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Mary K. Eakin, Librarian
Service Bulletin

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VOL. II

No. 10

New Titles for Children and Young People

Babcock, Betty. The expandable pig; told and pictured by Betty Babcock. Scribner's, 1949. 114p. \$2.00
Pig is a remarkable creature who can expand until he floats through the air like a balloon. In this way he takes his master, Gary, and three dogs to England to visit Gary's friend, Howard. The writing is very uneven, with some passages that seem quite funny and more that are forced or silly. Not recommended for general purchase.

Becker, Edna. 900 buckets of paint; pictures by Margaret Bradfield. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 18p. \$1.50. K-gr.2 (D20)

A picture-story book of an old woman, her two cats, her donkey, and her cow. One day the old woman becomes dissatisfied with her house - moves - and keeps on moving until she lands right back where she started. The surprise ending will amuse children - some of them may even figure it out before the end of the story - and so enjoy a joke on the old woman. Pictures are colorful, but not outstanding. Boards.

Bothwell, Jean. Little flute player. Morrow, 1949. 159p. \$2.00 Gr.3-5.

Ten-year-old Aka Nam had two great loves - his flute and his heifer. His flute was an old one, and he thought he would give anything for a modern one that "played on the right." When his chance came, however, he discovered that his family ties were stronger than his love for either the flute or the heifer. As in her other books, Miss Bothwell gives a warm and friendly picture of life among the common people of modern India. There are good family relations and a feeling of understanding and sympathy for the characters.

Brindze, Ruth. The story of our calendar; illus. by Helene Carter. Vanguard, 1949. 63p. \$2.50 Gr.4-7.

A factual account of the development of the calendar from Babylonian times to the present day. Interestingly written with illustrations that add to the understanding of the text.

Burgwyn, Nebane Holoman. Lucky mischief; pictures by Gertrude Howe. Oxford, 1949. 246p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9. (D43;D57;D42;D37;D122)

Allen Peck is a young Negro boy living on the Occoneechee Neck in North Carolina. This story of his struggle with Bailey, a newcomer, for leadership of the gang and his final friendship with Bailey is a story most boys should enjoy. There is an element of mystery in the hunt for escaped convicts. There is the suspense of the 4H contest in which both Allen and Bailey have entered calves. The warm family relations give added value and help rank the book along with Skid and Melindy's Medal

for a true and sympathetic picture of a modern Negro family.

Carmer, Carl Lamson. Too many cherries; illus. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Viking, 1949. 62p. \$2 Gr.4-7

Every boy would like to have a chance to ride with the great trucks that roll along the highways at night. That chance came to ten-year-old Bill Bailey when he and his friend, George, were taking surplus cherries to market. Graphic descriptions, both in text and in illustrations, give a real feel for night travel. In addition to the subject interest the book has good family relations, a picture of the problems of rural living, and contrasts in cultural groups.

Carter, Russell Gordon. Teen-age animal stories; illus. by Richard Osborne. Lantern Press, 1949. 252p. \$2.50

Mediocre writing. Highly contrived plots. These are definitely made-to-order stories with little to recommend them beyond the subject matter.

Chipperfield, Joseph E. Storm of Dancerwood; illus. by Helen Torrey. Longmans, Green, 1949. 308p. \$3 Gr.7-9

The almost mystic quality of the moors and woods of the West Country of England is woven into this story of the Alsatian dog, Storm. Storm was an outstanding dog from the moment he was born, through a long and remarkable life in which he championed a blind vixen and mothered a litter of cubs. Beautifully written, the poetic quality of the prose may limit the appeal. However, it is a story that will be thoroughly enjoyed by those who can appreciate the quality of writing as well as the story appeal.

Coolidge, Olivia E. Greek myths; illus. by Edouard Sandoz. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 243p. \$2.75 j&shs

A somewhat mature presentation of the better known Greek myths. The style is more that of a source book than a re-telling for pleasure reading. Interesting illustrations. Of primary usefulness in a reference collection. Indexed.

Davis, Lavinia (Riker). Come be my love. Doubleday, 1949. 245p. \$2.50 j&shs (D47;D28;D134).

