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BULLETIN

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Number 7

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
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.

New Titles for Children and Young People

- M Agle, Nan (Hayden). Princess Mary of
4-6 Maryland; illus. by Aaron Sopher.
Scribner, 1956. 108p. \$2.50.

A rather pedestrian, uninspired account of the life of an Indian princess in Maryland. Kittamaquund, Princess Mary's father, sent her to St. Mary's School because he thought the training would benefit her, and because he thought the white men would help her to become queen after his death, even though the tribal rules of the Indians decreed otherwise. She did not become queen, but instead married Giles Brent, an Englishman, and lived the remainder of her life in the white community built around St. Mary's School. An interesting subject, but a drab treatment.

- NR Avery, Kay. All for a Friend; illus. by
7-9 Aldren A. Watson. Crowell, 1956.
184p. \$2.50.

In this sequel to All for a Horse, fourteen-year-old Tom Hayes and his friend, Andy, are trying to earn enough money for Tom to enter his horse at the county fair. Tom's sister, Sally, works all summer to earn enough money to buy

a dog. Their money-raising experiences are recounted in a series of slightly disjointed episodes. The writing is much less satisfactory than that of the earlier book. The style is quite choppy; the adults all converse in a series of maxims and clichés; some of the conversation is incomprehensible, and there are inconsistencies throughout.

- Ad Ball, Zachary. Skin Diver. Holiday House,
7-9 1956. 251p. \$2.75.

Another story of Joe Panther, the Seminole Indian boy who operates a charter boat in the Gulf of Mexico. This time Joe and his friend, Turtle Tail, have been hired to take a scientist, Steve Barton, to the Lower Bahamas, where Steve wants to do some skin diving to obtain fish and plant life specimens for research. On the way they rescue Luke, a Bahamian whose boat has been wrecked, and add him to the expedition. The book deals entirely with the adventures the four have underwater and tells nothing of the purposes for which Steve is collecting the specimens. The author occasionally waxes dewey-eyed over the equality that exists among the four in spite of their differing backgrounds.

- Ad Beim, Jerrold. Time for Gym; illus. by

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2-4 Louis Darling. Morrow, 1957. 46p.
\$2.25.

In this latest in his series of moral stories for modern youth, Mr. Beim deals with the problem of age-mate jealousy. Biff outshines all the other boys in his room during gym sessions. When plans are being made for a forthcoming celebration, Biff is chosen to be the top man on the human pyramid—and he is proud of the honor. His position is threatened when a new boy, Cary Jones, enters the class and proves to be in all ways the equal of Biff. Then Biff nobly accepts the decision that the pyramid will be improved if he and Cary serve as two of the supports and let a smaller boy take the top position. The text is printed in primer size type but written at a beginning third grade reading level. The story has potential appeal as a change from school stories with a classroom setting.

NR Bell, Wanda. It's Fun To Be Nice; pictures
3-5 by Vera Hogman. Warner Press, 1956.
yrs. 24p. 75¢.

Exceedingly mediocre verse and pictures depict the doings of two dolls and a teddy bear as they learn to live and play together. The lessons in manners are too obvious to have much effect, and the book is totally lacking in appeal.

Ad Blough, Glenn Orlando. After the Sun
2-4 Goes Down; The Story of Animals at
Night; pictures by Jeanne Bendick.
Whittlesey House, 1956. 48p. \$2.50.

In a slightly condescending manner the author takes the reader into the woods and introduces him to some of the creatures that may be seen there at night, but that are seldom found during the day. Included are: whippoorwills, owls, flying squirrels, opossums, bats, crickets, katydids, grasshoppers, moths, fireflies, frogs, and beavers. The material is interesting, and although not as well written, would be useful for supplementing Selsam's See Through the Forest (Harper, 1956). Written at an upper second grade reading level.

NR Broekel, Ray. You and the Sciences of
8-10 Mankind; pictures by Mary Gehr.
Childrens Press, 1956. 61p. \$2.

