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THE UNIVERSITY  
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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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 19

February, 1966

Number 6

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Aesop. Aesop's Fables; selected and ad. by Louis Untermeyer; illus. by A. and M. Provensen. Golden Press, 1965. 91p. \$3.95.

R  
3-6 An oversize book with an adapted text that is nicely trimmed, the style being simple and concise but not choppy. The illustrations are profuse and lovely, some in black and white, many in full color. The double-page spread that illustrates the story of the lioness and the vixen shows, for example, a proud and fierce lioness (long dress, shoes on the two feet on which she is standing, and a smugly smiling cub in a long nightgown in her arms) confronting a fox, each of whose brood is making a comment. "I'm going to make sand pies." "I am three months old." "I want a balloon." "Look at me ride." "My name is Reynard." The pictures have an abundance of color, humor, and artistic finesse.

Aliki. A Weed Is a Flower; The Life of George Washington Carver; written and illus. by Aliki. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 28p. \$4.25.

Ad  
K-3 A read-aloud biography that is written in simple, rather dry, style and has balanced—if skimpy—coverage; the title refers to the statement (imputed to Dr. Carver) that a weed is a flower growing in the wrong place. The text is adequate; the illustrations—all of which are good and some of which are quite lovely in the use of color and mass, and in layout of text and painting—have a curious lack of reality, since many of the Negro faces look Andean or Polynesian and in few of the pictures Dr. Carver does not look like himself. One pleasant new note: Aliki paints her characters in a realistic range of skin tones.

Bailey, John. The Wonderful Dolphins; Man's Oldest Underwater Playmates and Newest Scientific Discovery. Hawthorn Books, 1965. 95p. illus. \$2.95.

Ad  
6-9 A fairly good book on a popular subject; the writing style is informal, often rambling, occasionally amusing. The photographs are not always clear; the two columns of print add to difficulty of reading. The author covers much of the material that is in Chapin's The Remarkable Dolphin (Scott, 1962), a succinctly written book that gives less popularized material (like the acts in the Marineland show) and less historical material. While The Wonderful Dolphins contains no facts about new research, it gives accurate information and it does give broader background information about some aspects of the subject. An index is appended.

Bothwell, Jean. Dancing Princess. Harcourt, 1965. 190p. \$3.50.

R  
7-9 A story for girls, set in sixteenth-century India, and comprising all requisite elements of romance: an orphaned and beautiful princess, a stolen dowry, a handsome soldier, a royal court. The Princess Alladei and her grandmother, a tyrannical and shrewd woman, travel to the court of the Emperor Akbar; en route they meet a young captain who is semi-invalid. The Emperor, realizing that the two young people are attracted to each other, persuades the captain (who refuses to marry because he is not well) to take a course of treatment. Alladei, whose mother had been a court dancer, performs for the Emperor and does a complicated, traditional dance with great success. The plot is not unusual, but it is handled nicely; characterization is quite good, and the details of place and period are masterfully pictured, the setting emerging at once as exotic and real.

Bradbury, Bianca. Laurie. Washburn, 1965. 172p. \$3.50.

Ad  
7-10 Laurie Howe is a high school senior who becomes annoyed by the fact that a new girl in school looks remarkably like her. Lisa capitalizes on the resemblance, and Laurie's annoyance grows to disturbance when she realizes that Lisa—knowing Laurie is adopted—spreads the rumor that they are really sisters. Because she is disturbed, her relationships with friends and family deteriorate; she decides to ferret out the truth at the adoption agency, but returns home without making the call, the trip into New York having given her the time and perspective to see that nothing had changed; her friends are still her friends, and her parents still love her. The story moves slowly, and the writing is uneven in quality, but the characterizations are adequate and most of the relationships are perceptively drawn.

Burn, Doris. Andrew Henry's Meadow; written and illus. by Doris Burn. Coward-McCann, 1965. 44p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

Ad  
2-4 Intended by the publisher as a read-aloud picture book, this fanciful story will, despite the format, probably be more successful as independent reading for the primary grades, since the vocabulary, the humor, and illustrative details seem appropriate for that age group. The drawings, black and white, are nicely detailed and often amusing. Andrew is an inventive child; the other four children in the family are paired, and Andrew is the loner. His marvelous creations, à la Rube Goldberg, only annoy his loved ones, so he goes off to an isolated meadow and builds a house. Other disgruntled and unappreciated children join him; for each one Andrew builds an appropriate house, and the little colony is discovered several days later by the lonely families left behind. Back home, Andrew is given a corner of the basement for his own inventions, and new marvels emerge before his family's admiring and concerted gaze. The light style and the absurd details of the pictures are amusing; the plot is on the weak side, however, with a halt in the action for the construction of the houses and a sudden switch of family attitude and subsequent behavior at the end of the story.

Burningham, John. Trubloff; The Mouse Who Wanted To Play the Balalaika; written and illus. by John Burningham. Random House, 1965. 39p. \$3.95.

M  
K-2 A picture book, illustrated with some vividly handsome pictures, about a small Russian mouse who left home to follow a gypsy who had given him a few balalaika lessons. Touched by Trubloff's zeal, the gypsy taught him

to play well; Trubloff returned home when his sister came with a message that his mother was ill. Trubloff earned a secure niche for himself and his family when he formed a family orchestra that played at the inn where the mice lived. The writing style is adequate, a bit choppy; the plot is rather weak. The illustrations are highly variable both in quality and in style.

Cameron, Polly. The 2 Ton Canary and Other Nonsense Riddles. Coward-McCann, 1965. 40p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

M  
4-6 Twenty silly riddles are illustrated by boldly stylized, page-filling pictures in black, red, and white. Sample: a full-page picture of a woodpecker on a tree trunk, with the question "What's red and goes click-click?" Answer and picture are on the next page: "A red ballpoint banana." While this is the type of nonsense humor most children relish, some of the riddles here seem a bit limp and contrived.

Casewit, Curtis. Ski Fever; How To Master the Fastest-Growing Winter Sport. Hawthorn Books, 1965. 95p. illus. \$2.95.