Jib Bolton is determined to be self-supporting the summer her parents are in California and she is left to her own resources. First she tries a job as social secretary to a wealthy matron. That proves unsuccessful, and she ends up doing landscape gardening. During the course of the summer she helps a young boy run a newspaper, becomes involved in a labor dispute, and falls in love with a conservation agent. This is a pleasant but not particularly important story for teen-age girls.

Too much has been crowded into a short span of time, many of the characters are unconvincing (i.e. Cousin Oliver, who is too, too eccentric; and Buzz, a precocious and extremely one-track minded young boy whose entire time and thought are given over to his newspaper). The characters involved in the strike are types rather than real people - and the entire labor dispute seems stereotyped.

Drummond, Violet H. Miss Anna Truly; written and illus. by V. H. Drummond. Houghton Mifflin, 1945. 38p. \$2.00.

A nonsensical tale of a six-year-old who went to London to see the King and find out who owned the bluebell patch. Delightful illustrations add much to the humor of the story. Insubstantial format makes the price too high for general library purchase.

Dudley, Ruth. Hank and the kitten; pictures by Louis Darling. Morrow, c1949. 62p. \$2. K-gr.2.

Hank was a dog who was very fond of his master and very disgusted with the kitten who came to live with them. When the time came that he was rid of the cat, however, he found that he had grown quite fond of it. Large print, easy words, and expressive pictures make a book that beginning readers can handle with little difficulty. There is enough humor in the story that it could be used for remedial work in the third or fourth grades with children who like animal stories. Nothing condescending or babyish in either text or illustrations.

Dunlop, Agnes Mary Robertson; The mirrors of Castle Doone; by Elizabeth Kyle (pseud.); illus. by Nora S. Unwin. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 280p. \$2.50. Gr.5-7.

The characters of Holly Hotel and Lost Karen are back to solve another mystery. This one involves the region's one and only castle. The plot moves slowly, but readers who have liked the first two books will find this one equally exciting. At least it will satisfy the need for a new mystery.

Edey, Marion. Open the door; rhymes for children; illus. by Dorothy Grider. Scribner's, 1949. 79p. \$2.00.

Uneven rhymes - some quite good, mostly rather mediocre. Some value for nature study classes. Not important enough for general library purchase.

Faulkner, Georgene. Melindy's happy summer; illus. by Elton C. Fax. Messner, 1949. 182p. \$2.50 Gr.3-5.

Melindy, the heroine of Melindy's Medal, goes as a good-will ambassador to a farm in Maine where she lives for two weeks with a white family. While there Melindy learns to recognize - and control - her bragging. She again proves herself a heroine - and achieves complete happiness when she is allowed to sing the role of Gretel in the children's opera. Somewhat less well written than Melindy's Medal, this will nonetheless have value for classes in intercultural relations.

Garst, Doris Shannon. Silver spurs for cowboy boots; illus. by Charles Margens. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 192p. \$2.00. Gr.5-7.

In this sequel to Cowboy Boots, Bob finally

wins his silver spurs and becomes a real cowboy. Not an outstanding story, although it is better written than Cowboy Boots. There is action and suspense with the usual quota of rustlers, new foals and rodeos. Useful only where there is great demand for more cowboy stories.

Hager, Alice (Rogers). The canvas castle; illus. by Mary Stevens. Messner, 1949. 179p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7. (D37;D1;D84)

Twelve-year-old Maidie finds it hard to adjust to the continual moving her family must do because of her father's work. It becomes especially hard after they have spent a year in a small California town; have built a house (called the "canvas castle"), made friends, and even acquired a horse. After strong rebellion, Maidie comes to realize that it is the family unit that counts - not the house or community in which they live. The story is somewhat weakened by having a happy ending to all the problems that arise. However, it does give a picture of good family relations and of a pattern of family life that may be new to many readers.

Hall, Marjory. Your young life; illus. by Elinor Darby. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 278p. \$2.50 Gr.8-10. (D47;D21;D86;D135)

Fern Clayton, a minor character in Copy Kate, is the main character of this story. Although this is also a career story, it is better written than Copy Kate, with truer characterization and more plausible situations. Fern does not reach the top of her profession in six months or a year's time. Her growing up process - both vocationally and emotionally is slow and, at times, quite painful. The difficulties Fern has in keeping her personal and professional life separate - and in learning how much time and attention should be given to each are problems faced by most young people who are starting out in their first jobs. The book has possibilities for guidance use in both occupational orientation and personal adjustment.