Eight areas of the human sciences—Anthropology, Archaeology, Human Geography, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Philology, Philosophy—are presented briefly and seldom clearly. In general the author tends to describe what the person working in each field does, but not how the science operates or why the specialist does what he does. Understanding is frequently hampered by the abundance of grammatical errors, especially the mis-use of pronouns. In his at-

tempt to express complicated and difficult ideas in a few words, the author has resorted to oversimplifications that are both confusing and misleading. The publisher recommends the book for grades six through nine. However, the picture book format will not appeal to readers at that level; the subject will have neither appeal nor meaning for slow readers, and able students who are interested in the subject will want more complete and more accurate information than is given here. Because of the technical terminology, the actual reading level of the book is quite high.

Ad Brown, Margaret Wise. Young Kangaroo;
1-5 illus. by Symeon Shimin. Scott, 1955.
44p. \$2.25.

In spite of the frequent use of colloquialisms and slang, there is a certain charm to this day by day chronicle of a young kangaroo during the period spent in his mother's pouch. There he experiences life through his senses—the rhythmic beat of his mother's heart and the softness of her fur; the smell of different things, places and times of day; sounds, sometimes frightening; the sight of changing lights and, later, changing colors; and, finally, the taste, both sweet and disagreeable of the green things he picks for food. Print, sentence length and vocabulary indicate fifth grade reading level, but the general appeal will be to younger children, for whom the book will need to be read aloud. The illustrations are especially fine and have a tactile quality that gives the book its primary value.

Ad Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Take a Trip
1-4 to a Bakery; illus. by Nancy Selig-
sohn. Putnam, 1956. 47p. \$1.75.

In a moderately easy, straightforward style, the author describes the steps by which bread is produced on a commercial scale in large bakeries. Although there are children shown in the illustrations, the text itself is not fictionalized, and the illustrations are more informative than artistic. The technical nature of the text makes it somewhat difficult reading (3.9 reading grade level) and the solid blocks of type on each page will discourage beginning readers. However, teachers at the primary level would find the text suitable for reading aloud to classes studying units on the bakery.

R Buehr, Walter. Oil, Today's Black Magic.
4-8 Morrow, 1957. 96p. \$2.50.

The history of man's discovery and use of petroleum from early to modern times told simply, with clarity and interest. The text contains considerable information; the illustrations, with

one exception, are both informative and attractive. The picture representing the cracking of petroleum is unnecessarily misleading.

R Calhoun, Mary. Making the Mississippi
4-6 Shout; illus. by Paul Galdone. Morrow, 1957. 96p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Tad Berry could hardly wait for the day when the River Queen would arrive in Summitville for its annual visit. Not only did he look forward to the boat ride and picnic, but he also had plans for climbing to the top deck and playing the boat's calliope. He wanted to "make the Mississippi shout." His plans almost brought disaster to himself and the boat, but later, in a storm, he was able to put his talent to good use by playing the calliope to attract attention and bring much needed help. A well-told story, with good pace and suspense to hold the reader's interest.

M Cameron, Polly. The Cat Who Thought
K-2 He Was a Tiger. Coward-McCann, 1956. 30p. \$2.

Slight variation on an old theme. A kitten refuses to have anything to do with his brothers and sisters because he thinks he is a tiger. One day he goes to the zoo, meets a real tiger, is set straight as to his own identity and returns home to live happily ever after as a kitten. The illustrations are humorous and are better than the slight, rather pointless text, which never indicates why the kitten thought he was a tiger. The text is written at an upper first grade reading level.

R Carroll, Ruth (Robinson) and Latrobe.
4-6 Tough Enough's Trip. Oxford, 1956.
64p. \$2.75.

Another story of Beanie Tatum and his spotted pup, Tough Enough. This time the Tatums are off to visit Beanie's great-grandparents, who live near the ocean, a two days journey away. The children are forbidden to take any pets along, but Tough Enough hides in the truck and is not discovered until it is too late to send him home. On the way, Beanie keeps collecting an assortment of animals, much to his mother's distress, until the family arrives at the grandparents' place with a kitten, a raccoon, a crow, and a skunk, in addition to Tough Enough. Fortunately the grandparents like animals. An amusing story for individual reading or for reading aloud. The lack of opaqueness in the paper makes the text difficult to read in several places where the ink from the illustrations shows through and obscures the print.

Ad Cheney, Cora. The Rocking Chair Buck;

3-5 illus. by Paul Galdone. Holt, 1956.
128p. \$2.25.

