M
2-4 A very simply written adulatory biography of President Johnson, very superficially giving the major facts about his life. The illustrations are adequate; the text is weakened by the combination of irrelevant incidents (in a book that gives slight coverage of relevant ones) and of flowery writing. The book may have some slight value for the beginning reader who cannot yet use an encyclopedia.

Prescott, Orville, ed. A Father Reads to His Children; An Anthology of Prose and Poetry. Dutton, 1965. 352p. \$5.95.

R
5-9 Although the level indicated here is for independent reading, this excellent anthology of prose and poetry is really intended for reading aloud by an adult; the material is perfectly well suited to individual reading by a young person, but the appeal to the young reader will probably be limited by the title. Selections are arranged in order of increasing maturity of content and style; the range of authors is broad, with selections from the Bible, Shakespeare, classic poets, adult and juvenile authors,

and a few standard items (only a very few) like "Kubla Khan" and "The Highwayman." In the selections of two dozen stories or prose excerpts and two dozen poems there is little humor but there is an emphasis on adventure and derring-do. Sources are cited and an author-title index is appended.

Robertson, Keith. Henry Reed's Baby-Sitting Service; illus. by Robert McCloskey. Viking, 1966. 204p. \$3.50.

R
5-7 The indomitable Henry rides again; a third romp with Henry Reed and his friend, Midge Glass. This time Henry (as a result of a survey) discovers that one of the town's unmet needs is baby-sitting. In the course of this career, Henry meets some strong-minded babies, but he copes. The book has a plot line, but it is basically episodic; the appeals are in the humor of situation and dialogue, and in the bouncy, bright style of writing. Written in first person, the style is convincing as that of a sophisticated and inventive adolescent.

Rockwell, Anne. Sally's Caterpillar; with pictures by Harlow Rockwell. Parents' Magazine, 1966. 40p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.03 net.

R
K-2 A very good first book in natural science, with clear pictures and spacious page lay-out; the story of the development of a monarch butterfly from chrysalis out of caterpillar is told in a simple fictional framework. The facts are accurate and there are not too many of them for the pre-school audience; the story has a nice balance of interest in the butterfly and of friends and family. Sally takes a caterpillar home from the seashore, her parents having told her how to feed and care for it; when the monarch butterfly emerges, she gives it some honey-and-water and takes it to the open window so that it can fly off.

Ross, Geraldine. The Elf Who Didn't Believe in Himself; illus. by Kurt Werth. Steck-Vaughn, 1966. 32p. \$2.95.

M
K-2 A book illustrated with full-color pictures that have a lively appeal; the story of the elf is told in rhyme, the rhyming being adequate at times and rather contrived at other times. The story line is not highly original, but has some appeal: the small elf doesn't believe in himself until two boys tell him that he is real. Were the text more skilfully written, the book could be quite effective; the often-faulty metre is jarring.

Ruck-Pauquêt, Gina. The Most Beautiful Place; tr. from the German by Edelgard von Heydekampf Bruehl; illus. by Sigrid Heuck. Dutton, 1965. 160p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.46 net.

Ad
5-7 Published in Germany in 1963 under the title Joschko, Joschko being the fourteen-year-old protagonist. An orphan who is cared for by all the folk of a small fishing village, Joschko yearns to see the rest of the world, to see the mountains, to see snow. He goes off alone and has a series of adventures, knowing that the police—at the behest of his townspeople—are hunting him; at last he realizes that home is the most beautiful place in the world, and he starts back home. Some of the episodes have pace, but the story as a whole lacks suspense; the writing—especially in conversation—is variable, being at times convincing, at times quite precious.

Rydberg, Ernie. The Dark of the Cave; illus. by Carl Kidwell. McKay, 1965. 118p. \$2.95.