Harkins, Philip. Punt formation. Morrow, 1949. 253p. \$2.50

An unimportant sports story of a boy who is afraid to take part in the rougher aspects of football, but becomes a specialist at kicking and passing. Minton is not a convincing character, nor is the complete about-face that makes him a hero realistic. The other characters are mostly types to serve as contrasts to Minton. There are enough well-written sports stories this fall to make this one an unnecessary addition.

Hatch, Mary C. More Danish tales; retold by Mary C. Hatch; illus. by Edgun. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 237p. \$2.50 Gr.5-7.

A companion volume to 13 Danish Tales. These fifteen tales are retold with the same qualities of humor and imagination that characterized the first volume. Excellent for the story-teller.

Henry, Marguerite. Little-or-Nothing from Nottingham illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1949. 64p. \$2.00. Gr.3-5.

A delightfully funny story of a circus dog who buries his bone under the wagon each night and then becomes bewildered and unhappy when he cannot find it the next day. A dog and a circus make a combination of appeals that should capture most young

readers. Excellent illustrations.

Huntington, Harriet E. Let's go to the desert; il. with photographs by the author. Doubleday, 1949. 90p. \$2.50. (Junior books)

Full page illustrations with brief, but accurate text introduce children to some of the plants and animals of the desert. Will be useful for nature study classes.

Jones, Aletta. Peggy's wish; illus. by Mary Stevens. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949. 175p. \$2.00. Gr.5-7. (D4;D37;D100;D149)

This book and the Tom Robinson reprint (see below) both deal with the theme of adoption. Here we have a little girl from an orphan asylum spending the summer on a farm with a family whose own daughter has recently died. Her longing to stay permanently with this family, - how she wins a place for herself with the son and father of the family make a warm, appealing story, although it seems a little tame in comparison with the Tom Sawyer qualities of Trigger John's Son and not quite as subtle in depicting older-younger generation relations as Adopted Jane. The illustrations seem unusually good.

Judson, Clara Ingram. The green ginger jar; il. by Paul Brown. Houghton Mifflin, 1943. 210p. \$2.50 Gr.6-8. (D59;D4;D13;D88)

A story of modern Chinatown in Chicago. Ai-Mei and her brother, Lu Chen, feel themselves to be Americans first and Chinese second. In their conflicts with the older members of the family (particularly the grandmother), the reader gets a good picture of the traditional Chinese way of living as contrasted with modern American ways. There are warm family relations, and it is through the help and understanding of the family that the two young people are able to adjust satisfactorily to the demands of the old and the new. This is in many ways one of the best of Mrs. Judson's stories of other countries.

Kinney, Harrison. The lonesome bear; il. by Harold Price. Whittlesey, 1949. 79p. \$2. Gr.4-6

Stephen suffered all the woes of a younger brother until the day the bear came along. It was a tame bear - too tame for Stephen's mother who objected to its sleeping on the guest room bed. The story has elements of the ridiculous that children like. It is simply enough written that some of the third graders can read it for themselves.

Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. Treasure mountain; il. by Richard Bennett. Doubleday, 1949. 207p. \$2.50 Gr.6-8. (D1;D19;D13;D59)

Two half-breed Indian children leave the government school to spend a summer with their aunt - a full-blood, blanket Indian - in a small town on the Oregon coast. At first they are shocked by the difference between her way of life and that they have known at school. Before the summer ends they have gained a real love for their aunt and a respect for her ways and beliefs. A good picture of contrasts between generations and between cultures. The suspense of the hunt for lost treasure and of the effort to raise the tax money adds to interest of the book.

Leavitt, Dorothy. Adventure on the Potomac; with il. Little, Brown, 1949. 229p. \$2.75

A highly contrived story of three children whose father is elected to Congress and who move to Washington. The descriptions of sights in and around Washington read more like a guide book than a story. Plot is thin and is not helped by having a mystery and a lost treasure dragged in. Characters are not convincing.

