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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

May, 1966

Number 9

New Titles for Children and Young People

Albrecht, Lillie V. The Spinning Wheel Secret; illus. by Joan Balfour Payne. Hastings House, 1965. 124p. \$2.95.

M
4-5
A story set in colonial times in Hatfield, Massachusetts; here Joan Tower is sent to live with her grandfather while her father is negotiating with the Indians who have captured his wife. With two older brothers, Joan is a true tomboy; she realizes, when she must care for her grandfather, that the womanly skills are not to be despised. With patient instructors, Joan learns to use a spinning wheel, although she doesn't want her brothers to know. When she sees her mother again, Joan immediately confides her spinning wheel secret. The story has a pattern of weaknesses, none serious but combining to limit appeal. The action is often abrupt and occasionally seems contrived; the dialogue is uneven in quality—sometimes sounding appropriate, sometimes obtrusively modern. The illustrations are stiff and awkward.

American Heritage Magazine. Americans in Space; by the editors of American Heritage Magazine; narr. by John Dille; in consultation with Philip S. Hopkins. American Heritage, 1965. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net

R
7-
A good review of space vehicles and space exploration in this country, with a first chapter that skims the history of man's interest in space and—perhaps because it covers too long a period to be so treated—is superficial in coverage. For example, the chapter mentions Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo but not Brahe. A second chapter is devoted to the pioneer work of Goddard; the major part of the text describes in detail, and very competently, the vehicles, the training program of the astronauts, the planning and purpose of the first manned flights, and the dramatic story of the first flights. The text concludes with the 1963 flight of Gordon Cooper in the Faith 7. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

Andersen, Hans Christian. The Ugly Duckling; tr. by R. P. Keigwin; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Scribner, 1965. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.31 net.

R
4-6
A picture book version of the familiar story; the illustrations are softly colored, delicate yet strong—quite charming. The Keigwin translation, although adequate, has an occasional word or phrase that seems obtrusive. For example, the old duck comments, "I'll bet it's a turkey

egg. That's how I was bamboozled . . ." and when the ducklings are receiving instruction in etiquette, their mother says, "Look slippy and make a nice bow to the old duck over there."

Apsler, Alfred. The Sun King; Louis XIV of France. Messner, 1965. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.19 net.

R
8- A biography of Louis the Fourteenth, written in a solid style, with little fictionalization save for dialogue. The subject is viewed with candor, his virtues and his faults being described and documented in impartial detail. A table of important dates, a list of suggestions for further reading, and extensive relative index (in very small print) are appended.

Arthur, Ruth M. A Candle in Her Room; illus. by Margery Gill. Atheneum, 1966. 212p. \$3.95.

M
6-8 A romantic story for girls, each of the four parts being told by a member of the family. First Melissa describes the inheritance that brings her parents to Wales at the turn of the century, then her niece Dilys speaks; again, Melissa, now a woman of middle-age. Last, Nina, the daughter of Dilys. The style is very good, and the story will have appeal because of the span of generations, because of the drama of Melissa's betrothed being snatched by her evil sister Judith, and Melissa's being unable to walk until she must search for the child (Nina) who has disappeared in Poland during World War II. All very much the better-woman's-magazine fiction appeal; the weakness is that one aspect of the story is not convincing, and it is an important part of the story line. Evil sister Judith is in rapport with an old and somehow evil doll, Dido; along with this semi-oodoo doll goes the candle-burning. Dido continues to have an evil influence until Nina, torn between love for the doll and the realization that it is looming in her dreams and destroying her equanimity, burns it. It just isn't convincing; Melissa, as a child, sees the doll for the first time and is immediately revolted—but with no real reason given.

Bason, Lillian. Isabelle and the Library Cat; illus. by Kurt Werth. Lothrop, 1966. 20p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

R
4-6
yrs. A read-aloud book with attractive illustrations and a modest text that has the dual charm of being realistic and unpretentious. Short, simple, and satisfying, this is the story of a very timid little girl of four who felt at home in the children's room of the library next door to her house. Too shy to return the librarian's greeting, Isabelle couldn't bring herself to mention the charm of the library cat; when Hugo was afraid to jump down from the tall grandfather clock, Isabelle spoke up and helped get him down. Although nothing explicit is said, the book gives a picture of a most understanding adult in the librarian who makes Isabelle feel welcome but, recognizing her timidity, never forces a response.

Brett, Grace Neff. The Picture Story and Biography of Tom Paine; illus. by Robert C. Frankenberg. Follett, 1965. 142p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.10 net.

M
5-7 One of a series in which the major part of the book, an unillustrated and fictionalized biography, is preceded by a brief factual outline-biography, illustrated in full color and printed on glossy paper. The biography that follows is an amplification of the outline; the style is rather flat, with occasional limp dialogue. For example, Paine comments at the age of thirty on a discussion group to which he belongs, "I always enjoy my evenings with my respectable, sensible, and jolly friends." The biography does not characterize Paine vividly; it does give information about details of his life and his writing and it does give background about the Revolutionary War.