Ad  
7-10 A book that gives a great deal of very useful advice, written in rather pedestrian style. One section of the book gives rudimentary instructions about the first steps in skiing, while another section discusses competitive skiing. The author gives a history of the sport, describes basic equipment, and gives information about where to ski, about prices, and about transportation. Some of the photographs are instructive, but most of them are (more or less) decorative. The text is printed in double columns. A glossary and a list of books on skiing are appended.

Cavanna, Betty. Mystery at Love's Creek. Morrow, 1965. 223p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.03 net.

M  
7-9 Carlie, who has come from Illinois to visit her mother's family in the Australian outback, becomes enmeshed in the family's problems and in the mysterious robbing of a bank in the nearest town. The thief proves to be one of the family's two odd boarders; his capture is largely engineered by Carlie, aided by the American college student who provides the necessary romantic note of the book. The setting is interesting, but the incorporation of Australian terms and of information is rather obtrusive; the plot seems contrived and several of the characters exaggeratedly drawn.

Chaffin, Lillie D. Tommy's Big Problem; illus. by Haris Petie. Lantern, 1965. 28p. \$2.95.

NR  
3-5 yrs. A picture-book story about dethronement, adequately illustrated. Small Tommy sits alone, feeling that things had been better when he was the baby, and brooding about the fact that he seems either too big or too small to fill any role. An adult neighbor assures Tommy that everybody is just the right age for something; then mother asks him to help by watching the baby, who is too little to do anything. Tommy says, "'She is too small for almost anything. I will tell her a story you told me. Thank you, Mother.' Now Tommy's big problem was not really a problem at all. He understood." The story is slight, the dialogue stiff, and the turning point not convincing.

Clayton, Barbara. Pepper Pot. Funk and Wagnalls, 1965. 191p. \$3.50.

Melanie and her family come back from France to live in the parsonage

M  
7-9 of the New England town in which her grandfather owns the main industry. Melanie, who has a temper, finds the people provincial and says so; in the reaction to her opinion there are further provocations for sharp remarks. Plot two: Grandfather is having union problems. Plot three: some way must be found to educate a much-loved retarded little sister without sending her away from home. Plot four: mysterious things are happening at a supposedly deserted house. Grandfather and his men get together and he buys the deserted house, announcing that he is going to turn it into a special school. All ends are thus neatly and contrivedly tied. One positive aspect of this rather pedestrian story is the introduction of a Japanese newcomer, welcomed by Melanie's family although she is snubbed by other people; Mrs. Kimoshito accepts this with grace and commonsense.

Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Wheels; illus. by Charles Goslin. Holt, 1965. 41p. (Book To Begin On) Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

NR  
3-4 A book that discusses the importance of the wheel and describes many of the machines and vehicles based on the use of the wheel and some of the products or processes made possible by wheels. The illustrations are handsome, but they are decorative rather than informative. The pages are not numbered; several pages have a red background that does not facilitate legibility. The writing style is fairly simple and rather liberally punctuated with exclamation points; occasionally the text contains a statement that seems carelessly misleading—for example, "Hunters who had killed a bear might pull it home on a sledge . . . or the forked branch of a tree. People do so today in Siberia and other places where things haven't changed in centuries."

Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. The Hand of Apollo; illus. by Robin Jacques. Viking, 1965. 77p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

Ad  
6-7 A story set in ancient times, just after the razing of Corinth; most of the Corinthians are taken in slavery but one lad is set free by whim of the Roman general, Mummius. Dion is hidden on shipboard by Sabinus, the ship's owner; when they land the boy is spirited away by Ione, daughter of Sabinus, because it is known that Mummius has changed his mind. Dion lives on a lonely island with an elderly priestess; a shipwrecked mariner whom they rescue then takes the lad with him to safety, with more than a hint of the future betrothal of Dion and Ione. The writing style is a little heavy, the historical and period details good, the characterization adequate; the story-line is weak, lacking focus or pace.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. The Secret; illus. by Don Bolognese. Macmillan, 1965. 33p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.74 net.

M  
K-3 The story of Mark's secret is really a story of time passing: five generations of a family live in a house near the forest, and with each generation the forest and its creatures encroach on the cleared land. Mark goes alone into the woods one day and sees Indians camping where no Indians have camped for a century, and he decides that he will keep this a secret. The text is slow-moving, the illustrations adequate. The theme of the book is appealing, but the execution seems weak and the measuring of time by generations may not be clear to the audience.

Constant, Alberta Wilson. Those Miller Girls! illus. by Joe and Beth Krush. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 303p. \$4.50.

Ad  
5-7 A period story set in Kansas early in the century; the two motherless Miller girls come with their father to his new job at Eastern Kansas Classical College. The girls become very fond of Miss Kate; quiet Lou Emma hopes Papa will marry Miss Kate and does her best to foster the plan. Lou Emma, twelve, and tomboy Maddy, eleven, have their problems keeping house and they have their pleasures at the Chautauqua meetings. The plot is slight, the writing style breezy; the period details are the major asset of the book.

David, Eugene. Crystal Magic; pictures by Abner Graboff. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 28p. \$3.50.

Ad  
K-2 A tall book with interesting illustrations, chiefly collage, meant as an introduction to the subject of crystals for the read-aloud audience. The text is brief and is fairly simple but not always adequate: it points out that sand, salt, and a snowflake are all crystals, then shows what two of the three look like seen under a microscope. There are a few statements about crystalline structure and there are suggestions for starting crystal formations at home, using salt or sugar.

Faulkner, Nancy. The Secret of the Simple Code; illus. by Mimi Korach. Doubleday, 1965. 206p. \$3.25.

M  
5-7 Paul had been on the freshman football team, but now he had been in an accident and knew he couldn't play again. Bored and depressed, he welcomed the challenge of a mystery: two men at a nearby resort seemed to be leaving code messages in half-smoked cigars. With the help of two local youngsters and a visiting geologist, Paul trapped the jewel thieves. There is a modicum of value in the way Paul gets over his troubles when he has something to do—and in the way the other children help him do this—but the plot is very labored, the writing style is weak, and the introduction of information about geology and about rockhunting is quite obtrusive.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Hatters; written and illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1965. 48p. (Colonial American Craftsmen) \$2.65.