Ad
4-5
When another boy of nine moves into the house next door, Ronnie is pleased; he comes to feel that Garth is the best friend anyone could have. Ronnie is blind, and quite adjusted to his handicap, although he hopes a long-planned operation will enable him to see. When a local bully is trapped in a cave where Ronnie and Gar have explored, he is rescued because Ronnie—due to his experience of darkness—helps the rescue party out. After the operation, Ronnie sees a picture of his absent friend and sees that Garth is a Negro. It is true that the surprise element would be lost if the illustrations showed this, but it seems somehow deflating that the drawings give no clue at all. This would seem a real weakness were the author's purpose not crystal clear: the message of the book is that people must be judged for themselves. The story has one weakness, a rather plodding style; the conclusion has dramatic impact and a message, but it is poorly handled. Ronnie's mother says, when her son looks at Gar's picture, "Did you notice anything unusual about it?" "You mean, his skin is brown and mine is white?" "Yes, dear." "I sort of figured that out a long time ago." "You did! How?" "I don't know. I guess because of things I heard on radio and television." The whole conversation seems vague and roundabout.

Schuon, Karl. The First Book of Acting; illus. by Edward MacKenzie. Watts, 1965. 65p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad
6-9
A text that is directed at the amateur performer, the implication being that this is a first experience; the author explains some procedures that would be known to amateurs who had been in plays. The book is weakened by the fact that the level of the procedures being described (experienced director, large theatre, rented costumes) is quite high for an amateur group, whereas the explanations seem gauged for the upper elementary school reader. The text takes the reader through the steps in putting on a play, from tryout to first night, and it does so with lucid detail, but with a trace of talking down. Useful, on the whole; the appended glossary is quite lengthy, and includes an occasional word that seems not to need definition, such as "actor" or "makeup"; an index is included.

Schwartz, Evgeny. A Tale of Stolen Time; tr. from the Russian by Lila Pargment and Estelle Titiev; illus. and designed by Nonny Hogrogian. Prentice-Hall, 1966. 28p. \$3.75.

NR
K-3
A small and attractively illustrated book; the story is based on an old Russian folk tale. Peter is a lazy boy who keeps postponing learning his lessons; one day he turns into an old man—an old man who has only a third-grade education. In despair, he goes for a long walk and rests in a forest hut; there he hears four sorcerers talk and he realizes that he and three others have been turned into old people so that the sorcerers might gain their youth. Overhearing the details of the one possible remedy, Peter hunts for three other old people who behave like children, and they manage—in the nick of time—to break the spell. The writing style of the translation is adequate; the story is weak in the contrivance of its construction and in the concepts that may be confusing to the read-aloud audience.

Seldin, Joel. Automation; The Challenge of Men and Machines. Coward-McCann, 1965. 119p. illus. (Challenge Books) \$3.25.

M
7-9
A text that describes the problems posed by increasing automation, the topics of unemployment and education in relation to automation, and some of the attitudes toward adjustment to—and preparation for—the automated future. The author discusses computers and feedback quite superficially, not attempting to explain their functioning, but describing some of the ways in which computers are used. The text is written in an intermittent journalese: "Automation is problems, like unemployment, strikes and crowded schools, but it is also hope that for the first time poverty, disease and backbreaking toil can be eliminated from men's lives." Occasionally there is an error surprising in the work of a newspaperman—for example, Kepler is spelled "Keppler." "At the moment, we are the people most involved, but East and West Europe is on the brink of it." The text is wordy and repetitive, and most of the photographs are quite uninformative. Too bad, because the problems considered are of tremendous importance, and because what Mr. Seldin has to say about the problems is intelligent—but diffuse in presentation.

Slobodkin, Louis. Yasu and the Strangers. Macmillan, 1965. 35p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

R
K-2
An engaging read-aloud story set in Japan. The smallest boy in a busload of schoolboys has a small adventure when he is on a school-sponsored sightseeing trip. Yasu is followed by a little deer he has fed; the deer is lost, and Yasu soon realizes he is lost also. So are some tall foreigners. Yasu solves everybody's problem by appealing to a policeman on the grounds of the temple, and the helpful policeman solves all difficulties. Admirable behavior, pleasant relationships all around. There is no explanation of the fact that Yasu is the only child in the group who is not in uniform.