Brink, Carol (Ryrie). Andy Buckram's Tin Men; illus. by W. T. Mars. Viking, 1966. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

Ad
5-6 A fanciful story grows out of a fairly realistic beginning, the turning point being rather sudden, but the abruptness being mitigated by humor. Andy, a highly inventive boy of twelve, builds a robot, but he doesn't think much of Campbell (named for the soup cans out of which he is largely composed) and builds another. Then a girl-robot; finally, a fourth and last tin man, this one able to row a boat. A sudden flood separates Andy and a friend of his and a baby cousin (each of the three separately) from their families, and they land on a deserted island with the four robots, who have come (more or less) alive after having been electrified by lightning. Campbell, for example, holds up his arms for hugs, and rescues the baby when she is threatened by a bear. The story is pleasant, the light humor in exposition and dialogue alleviating considerably the repetitive quality of the writing.

Brinsmead, Hesba Fay. Pastures of the Blue Crane. Coward-McCann, 1966. 250p. \$3.95.

R
8-10 A long junior novel, naive in one sense, sophisticated in another—and very good reading. A book set in Australia, with a plot both romantic and provocatively different. Amaryllis Merewether has lived in boarding schools since she was three, never seeing her father; her mother is dead. At the age of sixteen, she is told by a lawyer that she has inherited half her father's fortune; the other half belongs to a man sitting across the room. This impoverished pensioner is her grandfather. The two go off to an inherited property and find the joys of family life, belonging, creative work, friendly neighbors, the beauty of nature, et cetera. The exotic quality of the topography and flora frequently described save the exposition from dullness, and the important message and theme woven through all this Utopia is race prejudice. Ryl's kindest friend is Perry, who is a quartercaste; Ryl is incensed at the occasional barbed remarks directed at Perry, but he takes such remarks very calmly. (In fact, he's almost too good to be true.) It becomes increasingly clear to the reader that everybody but Ryl knows that she has some colored ancestry, and that this has some connection with her father's unfatherly behavior. By the time Ryl does find this out, she has been strengthened by Perry's calm dignity and can feel that she is no less a person. The fact that Perry turns out to be Ryl's brother seems slightly contrived; the fact that Ryl is hardly shaken by her discovery seems a reaction unbelievably mature in a girl so young. However, the familial relationships, the peer group camaraderie, the high moral tone, and the

message of the intrinsic worth of man all give the book strength.

Brotherton, R. O. Me 'n' Steve; illus. by John Falter. Macmillan, 1965. 151p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

M
5-6 An episodic description by Joey Larkin of the adventures and mild disasters experienced by him and his inseparable pal, Steve. The style is pedestrian; the humor is at times effective, but through most of the book the humor seems forced and is dependent on something going wrong: the acrobatic act that ends in chaos, the invention that proves a flop, or the production of Romeo and Juliet in which the records get switched and the boys play "On, Wisconsin."

Burchardt, Nellie. Project Cat; illus. by Fermin Rocker. Watts, 1966. 66p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

R
4-6 The story of a stray cat that was cared for in a housing project in which pets were not allowed. Of the small group of girls who spotted the cat under a bush, it was quiet Betsy who took the initiative. Worried by the fact that the cat was pregnant and cold weather coming, the children were emboldened; they circulated a petition, presented it to the civic authorities, and effectuated a change in ruling. This is the story line, and it is adequate, static in writing but realistic in milieu and dialogue. The illustrations show haphazard groupings of white and Negro children; Betsy is Negro, her best friend white. There are, of course, an increasing number of books in which only the illustrations show that a character, or characters, are Negro; in this book the pictures deftly show that the children all seem to be in the same socioeconomic bracket, and that their differences or bonds are those between children, not between children of different races.

Campbell, Hope. Liza. Norton, 1965. 186p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.28 net.

R
7-10 How nice to find a junior novel that doesn't follow a pattern. Liza is short, slightly plump, somewhat bored by the beach vacation to which she had looked forward; she is delighted when her mother arranges a job in a restaurant-theatre and she promptly falls in love with Michael. Michael returns her interest, but just as promptly falls in love with the beauty who takes Liza's place after she's been fired. First deviation from formula: Michael does not discover Rosalind is heartless, but turns back to Liza after her rival leaves. Liza doesn't, secondly, discover that Michael is superficial: she discovers that he was swept off his feet by Rosalind and that she might as well swallow her pride and admit it. There is a small boy who meanders through the story, entertaining but not made too cute. No stress between mother and daughter, either.

Cavanna, Betty. Doug of Australia; photographs by George Russell Harrison. Watts, 1965. 69p. (Around the World Today Books) \$3.95.

M
5-6 Illustrated with photographs taken by the author's husband, an account of a few days in the life of an eleven-year-old boy living on a cattle station in the Australian outback. Doug goes on an overnight cattle muster with several aborigine cowboys; at school the next day he recalls that a calf is missing. He goes off alone to find the animal, and has to

stay out overnight when his horse bolts; he eats—let the squeamish beware!—raw caterpillars, and is found the next morning by his aborigine friends. The book gives quite a bit of information about outback life; it is weakened by the fact that it tries to do more, both text and photographs moving occasionally and briefly to a small town and to a large city. The other weakness of the book is that it uses photographs in places where there are textual references to the past, a somewhat confusing pattern; for example, when Doug is left alone when his horse bolts, he remembers that last spring Rex had taught him how to throw a boomerang and, again, that he had been told that witchetty grubs (caterpillars) were good to eat. The sequence of photographs at a time when Doug is by himself, therefore, is Doug turning over rocks, Doug thinking, Doug sucking eucalyptus root, Rex throwing a boomerang while Doug watches, Doug eating a raw-linga, and Johnnycake (a cowboy) and Doug looking for a caterpillar.