R  
5-7 A good book in the series, with a much more extensive historical section than is in most of the previous volumes about colonial industries: an emphasis due to the importance of the beaver pelts in colonial economy and to the legislative restrictions imposed by England. The section on the industry itself is detailed and interesting, although there are some instances of writing (or captioning of the handsome illustrations) that seem not quite clear. A glossary of hatter's terms and a one-page index are appended.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Wigmakers; written and illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1965. 45p. (Colonial American Craftsmen) \$2.65.

Ad  
5-7 As in the other books in this series, the text is divided into a section on the historical background for the industry and one on the techniques of manufacture. The illustrations are nicely detailed and quite informative, although in this volume there are, in the section on technique, a few pages in which both illustrative detail and textual explanation seem inadequate. A glossary of terms and an index are appended.

Friermood, Elisabeth Hamilton. Doc Dudley's Daughter. Doubleday, 1965. 238p. \$3.50.

R  
7-10 A good junior novel for girls, set at the time of the Spanish-American War. Em Dudley, who has just graduated from high school, works in the newly-built Carnegie Library and helps to start, after she has had some experience, the library's first story hour for children. She falls gently and firmly in love with the town's military hero, her love and respect for Charlie increased by the fact that he realizes that her modest brother Ashton had been the greater man. Ashton, Em's older brother, had come home from Cuba to die. The period details are excellent, the treatment of a young girl's life in a small town is balanced; there is no instant success to vitiate either the love story or the career aspect.

Gibson, Josephine. Is There a Mouse in the House? illus. by N. M. Bodecker. Macmillan, 1965. 25p. \$1.95.

Ad  
K-3 Every night, this read-aloud story in rhyme begins, as the Blakes retired, Mrs. Blake heard a sound as of mice; every night, the story ends, Mr. Blake said, "A mouse in the house? How absurd!" Within this framework is one theme, extended: mice everywhere, mice doing everything, mice by the hundreds. Mice playing cello, mice dining on caviar at a splendid table, mice making Christmas Club deposits, "Mice in all the dormer attics, Watching amateur dramatics, Playing tennis, knitting sweaters, On their tiptoes mailing letters." Slight but quite amusing, and entertainingly illustrated with precise and daffy drawings.

Glubok, Shirley. The Art of Africa; designed by Gerard Nook; special photography by Alfred H. Tamarin. Harper, 1965. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net.

R  
5-9 As in other books by Miss Glubok, the photographs of art objects are accompanied by a very simply written text that gives some information about the people and their culture and some information about art forms in general and the art object pictured. Succinct, almost over-simplified, informative text and superb illustrations. The variety and the beauty of the carvings and bronzes in particular are truly impressive. The pictures are in black and white save for the cover illustrations; the dignity of the layout enhances the book.

Goldin, Augustina R. Ducks Don't Get Wet; illus. by Leonard Kessler. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 35p. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Books) \$2.95.

Ad  
1-3 A minimal amount of nature information is given in a simple, somewhat drawn-out and repetitive text. The author explains why ducks don't get wet, suggesting a few simple home demonstrations. The feeding habits of types of ducks, some information about migration, and the fact that some ducks are deep-divers are tied together by the reiteration of the fact that ducks stay dry. A good beginning science book, a bit slow but useful.

Gurney, Nancy. The King, the Mice, and the Cheese; by Nancy and Eric Gurney. Random House, 1965. 64p. illus. (Beginner Books) \$1.95.

M  
1-2 Cartoon-style illustrations have humor and vivacity in this book for beginning independent readers. The tall tale plot is not highly original, but is an adequate framework for the story. The king, bothered by mice, went to his wise men; they brought in cats; then they brought dogs to chase the cats away; then elephants. The mice finally got rid of the elephants, and king and mice learned to get along with each other. The story has a weak point or two, one being the rather anticlimactic ending.

Herrmanns, Ralph. River Boy; Adventure on the Amazon. Harcourt, 1965. 36p. illus. \$4.50.

M  
4-6 An oversize book about an eleven-year-old Peruvian Indian boy, Manuel, who learns from his grandmother that he has a brother who left home. Manuel goes off in a canoe to find his brother. The text is based on a trip made by the author, and most of the page space is devoted to superb color photographs of Manuel and of scenes on his trip. As in many similar books about children in other lands, the text seems markedly contrived to fit the photographs and it seems awkward. For example, Manuel is greeted by a stranger in a strange town; "It was a boy carrying a turkey. Manuel would have liked very much to go up and talk to him but he was afraid of the turkey. Instead he said good-day to a chameleon sitting on a fence, but a boy carrying a duck frightened it away."

Hine, Al. A Letter to Anywhere; illus. by John Alcorn. Harcourt, 1965. 43p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.60 net.

Ad  
3-5 A book that describes the various ways civilized men used to send messages in the past, mentioning the hazards, the cost, and the uncertainty of delivery. With the penny-postal plan and the first gummed stamps suggested by Hill in England in the early nineteenth century began the modern and increasingly swift service of today. The text is straightforward and informative with an occasional note of light digression. The illustrations are bold in color and design, stylized and decorative rather than informative or realistic.

Holst, Imogen. Bach. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 94p. illus. \$3.95.

R  
6-9 A very good biography of the composer, smoothly written and interspersed with examples of his work, most of them quite simple. The author gives suggestion for playing these compositions or fragments. The book has a good balance of attention to Bach's personal life and to his music, although the former is emphasized. Miss Holst concludes with a brief chapter on the rediscovery of Bach's music many years after his death. An arrangement of the final chorus of the St. Matthew Passion and an index are appended.

Hutchins, Carleen Maley. Moon Moth; illus. by Douglas Howland. Coward-McCann, 1965. 39p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.68 net.