Southall, Ivan. Ash Road; illus. by Clem Seale. Walck, 1966. 154p. \$3.75.

Ad
6-9
A story about a bush fire that gets out of hand and ravages the dry countryside in an Australian summer. Three boys who are camping start the fire through their carelessness; they run off, but later come into contact with other children whose lives are being disrupted or endangered as the fire rages, and they finally admit their guilt. The book is constructed like a mosaic: the author presents a character here, a situation there, paths crossing, and a pattern forming; there is, save for the actions of the three culprits, no real story line. Despite the plethora of incidents and the fragmentation of construction, the book has suspense, but it wears thin after repeated cliffhanger situations.

Streatfeild, Noel. On Tour; An Autobiographical Novel of the 20's. Watts, 1965. 168p. \$5.95.

R
8-
A sequel to A Vicarage Family, and just as enjoyable as the author's description of her childhood; here the account of the Strangeways family is picked up at the end of World War I. Isobel is an artist, Louise is getting married, and Victoria (the author) is prepared to battle at the vicarage on behalf of her desire to be an actress. Surprisingly, no battle. The autobiography goes on, with a sort of wry relish, to describe Victoria Strangeways' theatrical career: her flapper days in London

while studying, the local tour, and the tours in Africa and Australia. A vivid picture of the nineteen-twenties, of theatrical life, and of the Strangeways family.

Talbot, Charlene Joy. Tomás Takes Charge; illus. by Reisie Lonette. Lothrop, 1966. 191p. \$3.50.

R
4-7 The story of two orphans in New York City. For days Tomás and Fernanda had been by themselves, the hope that their father would come dwindling each day; finally they hid. Rather than be taken by the dreaded Welfare people, they hid in an abandoned top-floor apartment in the market district and lived on what scraps Tomás could bring home; although Tomás was only eleven, he had to fend for both, since Fernanda had a neurotic fear of going outdoors. Tomás made friends with a young illustrator who used him as a model, and it was through Miss Barbara that changes for the better came: a doctor for Fernanda, a place for the two to live where they could have supervision with some measure of privacy, and a meeting with the Welfare people—who turned out to be helpful and sympathetic. The ending is realistic—their father has been killed in a traffic accident, so there is no last-minute reprieve. The children are to be supervised by a former landlady, a situation for which the reader is prepared by her previous kindness and concern. Very moving, quite believable. Wonderful neighborhood atmosphere, good writing style, and a sustained pace in the development of the plot.

Teicher, Elizabeth. April's Year. Norton, 1966. 174p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.28 net.

Ad
6-9 April Schmitt describes her sophomore year. Although April has her problems—too tall, never had a date, hopelessly smitten with admiration for a lofty senior—this is more a family story than a story of adolescent maturing. The family scenes are realistic; the family relationships are warm despite an occasional acid note. The strength of the book is that it does not succumb to formula completely; the handsome senior, for example, does not suddenly realize that April has charm, and the love affair of April's older sister just dies away. The weakness is in the style of writing, which is sprinkled with trite phrases and such elaborations as, "When I turned into the big, square, old house I call home. . . ."

Telfer, Dorothy. About Salt; illus. by Felix Palm. Melmont, 1965. 44p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

M
3-5 A slight treatment of the subject, many of the ten chapters consisting of one page of print; the introductory chapter seems just a random compilation of notes, quotes, and odd facts. Some of the illustrations have a technical adequacy, but very few are informative. The writing style is adequate: straightforward and simple, with only an occasional awkward phrase.

Thayer, Jane. The Lighthearted Wolf; pictures by Seymour Fleishman. Morrow, 1966. 30p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.14 net.