Clare, Helen. Five Dolls in a House; illus. by Aiki. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 142p. \$3.75.

M
4-5
A fanciful story about five dolls and a toy monkey belonging to Elizabeth, to whom the dolls refer as "Mrs. Smart, the new landlady" of the doll house. The story has no plot line, but is episodic, the humor dependent on the depiction of the dolls as distinct personalities: one is French and has an accent, the monkey is lower caste ("Now I goes and ties it to the chimney . . ."), and Vanessa is an aproned housewife. The episodes and situations are not intrinsically funny, and the dialogue seems dull and repetitive. Helen Clare is a pen name for Pauline Clarke, whose Return of the Twelves is a book in which fantasy is very deftly handled.

Clark, Mary Elizabeth. Etiquette, Jr.; by Mary Elizabeth Clark and Margery Closey Quigley; rev. ed.; illus. by Luciana Roselli. Doubleday, 1965. 212p. \$3.50.

NR
7-9
A book of etiquette addressed to the young adolescent, giving quite detailed and commonsense advice. The book is, however, weakened by the fact that it has a condescending tone and a stilted approach. "Drinking, party crashing, petting in bedrooms and parked cars, and all the other third-rate forms of behavior are considered vulgar, fundamentally because of their consequences. The doors of good society gradually close, and the invitations are not sent to people who do third-rate things. Integer vitae—Horace wrote the words back in the days of the Roman Empire, and the boys in boarding schools have been singing them ever since because they know that Horace was right." Not only condescending, but apparently class-conscious, and certainly assuming sophistication on the part of the "up to 14" audience claimed on the jacket. Again, the gist of the advice is sound; the style, discursive to an extent that almost hides the fact that the organization of material is quite good. The index is adequate, although some citations seem only padding. Why, for example, have an entry for John Bunyan, to whom is made the most brief reference: ". . . go through an expensive sickness or two, and cross most of the landmarks described at length by John Bunyan in the Pilgrim's Progress."?

Cole, Stephen. The Growing Season. Ariel, 1966. 150p. \$2.95.

Ten-year-old David Armstrong describes the events of a summer;

NR
5-6 most of the story is episodic, but it builds into a story-line toward the close of the book. The style is good, and there are some aspects of the familial relationships that are sympathetic, although others are so poor as to be puzzling. For example, the book begins with David and his brother locking their sister (age seven) in a homemade pillory, then going off home for another ploy. They bore holes in the ceiling of their bedroom and carefully rig a trap: "Naturally Mom went over to the bureau and pulled the drawer open, and our booby trap worked like a charm. That stream of water came pouring down on her bare back, and Mom yelled in a most satisfactory manner." David, at the close of the story, helps trap a criminal who is a public official; the ethical problems and the community interest are laudable, but the introduction of a man (so powerful politically that he is known just as "The Man") lessens the impact. The family has suffered persecution because of the investigation of the crime, but the end of this and the solution to the problem are reached, not by due process of law, but because The Man has decided that enough is enough.

Coombs, Charles Ira. Project Apollo; Mission to the Moon; with 34 photographic illus. Morrow, 1965. 96p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

R
6-9 Although this description of a moon flight is imaginary, it has the suspense engendered by a dangerous reality. Mr. Coombs is authoritative about scientific and technical aspects of the flight; he gives an added dimension to the book by a repeated identification with the three astronauts: what they hear, see, feel, and fear. The illustrations are quite good, although there could be more diagrams; for example, the textual description of the parts of the Saturn-V and the Apollo would be clarified by labeled pictures. The book includes descriptions of the spacecraft, take-off, flight stages, moon orbit, landing and exploration, reunion with the command module, escape from lunar gravity, return flight, and re-entry.

Cottrell, Leonard. Crete: Island of Mystery; illus. by W. T. Mars. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 67p. \$3.50.

R
6-9 There have been many descriptions of the treasures unearthed at Crete, yet this is so enthusiastic and intelligent a book that it seems fresh material. The author gives good background about archeology and the exploration of the sites of classical legends; he gives information about the history and the legends of the Mycenaeans and Minoans, and he gives a vivid description of the palaces and frescoes. An index is appended.

Daugherty, Charles Michael. Benjamin Franklin; Scientist-Diplomat; illus. by John Falter. Macmillan, 1965. 41p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

R
3-5 Although this very simple biography stresses Franklin's scientific research and practical inventions, it gives a quite adequate biographical outline and a quite lively view of Benjamin Franklin. Barely fictionalized, and not written down. The illustrations are a joy: handsome, lightly touched with humor, and delightful in period detail.

De Angeli, Arthur C. The Empty Barn; by Arthur C. De Angeli and Marguerite

De Angeli; illus. by Marguerite De Angeli. Westminster, 1966. 60p. \$3.25.

M
3-4 A book with soft, sweetly old fashioned illustrations and with a static but pleasant enough text. A family of five moves to the country—Mother, Father, and five-year-old Kate in one house; Grandmother and Grandfather in their own little house close by. But the barn is empty. The family buys a goat and a kid, they are given a kitten and they keep a stray dog; Kate is given a mare for her sixth birthday. And so on; the duck has ducklings, the mare has a foal, the cat has six kittens, the beagle has eight puppies. "Now, it seemed that every part of the barn was filled with life. Kate named Babe's colt Turk, because he was a Tartar and because he was part Arabian. And there were still the two goats, Meredith and Missy, who had been first in the empty barn." A flat ending to a book which has little to offer but attractive pictures and a catalog of animals being acquired.