R  
3-6 A good description of the life-cycle of the Luna moth for the middle grades, with precisely detailed illustrations in black and white. The author combines factual accuracy with a quite flowing style of writing, bringing into her description some sense of the larger ecological picture.

Ipcar, Dahlov (Zorach). The Calico Jungle; written and illus. by Dahlov Ipcar. Knopf, 1965. 31p. \$3.50.

Ad  
K-2 An intriguing picture book because of the charming illustrations; the text is very slight. A boy enjoys looking at the figures on a patchwork quilt; most of the pages of decorative design carry only a line or two of print. "Some of the animals were not easy to see. The little boy had to look hard to see the black-and-white zebras hiding among the tree trunks." The double-page spread, black-white-and-green, shows stylized patchwork trees and zebras, very attractive. Some of the pages are in lovely colors; because the drawings represent pieces of a quilt, it seems appropriate that they are page-filling and ornately detailed.

Jarrell, Randall. The Animal Family; decorations by Maurice Sendak. Pantheon Books, 1965. 180p. \$3.50.

SpR  
5-7

A most unusual book, handsome in format and in the quiet illustrations; the pictures complement the subtle simplicity of the fanciful story. This is an idyll, a Utopia book, in which a lonely hunter sees a mermaid and gradually, gently learns to talk to her—then to love her—then to live with her. Rather, she lives with him; her people cannot understand how she can bear land-life, but she bears it through love. The hunter and the mermaid raise a bear, then a lynx, then a shipwrecked boy; together they live in harmony: a family. The author has miraculously avoided whimsy and sugar-coating; the writing style is gentle and delicate, with the nuance of latent content and a trace of pointed humor. Simple enough to read aloud to children too young to read the book by themselves, the story is probably best suited to the sensitive reader who can appreciate the perceptive writing.

Jones, John. Let's Eat Out! illus. by Herb Ruard. Melmont, 1965. 27p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

NR  
2-4

An oddly uncoordinated book, poorly illustrated. Each week end Tom and Sue take turns choosing a family treat; this time Tom has invited his new friend from Germany to join the family. The treat is an all-American meal: hamburgers, French fries, cokes or milkshakes; the manager shows the three children some of the mass-production methods. Father explains that the hamburger has Russian, German, and English origins, and that all American roots were elsewhere; Hans says he can then be a real American. End of story. This isn't a family story, although it has some positive familial values; it isn't a story about restaurants, exactly; it isn't a story about indigenous foods.

Kamm, Josephine. Young Mother. Duell, 1965. 154p. \$3.50.

NR  
8-10

A junior novel about a girl of sixteen who has an illegitimate child. Pat is the middle child of a divorced mother who dotes on her only son; Mother is embittered by her divorce, Pat's older sister is good and hard-working, Pat and her mother have a poor relationship. Pat, who goes to a church-connected home for unwed mothers, runs off with her baby, although she had agreed it should be adopted. She finds there are too many problems she cannot solve, and gives up her child to the couple who had already planned to adopt him. The author's approach is dignified and compassionate, but the story is weakened by the basic family situation. There is the implication that that situation has contributed to Pat's tragedy, but the broken home plus the drinking party and the seduction by a married stranger seem contrived, especially because Pat has a boy friend. Another weakness is the crowding of sub-plots in that part of the story in which Pat is in the home; there seems an inordinate amount of detail about the other residents.

Keating, Norma. Mr. Chu; illus. by Bernarda Bryson. Macmillan, 1965. 34p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.84 net.

M  
3-5

First published in 1938 as part of a new Reading Materials Program for the Board of Education of New York City, a story about an elderly Chinese man and a small red-headed orphan boy. The illustrations are quite charming, the story—despite some attractive and appealing aspects—quite weak. Old Mr. Chu looks forward to little Johnny's visits; Johnny (who looks, in the illustrations, like a rather young boy) sleeps in the store of Mr. Chu's friend, Mr. Lee. Mr. Chu plays and sings for Johnny; together they watch

the celebration of the Chinese New Year. Johnny's situation seems inadequately explained; a second weakness is in the writing style: "'Twang, twang, twang,' went the strings of the moon." (a musical instrument) "'Twang, twang, twang.' Mr. Chu saw Johnny's eyelids drooping. Mr. Chu saw Johnny's eyelids close. 'M-m-m,' breathed Johnny. 'Aw-hm-hm-hm,' laughed Mr. Chu." The relationship is good, the feeling about the Chinese community is warm, and the description of the holiday celebration interesting. The plodding style is redeemed by an occasional touch of humor; for example, Johnny requests Mr. Chu to play a favorite tune, The Fish against the Stream, a Chinese song. "'No, I play When You Wore Tulip,' said Mr. Chu."

Kraus, Robert. The First Robin. Harper, 1965. 48p. illus. \$1.99.

Ad  
3-5  
yrs. A small and pleasant story about a young robin who arrived north just a bit too early. Robin was sneezing at his doorway, so Kindly Groundhog took him indoors and put Robin to bed. He entertained him with shadow-pictures of spring things; then Robin's mother arrived and administered medicines every four hours throughout the night. Next morning an exhausted mother robin slept, while her child went outdoors to find that—just as in the shadow pictures—a jonquil and a crocus were there, and that he was, indeed, the first robin to see spring. Except for the fact that overnight a bare, snowy landscape changes to a carpet of green with flowers in full bloom, this is a nice read-aloud book, adequately written and illustrated.

Lehr, Delores. Turnabout Summer. Doubleday, 1965. 191p. \$2.95.

M  
7-9 Ellen and her sister go with their widowed mother to the Gulf island on which her mother had lived when she was young. Having just been accepted by a snobbish group of young people because she had just begun to date one of them, Ellen is disconsolate and is afraid that she will lose Bruce and lose her place in the sun. When her mother has a heart attack while they are at Seaport, Ellen discovers that mother has been secretly working (commercial art jobs, done at home) so that the girls will not realize that they are not as financially secure as they had thought. Ellen goes to work, finds new satisfactions, and discovers that the quiet local beau is more rewarding than was Bruce. A quite patterned junior novel with a formula shift to a new sense of values for a butterfly protagonist.