Leeming, Joseph. Papercraft; drawings by Jessie Robinson. Lippincott, 1949. 83p. \$2.50 Gr.6-9.

A companion volume to Fun with Paper. Contains easy-to-follow directions and diagrams for making toys, tricks, party favors, etc. from paper.

Lenski, Lois. Cotton in my sack; written and il. by Lois Lenski. Lippincott, 1949. 191p. \$2.50 Gr.4-6

The Hutleys are a typical family of Arkansas sharecroppers - living a hand-to-mouth existence, always in debt, their entire lives regulated by the crops. Miss Lenski has drawn an accurate but sympathetic picture of the kind of life lived by many families in the rural south. The characters are, for the most part, realistic. This is one of the best of the regional stories, and should be popular with readers all over the country.

Lovelace, Maud Hart. Carney's house party; il. by Vera Neville. Crowell, 1949. 239p. \$2.50 jhs- . (D23;D63;D142)

Betsy-Tacy followers will welcome this new Deep Valley book although it does not have the usual central characters. Many people have wondered if the faithful Carney and Larry really did marry. This book gives the answer most satisfactorily. It also pictures Vassar College in 1911 as well as the activities of later adolescence. Maud Lovelace has drawn these characters with her usual warmth and understanding, and even though the young people are of another day, their interests, emotions and problems reflect those of normal 1949 youth. The book will attract readers from Betsy's youngest enthusiasts to grown ups.

Mallette, Gertrude Ethel. Unexpected summer. Doubleday, 1949. 212p. \$2.25. j&hs.

Selden Meredith has journalistic aspirations. Her original plan was to work on a newspaper for experience, but the financial difficulties of her family lead her to seek a paying job. She combines a reporting job at space rates with a candy-making project. Between the two projects the summer is a busy and "unexpected" one, - especially when a robbery crosses her reportorial path. Romance is also present. Some of the incidents seem forced and the action crowded, but on the whole the book is more honest than some in allowing the heroine to fail as well as succeed. It is better than the author's last two books.

Malvern, Gladys. Eric's girls; il. by Corinne Malvern. Messner, 1949. 244p. \$2.50 Gr.7-9. (D42)

Henrietta and Janie Sparrow come with their father, Eric Sparrow, to New Amsterdam in the days before the English capture the town. There they find a way of life quite different from where they grew up. They also find romance - one with an English lord and the other with a Dutch boy. This is a delightful teen-age

love story with a setting that adds to the romance. Well-written both for characterization and plot.

Martin, Ethel Bowyer. Judy-come-lately; il. by Sari. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 218p. \$2.25. Gr.5-7.

Thirteen-year-old Judy travels the county fair circuit with her uncle. She learns all that goes on behind the scenes of a fair and helps to solve a mystery. The fair has almost as much appeal to most youngsters as the circus and with the added appeal of a mystery this should have been an outstanding book. Unfortunately it is marred by an overdose of sentimentality and by poor characterizations. Conversations are not realistic, especially for this age youngster.

Mason, George Frederick. Animal weapons. Morrow, 1949. 91p. \$2.00. Gr.5-8.

Similar in style and format to Animal Tracks and Animal Homes, this is in some ways the most interesting of the three. The author takes the various classes of animals and shows in text and illustrations how the animals within each class defend themselves.

Monsell, Helen Albee. John Marshall, boy of young America; il. by Syd Browne. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 206p. \$1.75 (Childhood of famous Americans series)

A simplified account of the youth of John Marshall. The passage of time is not clearly shown in the first few chapters with the result that the reader is often confused as to just when certain events took place. The book might be used as supplementary reading for a history class, but has little value for a general library collection.

Neurath, Marie. If you could see inside. Chanticleer, 1949. 32p. \$1.50.

An attempt to show young children what the inside of several familiar and unfamiliar objects is like. The illustrations are not clear, especially for a child who is seeing these objects for the first time. Text is too difficult for the beginning reader. Insubstantial format.