De Gasztold, Carmen Bernos. The Creatures' Choir; tr. from the French and with a foreword by Rumer Godden; decorations by Jean Primrose. Viking, 1965. 69p. \$3.50.

R
6- A collection of charming poems, delicately illustrated. In each brief selection a different animal is addressing God; both in the nature of the address and in the style of writing are reflections of the nature of the creature. The lion, self-assured and regal, speaks as though to a fellow monarch who shares the problems of rule; the repetitive parrot talks of his very repetitiveness. Fresh, imaginative, and evocative writing; clearly, a loving and careful job of translation.

De Leeuw, Adele Louise. Miss Fix-It. Macmillan, 1966. 229p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.74 net.

R
7-9 Annis Reeve is a perfectly nice girl with a peculiarity—in her mother's eyes. She likes to tinker with tools and machines, and during the summer at the beach she sets up a repair service. She's Miss Fix-it in another sense, too; she is officious, and her friends and family put up with it but don't enjoy it. A series of incidents forces on Annis the realization that people don't like being told how to run their lives, and she painstakingly begins to change her pattern. The family relationships are excellent, the story has a nice balance of interests: romantic, social, and educational.

Dodds, John W. Everyday Life in Twentieth Century America. Putnam, 1965. 254p. illus. \$3.50.

R
8- A delight to read because it is written with style, wit, sophistication, and competence: a book that really captures the styles, the changes, the sentiment, and the sentimentality of our century. Illustrations give (with nostalgia for the older reader) diverting scenes of old movies, reproductions of old catalog ads, photographs of sheet music, architectural styles, the first cars. All that, and humor, too: "Still more popular and folksy and sentimental were the soporific banalities of Edgar Guest . . . He manufactured by the mile his homespun colloquialisms and his limp celebrations of God, babies, pie, and porch-sitting." Although the book will have a special appeal for adults, it has nothing that will make a young reader feel that he is not the intended audience—no element of sighing,

tender remembrance. Just crisp and amused observation. A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

Eckstein, Gustav. Everyday Miracle; illus. by Kevin McIntyre. Harper, 1965. 146p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

SpR
6-9 A rambling and rather engaging book about the author's experiences with animals; the author is on the faculty of a medical school. Most of the anecdotes are about birds—and most of the episodes are concerned with remarkable behavior that shows understanding, adaptation, instinct, or intelligence. The writing style is almost lyric, and the author's deep affection for his subjects is evident: "She is a strange little being. . . . She kisses my hand with the same sudden fire with which she has kissed it all these last days. Sometimes I think she is very, very happy. Sometimes I think she is sad. Now she is off once more to watch the pigeons of the temple as they fly above the temple roof." The subject? A pigeon.

Emerson, Donald Conger. Span Across a River. McKay, 1966. 245p. \$4.50.

M
8-10 A novel about loyalty, witch-hunts, labor unions, shipping, friendship, and high school. And family relationships. Much of the story is interesting, and certainly much of it deals with problems that are seldom treated; it is unfortunate that there is so much in the way of problems, relationships, and sub-plots that the story line is cluttered. John, running for class president, has problems when his rival injects into the campaign the issue of communism; John's father is testifying at committee investigations into the Milwaukee union of which he is business agent. John is persecuted in school; it affects his school work, his participation in track, his relations with his girl, and his realization of what his Negro friend, Wally, puts up with. The family is endangered, John and his father getting into a lurid and tense situation when a communist tries to kill John's father and John saves his life, the communist being killed by an FBI man. John's father, smeared by the papers, proves to be a patriotic infiltrator. This is not an anti-communist story, however, but one in which the classroom discussions of loyalty and the American Way make clear that the author is taking a stand for the open mind, the intelligent query, and an advocacy of a practicing belief in the Constitution. This would have made two good books.

Farley, Carol. Mystery of the Fog Man; illus. by Joseph Escourido. Watts, 1966. 116p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

R
6-8 A very good mystery story, tightly constructed and written in a style that is believable as a story told by a thirteen-year-old boy. Kipper is visiting his cousin Larry for the first time in the Lake Michigan town where Larry's father is chief of police. When some money is stolen from a lake ship's safe, the boys do some investigating on their own. Kipper is sure the culprit is the "fog man" who shambles about the beach; the fog man, it develops, has nothing whatsoever to do with the story except to provide false clues. The money is recovered by Larry in a believable way; his zeal is caused by the fact that he feels his father could have a more interesting life alone (Larry is motherless) and that helping his father will ease his own feeling that he limits his father's opportunities.

Forsee, Aylesa. Men of Modern Architecture; *Giants in Glass, Steel and Stone*.

Macrae, 1966. 222p. illus. \$4.50.

R
8- A collective biography, the subjects being Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, Eric Mendelsohn, Richard Neutra, Edward Durrell Stone, and Eero Saarinen. The biographical sketches are focused on each architect's work, although there is an adequate amount of information about personal life. The author writes competently about the training and career of each man, and describes their philosophies and their places in architectural history as well as describing the things they built. The photographs are good, but there are many buildings described that might well be illustrated; the one slight weakness of the book is that so much is described that, toward the end of each biography (when the architect received many commissions) there is a crowded catalog of buildings. A glossary and a selected bibliography are appended.