Lenski, Lois. We Live in the North; written and illus. by Lois Lenski. Lippincott, 1965. 152p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.69 net.

Ad  
3-5 Three stories set in Michigan, giving—as do so many of Miss Lenski's stories—pictures of ethnic, industrial, or economic patterns that are seldom found in books for children. The writing is stilted, but the nature of the material, the honest treatment, and the large print make the book most useful. The first story describes a Polish-American family in Detroit: father is an assembly-line auto-worker; there are strong family ties, much ado about a relative who changes his name, and a constant reflection of the importance of the Roman Catholic Church. The second story presents a large, fatherless family of Finnish extraction who are migrant pickers; the last story concerns a family who own a Christmas tree farm.

LeSieg, Theo. I Wish That I Had Duck Feet; illus. by B. Tobey. Random House, 1965. 64p. (Beginner Books) \$1.95.

Ad  
1-2 A book for beginning independent readers is illustrated with lively cartoon-style drawings; both text and drawings give the details of a child's dreams of impossible glory. A small boy envisions several delightful situ-

ations that will give him joy and renown, then speculates realistically on the disadvantages. For example, duck feet: no shoes, and the ability to play in water. On the other hand, maternal disapproval of the puddles brought in by wet duck feet. The situations are not unfunny intrinsically, but they are fairly laboriously developed. Not bad, but a somewhat forced episodic story.

Life Magazine. Health and Disease; by René Dubos, Maya Pines and the editors of Life. Time, 1965. 200p. illus. \$3.95.

R  
8- A very carefully organized and lucidly written volume in an excellent series; sections of captioned illustrations alternate with sections of illustrated text. The first section discusses health and homeostasis; succeeding chapters describe plagues of the past, nutritional and environmental illnesses, antiseptics and preventive medicine, hereditary factors, mortality rates, and—in detail—many of the individual diseases, especially those that are the great killers in our contemporary society. A brief bibliography and an extensive index, unfortunately in very small print, are appended.

MacAlpine, Margaret. The Black Gull of Corrie Lochan; illus. by James Armstrong. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 105p. \$3.75.

M  
5-6 A Highland fantasy that doesn't quite come off. Morag Ban and her brother hunt for their father, who has disappeared while tending his flock; they finally realize that the Wee Folk have him, and with a friend they search for the captive. Morag, too, is taken, although with no ill motive. The bird is a form assumed by the leader of the Wee Folk; his name is Ringean a Farspach Dhu, and he returns both Morag and her father safely home. There is an undeniable appeal in the Highland setting and dialogue, although it seems rather deliberately laid on. The fanciful element seems quite artificial, and the storyline is punctuated with contrivance.

Mead, Russell. Tell Me Again about Snow White. Dutton, 1965. 183p. \$3.50.

Ad  
7-9 A junior novel that has a weak story line and has very good writing style: lightly humorous and smooth, with briskly sophisticated and persistently flippant dialogue. Laurie's boyfriend has gone off to college and she feels socially insecure about her senior year; when she meets Randy, she feels sure that the whole thing has been arranged by a friend. She and Randy eventually decide to go steady. Meanwhile, Laurie has been doing volunteer work in a children's hospital and has been elected the first female sports editor of the school paper. The book has a good balance of interest, realistic relationships (family, love interest, and peer group) and a pleasant assumption that the reader will understand Laurie's jokes and allusions in conversations. Not much really happens, however, and the ending seems a wee bit contrived: Laurie is telephoned by her mother to say that one of the children at the hospital is having an operation, and Laurie rushes back from her ski vacation to be at Karen's bedside. There doesn't seem to have been, in the rest of the book, enough attachment to warrant such a feeling of responsibility.

Meltzer, Milton, ed. In Their Own Words; A History of the American Negro, 1865-1916. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 180p. illus. \$4.95.

R  
7-10 A second volume that continues the primary-material history of the first book (same title, reviewed in the May, 1965 BULLETIN) which covered the years 1619 to 1865. Again Mr. Meltzer has compiled a selection of letters,

speeches, newspaper articles, testimony before committees, and excerpts from books—a varied and impressive assortment of experiences and opinions. Each selection is prefaced by some explanatory remarks.

Newcomb, Ellsworth. Miracle Plastics; by Ellsworth Newcomb and Hugh Kenny; illus. by Robert Bartram. Putnam, 1965. 157p. (Science Survey Books) Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

R  
6-9 A good book on the subject, despite the occasional journalese phrase or generalization. The illustrative diagrams are of variable quality, although the most important, the series of pictures showing the different manufacturing processes, are excellent; they seem to be identical with those used in Colby's Plastic Magic (Coward-McCann, 1959). The authors trace the history of research and invention in plastics, describe manufacturing processes and uses, and predict future developments in the plastics industries. The index and other appended material add greatly to the usefulness of the book; there are a bibliography, a glossary, a list of dates of invention, a lengthy section on plastics (by groups) giving properties and uses. Many terms in the latter are, unfortunately, not indexed.

Norton, Andre. Quest Crosstime. Viking, 1965. 253p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

M  
7-9 A science fiction story that has many exciting episodes but that is, on the whole, overburdened with convoluted incidents, weird creatures, and cross-temporal cultures. Marfy Blake's twin sister disappeared, and in trying to rescue Marva, Marfy first had an adventure in a world peopled by turtle-ruling lizards. The major part of the fantasy takes place in a New British foray into a Zoltec society.

Parkinson, C. Northcote. Ponies' Plot; illus. by Violet Morgan. Houghton, 1965. 184p. \$3.25.

Ad  
5-7 A book written for the horse lover and—although occasionally very funny indeed—based on the premise that ponies discussing people are humorous, a premise that wears a wee bit thin. When a small riding school is sold, each of the eight ponies finds a new home. One gets a little girl for Christmas, another meets the children of his first girl, a third becomes the first Astrohorse (the only element of fantasy in the book) and another participates in a hunt. Much of the book's humor is in Dickensian names—Helena Nutshell, Mrs. Hark-Forrard, Deirdre Overwaite) and in reversed situations such as parallel conversations about how to train ponies and, pony-to-pony, how to train girls.