Young Manley Phillips, living with his uncle who is fire guard for the Jackson Turpentine Company in northwest Florida, is incensed when poachers kill a large deer (called a rocking chair buck because of the size of its horns) that lives in the woods near their cabin. He finds some clues as to the identity of the men and sets forth to prove their guilt. This is done with ample adult help and in a logical way that does not involve improbable deeds by Manley. Not outstanding writing, but adequate and a story that should have appeal for young readers.

NR Clark, Electa. Spanish Gold and Casey
7-9 McKee; illus. by Clifford N. Geary.
McKay, 1956. 218p. \$3.

Another story of the adventures of young Casey McKee and his uncle, Mr. Bouncer. This time Uncle Bounce has taken over a Florida resort hotel, only to find himself involved with a gang who are smuggling aliens into the country. Casey, as usual, does everything wrong, but in spite of his efforts to the contrary the gang is eventually rounded up by the police. During all this, Casey has been skin diving and has found a trunk full of Spanish coins. As in the earlier books, the writing is replete with slang, the humor is based entirely on slap-stick, and there is no reality to either the characters or the plot. Casey, with his sub-normal mentality, is the main source of the author's humor.

M Coates, Belle. Barn Cat; illus. by Robert
K-3 Henneberger. Scribner, 1955. 56p.
\$2.25.

Bud and Fuzz, brother and sister, found few dull moments on their Dakota plains farm. Even the problem of deciding on a name for the abandoned cat which had adopted their barn gave an added spice to life. On the night of the big blizzard the cat came to the kitchen door and, on escorting him back to the barn, Bud and Fuzz discovered that the barn door had blown away, periling the life of their favorite heifer's newborn calf. The situation was remedied and the children, finally in bed, were inspired to give their cat the only possible and logical name, Barney. Awkward writing lessens the appeal of the story.

M Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. Cherry Ann
3-6 and the Dragon Horse; illus. by
Manning de V. Lee. Macmillan, 1955.
64p. \$2.

Cherry Ann, newly arrived from China with her mother, daily rides with Father in the buggy into San Francisco to sell their flowers. One day

during their ride, Father opens the letter requesting him to report for the draft. Cherry Ann is devastated, particularly on her mother's account, and makes numerous appeals for help, including one to Dragon Horse in the old temple, but all to no avail. On the cheerless day her father is to report, Cherry Ann's best friend, Nora, bursts in with the news of the Japanese surrender. In her happiness, Cherry Ann suddenly realizes she is only one of many boys and girls who have experienced similar deep emotions, and with the realization she has a new sense of belonging. The author fails to make clear Cherry Ann's sense of insecurity at the beginning and so the ending does not ring true. Poetic style.

SpR Commager, Evan Carroll. Cousins; illus. 6-8 by N. M. Bodecker. Harper, 1956. 270p. \$2.75.

A quite nostalgic story, set in the post-World War I period, about a young southern girl and her search for a woman who had been a friend of her grandmother's. Ten-year-old Mark (Margaret) Kendall became interested in Felicity Field when she discovered a letter that Felicity had written to Mark's grandmother, Amelia, at the time of Amelia's wedding. The letter intrigued Mark to the point that she organized a Felicity Club and set forth on a search that consumed much of her thought during the next eight or ten years of her life. The story of the search is interspersed with the everyday affairs of the Kendall family, with Mark's activities with her brothers, sisters and cousins, and with her romance with Bill Bradford, an orphan who lived with the Kendalls for a time and who was regarded by Mark as her "practical cousin." The story, told in excessively southern colloquialisms and long, rambling sentences, is very much an adult's reminiscences of the past and will make difficult reading for most girls below the high school level. Some teen age girls would find the romantic aspects of the search appealing, but they may consider the first part, with its emphasis on the everyday affairs of a ten-year-old not especially interesting. The story could be read aloud to nine or ten year olds, and the unfamiliar colloquialisms explained.

Ad Corey, Paul. Milk Flood; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 189p. \$2.50.

Eighteen-year-old Emery Crane's plans for establishing his own dairy herd were jeopardized when the local milk station, controlled by the large dairy owners of the area, began threatening to cut prices as a first step in the

attempt by the large owners to take over the small dairies. The owners of the small dairies of the area thereupon banded together and formed a co-operative which, in spite of efforts at sabotage, proved successful. With that problem settled, Emery was well on his way to his own herd and eventually his own farm. The story has value for its picture of an example of community activity, but its usefulness will be more as a discussion book for social studies classes than as a piece of fiction for general reading.