Fry, Rosalie Kingsmill. The Castle Family; with drawings by Margery Gill. Dutton, 1966. 128p. \$3.50.

R
6-8 A family-mystery-countryside story for girls, set in England in an old castle. What could be more satisfying than an only child—Richenda—and a motherless one, finding an advertisement that provides her beloved father with an experienced and pretty assistant for his nursery. A widow, and with a daughter just Richenda's age. Instant rapport all around leads to a satisfying marriage; the mystery is solved (believably) with the help of experts, and the advent of baby brother adds a last happy note. Fortunately, the author's style is good enough to keep the story from being too sweet; dialogue is natural, and it is quite refreshing to have a deviant from the adjustment-to-stepmother formula. Mrs. Brown-ing is an intelligent woman who is sensitive to Richenda's feelings and who obviously enjoys the prospect of another daughter.

Garfield, Leon. Jack Holborn; illus. by Antony Maitland. Pantheon Books, 1965. 250p. \$3.75.

Ad
7-10 A blood-and-thunder eighteenth century sea story, full of derring-do, pirate oaths, a fortune in jewels, a trek through forest and swamp, a ship wrecked on a reef, a case of mistaken identity, et cetera, et cetera. Jack tells the story of stowing away on a ship out of Bristol, a ship taken by pirates before the boy has even left his hiding place. Their leader dangles before Jack the promise that he can tell him how he came to be a foundling waif and who he really is. There are some wonderfully colorful (and exaggerated) characters in the story, a plethora of improbable incidents, and enough gore and duplicity for a dozen novels. Style, yes, but there is more relentless melodrama than some readers can absorb.

Grifalconi, Ann. City Rhythms. Bobbs-Merrill, 1966. 30p. illus. \$4.95.

Ad
K-2 An oversize book with attractive illustrations spread across facing pages—a bit overpowering at close range, but superb for showing a group. The story is set in an interracial neighborhood in the crowded inner city. Small Jimmy can't quite understand what his father means by the statement that the city has a beat and a rhythm of its own. As he plays or lies in bed, he thinks about it; one day he experiments with a range of sounds made by thumping various objects. Other children join him, thumping

happily away; Jimmy then realizes that this is the rhythm of the city, the combination of a thousand sounds. The setting is good, and the easy friendship between Negro and white children is shown with no contrivance; the story line is weak, especially in the ending.

Haviland, Virginia. Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Czechoslovakia; retold by Virginia Haviland; illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Little, 1966. 90p. \$2.95.

R
3-6 Five stories, told in a pleasant, direct style: The Twelve Months, Kuratko the Terrible, The Wood Fairy, The Shepherd's Nosegay, and The Three Golden Hairs of Grandfather Know All. Sources are cited, both secondary and primary. The format is handsome; the illustrations are most attractive, appropriate for the genre as well as for the Czechoslovakian setting.

Hays, Wilma Pitchford. Pontiac; Lion in the Forest; illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. Houghton, 1965. 190p. \$2.20.

Ad
4-6 A heavily fictionalized biography, adequately written; the illustrative material includes some maps. The author, in describing Pontiac's tribal leadership, his alliance with the French, and his conciliation with the English after the fall of Quebec, seems biased, although not adulatory. A pronunciation key is appended.

Hutchins, Ross E. The Travels of Monarch X; illus. by Jerome P. Connolly. Rand McNally, 1966. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.08 net.

R
3-5 The description of a southward migration of a Monarch butterfly, based on the recorded arrival in Mexico. The Monarch, tagged near Toronto, Canada, was released by the youngster who found it; many of the incidents on its flight are, the author explains, imaginary but probable. Mr. Hutchins is an excellent observer, but his writing is at its best when it is strictly factual. The illustrations are very attractive, particularly some pages done in silhouette.

Juster, Norton. Alberic the Wise; And Other Journeys; pictures by Domenico Gnoli. Pantheon Books, 1965. 68p. Trade ed. \$3.50. Library ed. \$3.49 net.

SpR
5-7 Three fanciful tales in a beautifully illustrated book in handsome format; the drawings, in black and white, have a combination of ornate detail and perceptive touches of realism that echo the mood and style of the writing. Alberic, the young hero of the first tale, is inspired by an old traveler to go off and see the world; after all his adventures Alberic—now himself an old man—only begins to discover what wisdom really is. The second story has an Oscar Wildeish ending to a delightful fantasy of a lad who moves into the world of a painting; the third tale describes the monarchs of two neighboring kingdoms who are totally different and who find, separately, that their ideas of happiness are based on what they have had in the past and what, therefore, they expect of life.

Leighton, Margaret (Carver). Voyage to Coromandel. Farrar, 1965. 210p. \$3.25.

A romantic and colorful journey is described in a story with emphasis on the incidents of the trek rather than on a strong story line. Eric and

R
7-9 Olaf, young Viking brothers, are serving as pages at the court of King Alfred although they know they are officially hostages. The boys go as part of the train sent by Alfred on a pilgrimage to Rome and then to Coromandel, where there is a Christian shrine. On the long voyage there are adventures (believable) and exotic sights (vividly described); at the end of the long journey the brothers have grown to manhood. Olaf stays in Coromandel as the husband of an Indian princess; Eric looks forward to England, realizing that he thinks of it as a loved home.

Les Tina, Dorothy. Flag Day; illus. by Ed Emberley. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 34p. \$2.95.