Polland, Madeleine A. The White Twilight; illus. by Alan Cober. Holt, 1965. 153p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R  
6-9 A good adventure story with historical background, set in Denmark in the sixteenth century; first published in England in 1962. Hanne, age twelve and motherless, has been raised in Antwerp with great propriety by her aunt. Her father, architect to King Frederick at Elsinore, sends for his daughter; prim little Hanne tries desperately to be very good and very grown-up so that her father will appreciate her. She is so unchildlike that she baffles him; then she is pushed into most unmaidenly behavior by a taunting boy. With Carl she sails into a storm on a mission to Sweden, a mission that Carl will not reveal. They take refuge in the island home of Tyco (sic) Brahe; Hanne then discovers that Carl is the son of a pirate who

had been preying on the royal ships. Fast-paced, colorful, and evocative; the characterization and motivation are particularly good.

Puner, Helen. Not While You're a Freshman. Coward-McCann, 1965. 191p. \$4.

M  
9-12  
Written in first person in the form of letters (unmailed) or brief notes, a mother's arguments in favor of chastity. The approach is perceptive and intelligent; the language is uninhibited, the advice commonsense. The weakness of the book is not in what the author says but how; the writing is rambling, repetitive, and occasionally self-consciously sharp or erudite.

Raillon, Madeleine. The Secret of Gold; tr. from the French by Anne Carter. Harcourt, 1965. 158p. \$3.25.

Ad  
7-9  
First published in France in 1960 under the title Le Secret de l'Or. Not a biography, but a story about Johann Böttger, who began the manufacture of Meissen china. Johann tells his own story, beginning in the year 1700, when he was fourteen. Apprenticed to an alchemist, Johann was falsely credited with having learned how to make gold. Imprisoned by the King of Saxony because he could not transmute metals, Johann—who had told the truth all along and not been believed—kept experimenting and learned the secret of making porcelain. Slow-moving, but the story has good background details of the eighteenth century and of court circles.

Robbins, Ruth. Harlequin & Mother Goose, or The Magic Stick; illus. by Nicolas Sidjakov. Parnassus, 1965. 33p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.63 net.

Ad  
3-5  
The story of Harlequin and Columbine is merged with elements of the Mother Goose tales in an adaptation of a play performed in London early in the nineteenth century. The illustrations are gay, colorful, and stylized in a manner reminiscent of Petroushka sets and costumes. The story describes the many adventures of the lovers as they flee from Pantaloon and try to recover the golden goose's egg for Mother Goose; in the course of the book Harlequin and Columbine meet many familiar characters: Little Boy Blue, a Fine Lady upon a white horse, and Tom, the Piper's Son. The writing style is a bit stilted and formal: "Columbine, too, thanked the chairman with a low curtsy, and the two continued on their way. The road grew wider and easier; they hastened past houses with trim gardens shining in the sunlight."

Roberts, Suzanne. Gracie; illus. by Marilyn Miller. Doubleday, 1965. 143p. \$2.95.

M  
7-9  
A junior novel about the plight of the migrant worker. Gracie is fourteen, oldest of a motherless migrant family; she has never been in one school long enough to get a basic education, and she—with the other migrant children—is cruelly treated by some teachers. Advised to join a coop by a fellow-worker, Gracie's father is too timid, just as he is too timid to demand better treatment for his children. Eventually, taken to court after a series of harassments, the migrant workers get a taste of a better living standard and father decides he will try cooperative farming. There is a mild love story between the cooperative proponent and the farmer's daughter; there is also a tragic shooting of Gracie's grandmother, an accidental shooting in a situation in which the migrants are being threatened with guns. The incident is really of little relevance; indeed, the weakness of the book is that the storyline and the subplots seem a vehicle contrived for a tract about migrant labor. An important problem, but the book gives neither a good story nor a good analysis of migrant life, each aspect obtruding on the other.

Ruthin, Margaret. Katrina of the Lonely Isles. Farrar, 1965. 162p. \$2.95.

Ad 7-  
An adventure story set on one of the isolated Faroe Islands. Katrina and Olaf are motherless twins of sixteen; when Olaf is injured while rescuing the crew of a stranded ship, his sister stays on board with her friend Johanna and the ship's doctor, Ivan Gregorsky. Dr. Gregorsky has been forbidden to stay on board; he risks censure or worse to help Olaf. Subsequently the young doctor decides he does not want to return to Russia; Katrina and Johanna defy their own authorities and the Russians by hiding the doctor. After several dangerous episodes, the three are picked up by a Russian ship; to their stunned delight, the captain pretends not to recognize Dr. Gregorsky, making it clear that he has decided to let the young man stay on the island. Despite the adventure, the book seems slow-moving because of the rather heavy style of writing; the characterization is adequate, but few of the characters stand out.

Santalo, Lois. The Wind Dies at Sunrise. Bobbs-Merrill, 1965. 207p. \$3.95.

Ad 7-10  
A quite good junior novel on the theme of anti-semitism. Del Kingsley, whose family lives in a small town, had had a dear friend in the years the Kingsley family had lived in Chicago; as a hostess in a resort hotel, Del meets the Rosen family again with joy. Next day the Rosens are asked to leave. Del realizes that she has never before understood the bitter impact of prejudice; she decides to room with Jan Rosen and not to join a closed sorority. After graduation, the girls go to New York; Del becomes aware that some Jews have a prejudice against Gentiles, and she admits to herself and her family that she cannot bear to live with even the most polite discrimination: she breaks her engagement to a hometown man and goes back to New York. Not overdrawn, only occasionally a little forced; the writing style is adequate, the tone objective, the characters believable, and the plot rather slow-moving.

Schweitzer, Byrd Baylor. One Small Blue Bead; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Macmillan, 1965. 40p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.72 net.