Reely, Mary K. Seatmates; il. by Eloise Wilkin. Watts, 1949. 237p. \$2. Gr.3-5. (D1;D4)

Kate did not like the town when her family first moved in from the farm. Neither did she like school, until one day when she moved from a single to a double seat and learned the joys of having a seatmate. A pleasant, simply written story of the adjustments a child has to make in coming into a new situation. Although the story takes place at the turn of the century, the incidents of adjustment are those a child of today would experience in going to a new town.

Roberts, Catherine. Make it and make it pay! illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 120p. \$2.50 Gr.8-10.

Here is a variation on the usual make-and-do book. In simple language and clear illustrations the author shows how hobbies can be used to earn money. The instructions include concrete, brick and woodworking for boys - sewing, knitting, household "junk", etc. for girls. Includes a chapter on merchandising procedures.

Robertson, Lilian. Picnic woods; written and il. by Lilian Robertson. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 30p. \$2.00. Gr. 2-4.

A picture book filled with humor and suspense. While Mr. Fox is not watching the picnic basket he has packed so carefully, it is taken by two squirrels. A raccoon takes it from them and then it goes rapidly from one animal to another until it finally returns to Mr. Fox - just in time for lunch. This is the kind of story that young children will enjoy hearing read over and over.

Robinson, Thomas Pendleton. Trigger John's son; il. by Robert McCloskey. Viking, 1949. 284p. \$2.50. (D4;D76;D88;D100;D149)

This is a re-issue of a 1934 book, with superb illustrations by Robert McCloskey. The story of an orphan, being adopted on approval, who decides he wants to do a little "approving" also, is delightful. Fathers as well as their sons will enjoy this very Tom Sawyerish tale and it is excellent read-aloud material for family use. Warm human relations and a very realistic picture of boy life in a small Pennsylvania town add to the appeal of the book.

Rosenheim, Lucile G. Kathie, the new teacher. Messner, 1949. 195p. \$2.50.

In her first year of teaching Kathie meets every problem from social prejudices to classroom discipline. In spite of her impulsiveness and hot-headedness she solves all the problems to her own, the town's, and the children's satisfaction. In typical "career" story fashion she ends the year with an engagement ring. The problems of teaching that are presented here are real and most of the solutions are good ones. The chief objection to the book lies in the improbability of a new teacher, especially one as immature as Kathie, coming into a community and almost completely reorganizing it in one year's time. Better than most career stories in the warmth and reality of characterization.

Severn, David. The cruise of the Maiden Castle. Macmillan, 1948. 213p. \$2.50. Gr.6-8. (D4)

Four English children on a week's vacation find themselves with a hundred mile journey to make by a certain date. The book has the elements of suspense and danger that children like. The incidents are plausible - even the part the children play in capturing a black market gang is well within the realm of possibility. The unusual setting should add to the interest of the story.

Seymour, Alta Halverson. The secret of the hidden room. Westminster press, 1949. 224p. \$2.50

As the title indicates this is a mystery. A college professor on sabbatical takes his family to an old farm in Indiana. Kelly, the teen-age daughter, is delighted to find that there are rumors of hidden treasure connected with the farm, and sets out to find it to help the family finances. Her older brother also searches in competition with her. Later they join forces and enlist the aid of the young people of the neighborhood. There is only one "bad" character and the story contains more than the mystery. Kelly tries to change her personality and discovers she is more attractive as she is; she and her brother improve their relations; and she is permitted to use her artistic talents by collaborating with her mother in doing a story for children. Kelly's period of misunderstanding seems a trifle forced but on the whole, it is a good mystery story with enough excitement to compete with radio thrillers for the attention of young people.

Shuman, Ruth Lewis. Penny and Pete's surprise; ill. by Clare McKinley. Rand McNally, 1949. 30p. 25¢ 4-6yrs. (D8) (A Book-Elf book).

Penny and Pete live in an apartment house. They are fortunate enough to have a sound proof play room where they can make all the noise they want - but they cannot have pets. Their surprise (a baby sister) is not exactly a pet - but they are satisfied with it as a substitute. The story might be used to accustom very young children to the idea of a new baby. Better for home purchase where the parent can use it with children than for library use. Boards.

Stapp, Arthur D. Escape on skis. Morrow, 1949. 209p. \$2.50 jshs. (D57;D69).