R
2-3 A simply written and adequately illustrated book on the history of our national flag, the evolution of Flag Day, and the most important rules about the use of the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance is included. The text is continuous; material is neatly organized; the style is quite straightforward (with the Betsy Ross story given as a possible event rather than as a fact) although the appropriate note of patriotism is just a bit heavily laid on in a place or two. "To an American who loves his country every day is flag day."

Maxwell-Lefroy, C. The Land and People of Burma; with twenty-four photographs and a map. Macmillan, 1965. 94p. \$2.50.

NR
7-9 Published in England in 1963, a book that is one of the weakest in a series (The Lands and People Series) that bears the same name as, and should not be confused with, the titles in the Lippincott Portraits of the Nations series. The text is patronizing in tone and the writing is often flowery in style, with the lack of up-to-date coverage a great limitation to the usefulness of the book; such usefulness as it may have will probably be only where nothing else is available. Style: "Burma is truly a Fairyland, Nature's magic shop window. There is something of everything for everyone who has wit and daring to find, wonder and enjoy. But Fairyland would be a dull place without Fairies so let us meet some of the happy and colourful people who live in Burma. I can tell you for a start that most of them do believe in fairies." The book gives geographical material, some information about legends and folkways, and historical coverage—much of it from the British point of view—up to 1962. A one-page index is appended.

Mizumura, Kazue. I See the Winds. T. Y. Crowell, 1966. 34p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.65 net.

Ad
3-5 A small book with a brief poem on each page, and on the facing page an illustration. The illustrations vary from attractive to lovely; the poetry—free verse, with a bit more body than Haiku, but with the same saturation of meaning and economy of form—ranges from adequate to good. The format may be slightly confusing at first, since the untitled pages do not seem to be either smoothly continuous or distinctly separate. That is, the first page reads: "Once again the wind rustled the young leaves and the trees turned to greet spring." "Waiting for the children, the wind pushes empty swings in the rain." the second page continues.

Norton, Andre. Steel Magic; illus. by Robin Jacques. World, 1965. 155p. \$3.50.

A fantasy about three children of today and their adventures in a

Ad 6-7 world of Arthurian legendry. Sara and her two brothers go on a picnic and find a small, deserted castle in the middle of a lake; entering it, they pass into Avalon and find that there is a connection between the triumph of good over evil in Avalon that has a corresponding fluctuation in the affairs of men. Each child, separately, braves danger with the help of a steel implement, since the forces of evil are powerless against cold iron. The writing style is good, but the construction of the plot is just enough too ornate and complicated to read smoothly.

Paradis, Adrian Alexis. You and the Next Decade; decorations by Genia. McKay, 1965. 179p. \$3.50.

Ad 8-10 The author looks ahead to the changes in industry and agriculture, in education (changes for the student and for the teacher), in the arts and sciences, in social and medical needs, and in research and the new machines and techniques that will serve to facilitate all this accelerated progress. That is a great deal to look at, and therefore this book, crammed with facts and intelligent predictions, is superficial in coverage. It is, however, well-organized and useful, and each section is quite adequate as a quick preview to the field; at the end of most chapters is a list of kinds of trained personnel that will be needed. There are, in addition to the index, several appendixes: a list of sources, divided by chapter; a list of organizations; a divided bibliography; and a quite long list of careers that cites for each the educational requirements, some occupational literature, sources for further information, and a brief description of the job itself—in some cases giving a few areas of specialization.

Peet, Creighton. The First Book of Bridges; rev. ed. Watts, 1966. 66p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

R 5-8 A revision of the 1953 title, brought up to date and quite different in format, most of the illustrations now being photographs (first rate) of which there were none in the first edition. The author does not attempt to give the principles of physical construction that Goldwater does in Bridges and How They Are Built (Scott, 1965) but he discusses the different kinds of bridges at great length. The text is clear and well-organized. A glossary, a list of notable bridges (with statistics) and an index are appended.

Piatti, Celestino, illus. Celestino Piatti's Animal ABC; English text by Jon Reid. Atheneum, 1966. 24p. \$4.50.

Ad 4-6 yrs. An ABC book that has a weak rhyming text, superb illustrations, and little use as a book for learning the alphabet, since neither layout nor text stresses letters. There is, for example, a stunning owl. Letter: U, not O. "The Ural owl/ His hoots advise/ Is wise to those/ In night's disguise." The colors of the illustrations are vivid without being brash; the work is stylized, with a wonderful balance between rich and colorful details and a bold, clean use of page space.

Pohlmann, Lillian. Love Can Say No. Westminster, 1966. 170p. \$3.50.

Ad 7-9 Although, as the title suggests, the teen-age heroine learns to say no, the important lesson she learns is that a parental "no" can mean love instead of rejection. The only child of divorced parents, Jennet is an un-

happy nonconformist and underachiever, and she is considering marriage to Danny. Her mother decides that she cannot cope and arranges to send Jennet to her father, who has married a woman with two children. Jennet goes, and she fights every inch of the way: she fights acceptance, understanding, education, and facing the fact that she has been playing the role of Tragedy Queen. Her interest in writing, her reluctant admission that her step-mother is a fond friend, and her realization that she wants her father to set limits—all these pave the way for the fact that she has gained enough perspective, when her longed-for Danny shows up, to reject both the idea of early marriage and the idea that premarital relations will demonstrate her true love. The situation and the characterizations are all quite good: not deeply drawn, but drawn with balance and sympathy. The writing is variable: dialogue is smooth, but there are some long passages in which Jennet succumbs to long and repetitive brooding thoughts, and these become rather dull.