Ad 2-4  
A picture book that tells a story—in rhyme—about primitive man. The book will be useful because of the subject, simply presented for the young audience and giving a good picture of the beginnings of the diffusion of culture. The full-page illustrations are soft in color, quiet and strong in mood, and somewhat repetitive. The writing is quite weak: slow in pace, with metric flaws: "They turned to Boy / With looks of surprise / For he'd always been a lazy boy / With lazy laughing eyes. If you sent him to hunt wildcats / He'd just play with butterflies. But the boy who stood there / So straight and tall / Didn't even look like / The same boy at all."

Smith, Robert Paul. NothingAtAll NothingAtAll NothingAtAll; pictures by Alan E. Cober. Harper, 1965. 27p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

NR K-2  
Below the ground, there is a coal mine, below that a gold mine, below that a river, below that nothing at all: blank black page. All the pages have black background. Above the earth, there is air, then clouds, then space; above them there is nothing at all. Several blank black pages. One concept is presented here, but not well; the text is slight, the illustrations unimaginative.

Spence, Eleanor. The Year of the Currawong; illus. by Gareth Floyd. Roy, 1965. 170p. \$3.95.

R  
6-8 An Australian family moves out of the city to a small country town; the younger children learn that there is a mystery in connection with an abandoned silver mine. Their friend Mr. Lee claims ownership; so does a tramp. Then the children hear that the land has been sold and that a motel is to be built; they intensify their detective efforts and—quite believably, with a combination of hard work, some luck, and some help—discover the deed to the property. Having made many new friends, the children are all delighted when their father announces that he is going to build a new house and stay at Currawong crossing. The characterization is good, the setting interesting; the plot is a bit contrived but not impossibly so. The writing style is good, with dialogue that sounds natural and with small perceptive touches. For example, Terry is in an office asking to see the head of the firm, when a young man comes in. "The typist immediately sat up and studied her work with grave attention." Terry and the reader both know the boss has arrived.

Sprague, Rosemary. Forever in Joy; The Life of Robert Browning. Chilton, 1965. 171p. \$4.95.

R  
8- A good biography of the poet, written in a serious style, with almost no fictionalization and no dialogue. The text depends for variety on the frequent quotations from letters to or from Browning, or on quotations from his poetry. The book gives a balanced treatment of material about the poet's personal life and about his work. Notes on sources, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Sterling, Dorothy. Lift Every Voice; by Dorothy Sterling and Benjamin Quarles; illus. by Ernest Crichlow. Doubleday, 1965. 116p. \$2.95.

R  
6-9 The biographies of four Negro leaders: Mary Church Terrell, William DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, and Booker T. Washington. The writing is straightforward, with little fictionalization; balanced in coverage and objective in tone, the book is especially valuable for the integration of material in the separate biographies as the paths of the four subjects cross. An index is appended.

Sterne, Emma Gelders. I Have a Dream; illus. by Tracy Sugarman. Knopf, 1965. 229p. \$3.95.

R  
7- A very good book on the Civil Rights movement, the text divided into sections in which attention is focused on the role of one person. There is ample (and beautifully organized) material linking the separate sections together; the writing is lively, sympathetic in attitude and restrained in expression, and candid. In shifting focus from leaders in one area (Marian Anderson in the arts, Philip Randolph in the labor movement) to another (Daisy Bates in school integration) the author gives a broad and varied picture of the struggle. Other Negro leaders described are James Farmer, John Lewis, Thurgood Marshall, Hugh Mulzac, Rosa Lee Parks, and Fred Shuttlesworth. An excellent divided bibliography and an index are appended.

Tamburine, Jean. I Think I Will Go to the Hospital. Abingdon, 1965. 48p. illus. \$2.95.

Ad  
K-2 An oversize read-aloud book about a small girl who has been resisting a proposed tonsillectomy, but who decides after visiting a hospital that she will enter as a patient. Susy, after talking to a friend who had just had his tonsils taken out, and after talking to a pleasant nurse who explained something of hospital procedure, loses her fears and cheerfully prepares to have

a new experience. Although a little pat in some ways, the story is simply told and quite encouraging, the purpose perfectly clear but lightened by Susy's playing hospital with her pets and by the illustrations. All of the medical details, both in text and in illustration, are accurate; the endpapers give (in miniature) assorted scenes from the story.

Trease, Geoffrey. Seven Stages; illus. with photographs. Vanguard, 1965. 194p. \$3.95.

R  
7- A collective biography that reflects three centuries of theater life, since it begins with Marlowe and describes the careers of Moliere, Siddons, Verdi, Lind, Irving, and Pavlova. The writing has authority, vivacity, and style; in covering so many different facets of theater, Mr. Trease has also given the book unusual color and variety. Some of the few illustrations are poorly placed: two pictures of Pavlova, for example, are inserted in the pages that describe Jenny Lind. A brief list of suggestions for further reading are appended.

Turkle, Brinton. Obadiah the Bold; story and pictures by Brinton Turkle. Viking, 1965. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

R  
3-4 A short tale, appealing in content and attractively illustrated. The author uses both present and past tense in the beginning of the story, leaving to the details of illustration the setting of period. The family of Obadiah are Quakers of the early nineteenth century. Obadiah, a small boy who cherishes his spyglass, wants to be a pirate; when he plays pirates with his older brothers, they blindfold and frighten him. Obadiah (chunky, pert, and red-headed) decides he will be a sailor like his grandfather, instead.

United Press International. Gemini; America's Historic Walk in Space. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 98p. illus. \$2.95.

R  
6- An oversize book about the planning and execution of the Gemini 4 flight, compiled by three members of the UPI staff from photographs and text used in their own coverage of the flight. The writing style is high-level journalism, alleviated by candor ("The stunning achievement of Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin . . . had been followed within days by America's equally stunning failure in Cuba's Bay of Pigs.") and by a modicum of humor. Detailed, profusely illustrated, and intrinsically exciting; the illustrations are highly variable: some clear, some fuzzy, some uncaptioned, some simply photographs of the astronauts' children. An appendix gives a few lines of information about each of the almost thirty astronauts.