R Credle, Ellis. Big Doin's on Razorback Ridge. Nelson, 1956. 125p. \$2.75.
Everyone on Razorback Ridge was excited over the forthcoming celebration of the opening of the new dam. The President was to attend and a prize had been offered to the settlement providing him with the best entertainment. Nancy Calloway and her cousin Jodey wanted to enter the contest to exhibit their old time dances, but were overruled by an older group of young people who wanted to put on a jitterbug exhibition. How the people of the settlement learned to jitterbug, and how Nancy and Jodey had their chance to dance after all, makes a pleasing, mildly amusing story of modern life in the southern mountains. This is not quite up to the standards of Down, Down the Mountain but will be enjoyed by children who have liked the earlier book.

Ad Daugherty, Charles Michael. Good News. 5-7 Viking, 1956. 124p. \$2.50.
A somewhat slap-stick story of the efforts of three boys to introduce Little League Baseball to the town of Indian Falls. The boys start a newspaper as a means of expressing their views on the subject, and although they manage to publish more news that didn't happen than news that did, they also succeed in interesting enough adults in their ideas to get the League well under way. A side plot involves the efforts of the owner of a legitimate newspaper to reform the town's bad boys, and this is done by persuading them to join the Little League. A somewhat purposive story, and the humor occasionally is strained.

NR Dawson, Alexandra D. An A B C of Queer Fish; illus. by William Carmichael. McKay, 1956. 29p. \$2.50.

An alphabet book of real, but unusual fish. Although the names are those of fish that actually exist, neither the text nor the illustrations could be used for information, since neither is wholly accurate. The pictures are all the same color, there is no attempt to show relative sizes,

and the fish are frequently personified. The rhymed text is labored in its attempt at both humor and rhyme, and is as inaccurate as the pictures in what it says about some of the fish. There is not enough humor to either the text or the illustrations to redeem the book as a piece of fantasy.

NR Dilliard, Maud Esther. Ahoy, Peggy Stewart! illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Dutton, 1956. 120p. \$2.50.

A quite pedestrian account of one episode in the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. The time is 1774 and the episode involves the ill-fated Peggy Stewart, a ship that arrived in the colonies with a cargo of English tea after the colonies had declared an embargo on all such shipments. Even though the ship's captain and owner were not responsible for the tea being aboard, the townspeople decided that the ship should be burned. Eight-year-old Toby Seymour is the main character in the story, but his role is wholly that of a spectator on the sidelines, and because he is not deeply involved, the reader finds it difficult to become very concerned about the fate of the ship.

R Eaton, Anne Thaxter, comp. Welcome All Christmas! A Garland of Poems; Ages decorated by Valenti Angelo. Viking, 1955. 128p. \$2.50.

A useful collection of Christmas poems ranging from traditional to modern, with comparatively few of the selections to be found readily in other collections. Among the authors represented are Walter De la Mare, Christina Rossetti, William Morris, Thomas Hardy, G. K. Chesterton, Eleanor Farjeon, Arthur Quiller-Couch, Jan Struther, and Sister Maris Stella. The illustrations are attractive stylized line drawings. Included are an index of titles and first lines and an alphabetical list of authors.

Ad Eisenberg, Azriel. The Great Discovery; 6-8 illus. by Shane Miller. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 112p. \$2.50.

A semi-fictionalized account of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The writing is not as smooth or as readable as that of Honour's Cave of Riches (Whittlesey House, 1956), and the account is not as complete as that in the earlier book. There is, for instance, no mention of the excavations that have been made at the site or of their importance in helping to interpret the scrolls. The information, in so far as it goes, is accurate (except where the author has the scholars patching the scrolls with "Scotch tape") and libraries wanting additional books on the subject will find this one acceptable.

SpC Eleanor, Mother Mary. The Last Apostle; 6-8 illus. by George Pollard. Bruce, 1956. 150p. (Catholic Treasury Books). \$2.

A biography of Paul emphasizing the period from his conversion on the road to Damascus to the end of his life. The text is written from a very biased Christian point of view that provides no attempt at understanding or in any way accepting the Jewish viewpoint. The writing is adequate, although not outstanding, and the book could be used for religious education classes.