Queen, Ellery. The Purple Bird Mystery. Putnam, 1966. 223p. \$3.75.

M
7-9 Well, it's like this. Djuna makes a new friend, Jimmy. (No last name, just Djuna.) Jimmy's father is a golf pro at the local country club, and both Jimmy and Djuna are caddies. The boys become suspicious of a man who claims to be an antique dealer, and they think the house is being searched. They turn detective, eventually calling in newspapermen who had worked with Djuna before. The family treasure is found, the culprit unmasked, the shrewd deduction leading to this being Djuna's. The Queen team writes with too practiced a hand to write badly, but the plot and the solution are both contrived.

Raskin, Ellen. Nothing Ever Happens On My Block. Atheneum, 1966. 28p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.74 net.

R
K-3 A small and entirely diverting book to read aloud or to be read by the beginning reader. Chester is a small and dour curb-sitter; glum and stony-faced, he voices his complaint. Nothing ever happens on his block. Other places, excitement—drama—ferocious lions—et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But on his block? Nothing. Meanwhile, back of Chester, action on every page: children playing, a house on fire, cops and robbers, even a parachutist landing. The small details of the drawings are very, very funny and many of them carry over from one page to another to sustain momentum. Two small girls, for example, counting as they jump rope together: 36, 98, 307, 862 and past the thousand mark. Some pages on, one collapses; later, she is borne off on a stretcher; still later she reappears magnificently bandaged.

Rey, Margret Elizabeth (Waldstein). Curious George Goes to the Hospital; by Margret and H. A. Rey. Houghton, 1966. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

R
K-2 Written in collaboration with the Children's Medical Center of Boston, this read-aloud book has the same light humor as do the other books about George; in other words, the book fulfills its purpose without being painfully purposive. George swallows a piece of a jigsaw puzzle and is hospitalized after an X-ray reveals the cause of his discomfort. He has a short but lively period of recuperation, with a Georgian mishap as a last contribution to hospital life.

Rietveld, Jane. ABC Molly; story and drawings by Jane Rietveld. Norton, 1966. 89p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.90 net.

M
4-6 A story set in a small Wisconsin town in 1829: Mineral Point, a town that had, in real life, the community of Cornish miners in which the fictional heroine lives. Molly's father thought it was nonsense to educate girls; Molly, who made up poems and wanted to be able to write them down, yearned to go to school. By cutting some of her hair and keeping a hat on, Molly was able—some of the time—to pass for her twin brother, who was just as anxious to be out of school as Molly was to be in. Her deception discovered, Molly expected punishment, but several adults persuaded her father to let her go to school thenceforth. A story adequately written and illustrated, slow in pace and with an occasional lapse into trite phraseology; the details of period and setting are interesting.

Rockwell, Anne. Gypsy Girl's Best Shoes. Parents' Magazine, 1966. 42p. illus. \$2.95.

M
K-2 A read-aloud book with illustrations that give—in small, bright detail—some vivid scenes of New York City and of the colorful racial and ethnic hodge-podge of some neighborhoods. Maggi and her parents move into a storefront home; her mother tells fortunes. Maggi is delighted with the red patent leather shoes her father has found. She wants to do a dance, but everybody she asks (mother, storekeepers, a manhole crew) is too busy; she goes to the park and dances alone, only to realize that a teacher and a group of children have been enjoying her performance. The teacher suggests that Maggi might like to be in their school, and Maggi goes off happily. The setting is interesting, but little is made of the opportunity to learn about gypsies; the tambourine, crystal ball, and typical costume are all that emerge. The story is slight and seems quite contrived as the small girl wanders about looking for an audience, then fails to notice that eleven people are watching her.

Samachson, Joseph. The Armor Within Us; The Story of Bone; illus. with photographs. Rand McNally, 1966. 192p. \$3.95

R
8- An interesting topic is discussed in an easy, smooth, and straightforward style, and discussed with authority; the text is detailed and serious, although none of the descriptions is incomprehensibly technical or difficult. Dr. Samachson discusses morphology, physiology, heredity, nutrition, endocrine secretions, surgery, et cetera, as all of these subjects are related to the animal—chiefly human—skeleton. He gives some medical history and describes, throughout the book, research and experimentation. A good glossary and an index are appended; a few advanced titles are cited for further reading.

Sommerfelt, Aimée. My Name is Pablo; tr. by Patricia Crampton; illus. by Hans Norman Dahl. Criterion Books, 1966. 143p. \$3.

R
6-9 Set in Mexico City, an unusual and colorful story. A Norwegian boy, Fredrik, and a Mexican boy, Pablo, meet and become friends. Pablo cannot afford the license he should have in order to shine shoes; he is caught and sent to a reformatory. After he has gone back to living with Fredrik's family, Pablo is picked up by two of the tough older boys who had been in the reformatory and told that he must help them sell mari-

juana. Pablo's problems end when the two boys are in an accident and he need no longer fear reprisal or persecution of his family. A candid and moving picture of the plight of the poor and of the social pressures that operate in an urban environment.