Updike, John. A Child's Calendar; illus. by Nancy Ekholm Burkert. Knopf, 1965. 24p. \$3.25.

R  
3-5 A poem for each month, a picture for each poem; the poetry has simplicity of style and familiarity of subject that are appealing, and has, here and there, a freshly imaginative image. The illustrations are delicate and precise in detail, giving an impression of quiet and strength; the only drawings in full color—those on the dust jacket—are particularly lovely.

Vogel, Ilse-Margret. 1 Is No Fun But 20 Is Plenty. Atheneum, 1965. 35p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.74 net.

A read-aloud counting book, with a nonsense theme, rhyming text, and illustrations that are lively but are distractingly busy. Example: "Lion

M  
4-6  
yrs. searched for the pirates amid Waves so high 11 umbrella could not keep him dry. He searched and he searched for 12 lonely nights, While Hippo, at home, never turned off her lights. She felt so alone, she started to weep; and 13 gray mice tried to sing her to sleep. They sang 14 songs and sang them again! But only woke up a giraffe and a hen." Although the non-sense has a jingling appeal, the use of the book for teaching a child to count is limited by such things as the "14 songs," which are 14 song titles in a running line at the foot of the page, or by 12 crescents to denote 12 lonely nights.

Wibberley, Leonard. The Gales of Spring; Thomas Jefferson, the Years 1789-1801. Farrar, 1965. 180p. \$3.25.

R  
7-10 The third volume of a truly excellent biography of Thomas Jefferson; detailed, objective, well-researched, and barely fictionalized. The writing is serious but not dull; the particular value of this volume is in the candid and dignified treatment of the conflict between Hamilton and Jefferson. A note citing bibliographic sources and an index are appended.

Wier, Ester. Easy Does It; illus. by W. T. Mars. Vanguard, 1965. 126p. \$3.50.

Ad  
5-7 Chip is eleven and devoted to baseball, both as a fan and a player, and he has been accepted as a friend in a new neighborhood. A Negro family moves into the house next door; their son is just Chip's age, and he is not accepted by anyone but Chip. The whole Reese family is not accepted; in fact, there are meetings of disturbed neighbors (to which Chip's parents do not go) and one really unpleasant incident. Basically the plot is realistic, the characterization adequate, and the author's handling of the situation is candid and constructive. The book is weakened by the pivotal incident: Chip's father has unknowingly run over a neighbor's dog, and Dr. Reese is accused of killing the animal when its owner sees him examining it. Dr. Reese lets the owner (who has been the instigator of the unpleasant incident) believe that he has killed the dog, and makes Chip, who witnessed the accident, promise not to tell. His reason: he can thus repay Chip's parents for not participating in the protest meeting. Chip does tell and shames the neighbors into decency. Another contrivance is that a famous Negro professional pitcher who has been discussed earlier in the story turns out to be Dr. Reese's brother and gives all the boys autographed baseballs.

Willard, Barbara. Three and One to Carry; illus. by Douglas Hall. Harcourt, 1965. 187p. \$3.25.

R  
5-7 A family story set in the south of England; written in a lively style, the book has characterization that is perceptive, relationships that are warm and realistic, and a plot that is modestly dramatic. Rosanna, oldest of the three motherless Lodge children, has saddled the rest of the family with an obnoxious visitor, young Arthur. Prue and Simon are responsible (through carelessness, not intent) for Arthur's accident and they try to make amends, but it isn't easy: Arthur whines, fusses, and takes advantage. However, by the time that Arthur's uncle volunteers to take the boy away, all of the Lodges find they have become fond of him. Woven neatly into the story are a slight mystery and a modicum of love interest, both concluded believably but with a fillip.

## *Reading for Parents*

- Bodger, Joan. How the Heather Looks. Viking, 1965. 276p. \$4.95.
- Child Study Association. Children's Bookshelf. Rev. ed. Bantam, 1965. \$.95. Cites titles for children and readings for parents. Order from C.S.A. Dept. RE, 9 E. 89th Street, New York City; add ten cents handling charge to cost of book.
- Children's Book Council. Bookmark for Parents. Prepared in consultation with the Westchester Library System. A selection aid. Single copies free if accompanied by a stamped and self-addressed envelope. 100 copies, \$.25.
- Enright, Elizabeth. "And So They Lived Happily Ever After." McCall's Magazine, December, 1965.
- Fadiman, Clifton. "War on the Children's Book Front." Ladies' Home Journal, December, 1965.
- Green, Roger Lancelyn. Tellers of Tales; British authors of children's books from 1800 to 1964. Latest revision of a title originally published in 1946. Watts, 1965. 320p. \$4.95.
- International Reading Association. Children, Books and Reading. I.R.A., 1964. 150p. paper. \$2.50. Order from Dr. Ralph Staiger, I.R.A. Box 119, Newark, Delaware, 19711.
- Jacobs, Leland, ed. Using Literature with Young Children. Columbia University; Teachers College. paper. \$1.25.
- Jennings, Frank. This Is Reading. Columbia University; Teachers College, 1965. 196p. \$4.25.
- May, Edgar. "A Mountain of Books for Mountain Children." PTA Magazine, September, 1965.
- Merrill, Jean. "The Public Library and the School Book Fair." Wilson Library Bulletin, June, 1965.
- National Association for Better Radio and Television. Television for the Family. 76p. \$1.00; \$4.00 for five copies to the same address. Available from N.A.F.B.R.A.T., 373 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90004.
- Smith, Nila. Shall We Teach Formal Reading in the Kindergarten? Bulletin issued by the Association for Childhood Education International. \$.10 each; 25 copies for \$2.00. A.C.E.I., 3615 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.
- Strang, Ruth, ed. Understanding and Helping the Retarded Reader. University of Arizona Press, 1965. 118p. \$2.75. Proceedings of the International Reading Association Conference.
- Trace, Arthur. Reading without Dick and Jane. Regnery, 1965. 186p. \$4.50.