Danger, suspense, and the fun of skiing are combined here to make a story boys will enjoy. A ski trip on Mt. Rainier changes from fun to danger when the party has added to it a young boy who cannot ski and who is being hunted by two criminals. The action is plausible and the characters well-drawn.

Tatham, Campbell. The first book of automobiles; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, 1949. 42p. \$1.50. Gr.3-5.

All of the types of cars a family is likely to have experience with are pictured here, with fairly simple text explaining how they work and how each one differs from the others. The illustrations are clear and easy to follow. Accurate details both in text and illustrations. The vocabulary is about fourth grade level, but the interest level could be rated as high as sixth or seventh. Uneven writing with some rather condescending passages that might be objectionable to older readers.

Tudor, Tasha. Thistly B. Oxford, 1949. 28p. \$1.50. 4-7yrs.

Thistly B is a canary - born in a tea cup and reared in a doll's house. Text and illustrations are in typically Tasha Tudor style - quaint and delicate. A book that will be useful for Christmas booklists.

Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). Boarding school; ill. by Janet Kimball. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 247p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

Abigail Hawkes came to Waban Hall Academy as the youngest of the Freshmen. She was not only young in age, she was immature in most other ways. Having been completely dominated by her mother, she looked to the older girls at school for guidance - and often came to grief because she followed their lead. Fortunately she had enough sense to realize her mistakes and by the end of the year was well on her way to becoming a distinct and very likeable individual. The boarding school theme will appeal to most readers. Some of the characters are not too convincing, but on the whole the style is good. The incidents are plausible and the atmosphere of a rather exclusive school well-drawn.

Hallowe'en - 1949.

Averill, Esther. Jenny's moonlight adventure. Harper, 1949. Gr.1-4.

The little cat with the red scarf proves herself a heroine on Hallowe'en night.

Doremus, Robert L., illus. Spooks and spirits and shadowy shapes. Aladdin, 1949. 167p. \$2. Gr.2-4.

A collection of stories about Hallowe'en or suitable for use on Hallowe'en. Large type and easy vocabulary will make the book useful for beginning readers.

Fenner, Phyllis Reid, comp. Feasts and frolics; illus. by Helen R. Durney. Knopf, 1949. 158p. \$2.50. Gr.5-7.

An excellent collection of stories about special days of all kinds - from Fourth of July to just any rainy day when there is nothing to do. Two stories about Hallowe'en will be particularly appropriate this month.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material

Book Week. November 13-19, 1949. "Make Friends with Books."

The posters are 30¢ each with reductions on quantities. Those receiving the Children's Book Council Calendar regularly will automatically receive a poster. Address: The Children's Book Council, 62 W. 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Boys' Clubs of America. 1949 Junior Book Awards.

Annotations taken from the boys' own comments as to why they did or did not like the books. Order from Iris Vinton, Director, Publications Service, Boys' Clubs of America, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

La Plante, Effie and O'Donnell, Thela. Developmental values through library books: a selected bibliography. Division of Librarians, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois. Annotated list.

Plays for children: a selected list of prize winning plays for production before child audiences. Seattle Junior Programs, Inc., 1386 Dexter Horton Bldg., Seattle 4, Wash. Annotated list.

Seventeen Magazine. Reader Service Booklets. The Author, New York. 1949. 10¢ each.

No. 7 Club notes (How to organize; your activities, funds, clubroom, names and aims)

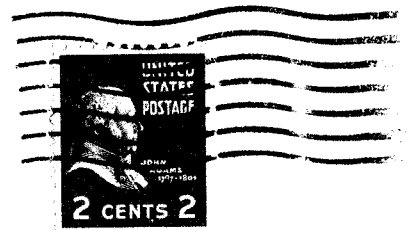
No. 8 Your new emotions (Boy-girl relations)

U. S. Office of Education. Science teaching in rural and small town schools, by Glenn Blough and Paul Blackwood. Bulletin 1949: no. 5.

At the elementary level the analysis of children's science interests will be helpful. The reading list could be richer.

Counterpane fun: a book list for convalescent children. Compiled by the Children's Section, New Jersey Library Association, 1949. For copies address: Miss Eleanor Burgner, Children's Dept., Public Library, Trenton, New Jersey.

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