Sutcliff, Rosemary. Heroes and History; illus. by Charles Keeping. Putnam, 1966. 152p. \$3.75

R
8- Ten dramatic figures, ten vividly written descriptions of their exploits; these are not full or balanced biographies—they are not meant to be—but detailed accounts of the years and deeds of glory. There is more than enough historical background and there is, in some of the accounts, some discussion of truth versus legend and of verified sources versus gossip. The ten heroes described are Caratacus, Arthur, Alfred, Hereward, Lewellin, Owen Glyndwr, Robin Hood, William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and Montrose. Exciting stuff. There are more names and place-names than the young reader in this country can easily absorb, but they lend color even if they remain unidentified. The illustrations are Keeping's usual bold style, but they prove quite distracting when they fill a page almost completely and face a page of solid (and small) print. An index is appended.

Thomas, Shirley. Computers; Their History, Present Applications, and Future. Holt, 1965. 175p. illus. \$2.50.

Ad
9- A serious book on the development, importance, and uses of computers —adequate in coverage, but turgid with names and model numbers, and occasionally showing poor writing style. "Some years ago our government began funding the development of computers. . . . Subsequent applications have spun-off from this effort." The text does not give a lucid description of programming or of the functioning of computers; it does give a detailed report on the development of computers, an excellent account of the ways in which computers are used in government, research, industry, defense, and education, and it does suggest very soberly the problems, promises, and ubiquity of future computer use and of education for programming. A spoof of a flow-chart (how to rob a bank) is included; a reading list, a glossary, and an index (not quite complete) are appended.

Valentin, Ursula. Herr Minkepatt and His Friends; tr. by Elizabeth Roget; illus. by Josef Wilkon. Braziller, 1965. 24p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.09 net.

Ad
K-2 A read-aloud picture book with a fanciful theme, first published in Germany and illustrated with soft drawings, some in black and white, some in delicate color. An old man who loved birds, Herr Minkepatt lived in a bare attic room with a piano; he had learned to understand the speech and the songs of the birds. The neighbors complained about the noise he made, but Herr Minkepatt's playing brought the forest birds in from the cold and even helped a lost and loved canary find his way home. Then the townsfolk appreciated Herr Minkepatt, and from then on they went to him for help if a pet bird was lost. The story is pleasant in concept, but static in execution.

Vogel, Ilse-Margret. Willy, Willy, Don't Be Silly. Atheneum, 1965. 42p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.41 net.

A picture book with rhyming text in which a small boy describes his

Ad 5-6 yrs. imaginative play. Adults tell Willy not to be silly, but Willy knows there are giants and dinosaurs and bandits about. In fact, they keep him very busy; only the little girl next door shares his vision. Willy describes three episodes—routing three bandits, for example, by having the girl next door throw stale, hard doughnuts down from a tree. The writing is adequate, the illustrations lightly amusing; the idea of self-sustained imaginative play is appealing, but the episodes seem just a bit drawn-out.

Wees, Frances Shelley. Mystery in Newfoundland; illus. by Douglas Bisset. Abelard-Schuman, 1965. 158p. \$3.50.

Ad 5-7 While their father is making a geologic survey in Labrador, the Patterson family is staying at a hotel in St. John's, Newfoundland. The three oldest children, on a fishing expedition with a large party, get lost in a heavy fog; they stumble into a cave and see a mysterious figure leaving a side-cavern and sailing off. In the cavern they find a large store of treasure. Their discovery is investigated by the police; it becomes clear that the children's spying is known to the man in the cave and that their lives are in danger. The identity of the man—who has by then made an attempt to murder—is deduced by a writer staying in the hotel, a deduction based on genealogical knowledge. The writing style is adequate, as is the characterization; the plot is weak, the material about names and ancestry rather heavily interlarded. The strong aspects of the story are the very good familial and sibling relationships, the interesting material about Newfoundland, and the fact that the solution to the mystery is engineered by the police and other adults rather than by omniscient youngsters.

Weil, Ann. Eleanor Roosevelt; Courageous Girl; illus. by Gray Morrow. Bobbs-Merrill, 1965. 200p. (Childhood of Famous Americans Series) \$2.25.

M 3-5 A sugar-coated biography, not in the writing style but in the glossing-over of an unhappy childhood. The important events of Eleanor Roosevelt's life are included, but the book has a disparate amount of anecdotes about utterly unimportant events. There are, for example, eleven pages devoted to one incident: a night errand in which a small, nervous Eleanor fetches ice for an aunt who is ill. The closing pages describe, briefly but adequately, the events of Mrs. Roosevelt's adult life and the reverence and love felt for her by people the world over.

Wright, Dare. Take Me Home. Random House, 1965. 40p. illus. \$1.95.

NR K-2 A read-aloud story in a small book with photographic illustrations in black and white; as in other books by this author the pictures show posed toys and animals, both toy and real. Here a doll named Robin belongs to nobody; she lives in the woods and wears leaves or nothing; she lives on honey, berries, and sunshine; and all the animals love her. Taken home by a little girl who finds her, Robin is homesick and finds great comfort in the friendship of a toy bear. Offered a trip home by Crow, she refuses to go unless the bird will transport her new friend as well. Crow finally agrees, Robin writes a thank-you note to the girl, and the animals all welcome the little doll when she returns. The message of loyalty to a friend is nicely expressed, the story is frail and extended, and the photographs are good in quality but static in effect. The cover photograph shows the doll with a leaf tactfully covering her in fig-leaf-and-statue manner; possibly meant as a gesture of modesty, this seems only to succeed in being suggestive.

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