M
K-2 A picture book with a slight storyline, a light style of writing, and illustrations that are lively but scratchy. William Washington Wolf is charming but irresponsible; while his twin has already a family and cubs

of his own, William stays on in the old family cavestead. Urged to fend for himself, he tries hunting and has moderate success; cowed by a caribou, William is told to stay home and mind his little brothers and sisters while his parents go hunting. When the family food supply is threatened by a grizzly, William surprises himself and impresses his parents by becoming fighting mad and frightening the grizzly away. Heartened, William decides to go off and start his own life as an independent adult.

Trease, Geoffrey. This Is Your Century. Harcourt, 1966. 343p. illus. \$6.95.

R
8- An impressive twentieth-century history—chiefly of the western world—written in an easy but quite dignified style, with good organization of material and a reasonable maintenance of objectivity. The author focuses on events in Great Britain and in the United States, yet gives full accounts of European or Asian political events of major importance or of concern to the west. The varied illustrative material is excellent; the most interesting quality of the book is a vivid and reiterated sense of the weaving together of men and events, at times affected by a relentless current, at times affected by dramatic accident. The author discusses men, wars, depression, suffragettes, strikes, flappers, bombs, apartheid, Wally Simpson; he is not sentimental enough to sound nostalgic to the young reader, which will probably make them enjoy the book all the more.

Vander Boom, Mae M. Miracle Salt; illus. by Erwin Schachner. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 64p. \$3.50.

M
4-6 A book that covers quite adequately the uses of salt in history (as money, as a charm, et cetera) in industry and agriculture, as a food, as a factor in good health, and so on. The rather gushy writing style and poor organization of material limit both the readability and the usefulness of the book, further limited by the poor indexing. There are, for example, no entries under cooking, diet, food, health, or table salt; citations that refer to human ingestion of salt are listed under "salt, common," under which is the indented entry "an essential to life." Illustrations are mediocre.

Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). A New and Different Summer. T. Y. Crowell, 1966. 299p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-9 Another story about Katie Rose, now sixteen. Katie Rose is given responsibility for keeping house for her five siblings when her widowed mother has to go to Ireland. She is delighted at the prospect of a culinary carte blanche, having always been ashamed of her mother's second-hand buys and groceries in bulk, of dull food and of gifts from her grandfather's farm. The meals Katie Rose provides are exotic, expensive, and inadequate; her money disappears and she learns the lesson that only personal experience could provide. Subplots: a mild love interest, a spat with grandfather, a minor crisis with one of the younger children. The writing has an easy flow, but the story moves slowly; it has the appeals of familiar characters, a modest home setting, and realistic events, but the main theme (Katie Rose's menus and shopping extravaganzas) is somewhat belabored.

Reading for Parents

- Children's Book Council. Aids to Choosing Books for Children. Special lists, general lists, and media. \$.15 per copy; 50 or more copies, \$.10 each. Order from the Children's Book Council, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10010.
- Dalgleish, Alice. "The Child is Father to the Man." Saturday Review, August 21, 1965.
- Hickok, Helen. "As Children Talk, So Shall They Read." Family Circle, March, 1966.
- Krebs, Robert and Krebs, Marguerite. "When Should a Child Learn to Read?" Parents' Magazine, April, 1966.
- Larrick, Nancy. "The All White World of Children's Books." Saturday Review, September 11, 1966.
- _____. "Phonetic Alphabets." Parents' Magazine, October, 1965.
- Levinson, Abraham. The Mentally Retarded Child. Day, 1965. 187p. \$4.50.
- Myers, Donald. "Paperback Bookstore." School and Community, December, 1965.
- National Council of Parents and Teachers. PTA Guide to What's Happening in Education. Eva H. Grant, ed. Scholastic Book Services, 1965. 310p. paper. \$1. A compilation of material from the PTA Magazine.
- Newman, Robert. "The Kindergarten Reading Controversy." Elementary English, March, 1966.

The Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago announces that

A CRITICAL APPROACH TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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