SpC Eskin, Sam, ed. Golden Slumbers; A Selection of Lullabies from Near and Far. Book-Records, Inc., 1956. 30p. (Sound-book). \$4.95.

An excellent collection of sixteen lullabies from many cultures—American, German, French, Dutch, Kashmiri, Irish, Jewish, Scottish—with words and music. At the beginning there is a brief history of the lullaby as it has been used from earliest times. Accompanying the book is a record on which the lullabies are sung by well-known folk singers: Pete Seeger, Elizabeth Knight, Frank Cooke, Jean Ritchie, Ruth Welcome, Juanita Cascone, Robin Roberts, and Wallace House. The illustrations are reproductions of paintings and sculpture, and these are identified, together with their present locations, at the end of the book. The format—spiral binding, paper board covers, and the record in a pocket at the end—may prove more satisfactory for handling in record collections than in book collections, but the content is in all ways satisfactory for use in libraries and homes.

SpC Evans, Katherine. The Little Tree. Bruce, K-1 1956. 26p. (Christian Child's Stories) 50¢.

Slight story of a small tree growing on a hillside near a Mexican village. The tree envies the laurel trees growing in the middle of the busy village square until one day when it is cut down and a figure carved from its trunk. The figure is that of the Baby Jesus and it is given a position in a village shrine where it can see all that is going on and be a part of the busy life that had so intrigued the little tree. The colorful illustrations have a certain charm and give the book its main appeal.

NR Field, Eugene. The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat; illus. by Helen Page. 3-5 Follett, 1956. 32p. \$1.25.

Two of Field's poems "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat" and "The Dinkey-Bird" presented in a tall, thin book, with prettily sentimental illustrations and an insubstantial binding.

R Fosdick, Harry Emerson, Martin Luther;
7-9 illus. by Steele Savage. Random
House, 1956. 184p. (World Landmark
Books) \$1.50.

A forceful, vigorous biography of Luther that does an excellent job of relating him to his times and of showing how the events of his life and the intellectual climate in which he lived helped to bring about the development of his religious ideas and theories. Luther emerges as a more well-rounded, and in some ways as a more believable character in this biography than in the McNeer, Martin Luther (Abingdon, 1953).

Ad Garnet, Eve. Further Adventures of the
6-8 Family from One End Street. Van-
guard, 1956. 254p. \$3.

Picking up where the first book ended, the author continues the chronicles of the Ruggles family. This time the setting is divided between the country, where Peg and Jo are recovering from the effects of measles, and Kate is along to watch over the two, and the town where the rest of the family go through a series of adventures ranging from Uncle Albert's wedding to the final acquisition of the pig which Mr. Ruggles has long wanted. In spite of too frequent references to events in the earlier book and somewhat less sparkle than the original, there is humor to many of the episodes, and readers who have enjoyed the first book will undoubtedly like this one also.

Ad Gault, William Campbell. Speedway Chal-
7-9 lenge. Dutton, 1956. 189p. \$2.75.

Ever since, as a child of six, he saw his father killed in a race track accident, Steve Mallot had been over-cautious and over-protective toward his younger brother Johnny. When Johnny decided to spend the summer following high school graduation on the race car circuit, Steve went along, against his better judgment and even though it meant postponing the start of his own career as an engineer. During the summer, Steve took over some of the driving duties and, in the excitement and challenge of the races, lost some of his excessive cautiousness. At the end of the summer Johnny disclosed the fact that he had planned the summer for the sole purpose of "curing" Steve. The story is told in the first person, by Steve, and loses some of its effectiveness in that Steve's frequent spells of soul-searching do not quite ring true and tend to slow up the pace of the story. When Steve is describing the races and not being psychoanalytical the pace and interest pick up and these parts will give the book considerable appeal for sports car fans.

R George, John Lothar and Jean. Dipper of
7-10 Copper Creek. Dutton, 1956. 185p.
\$3.50.

Dipper is a water ouzel living in and near a water fall near the ghost town of Gothic in the Colorado Rockies. As the authors describe how Dipper's parents chose the falls as their nesting grounds, built the nest and raised a family in spite of the hazards of flood and other animals, they also tell the story of Whispering Bill Smith, an old prospector, and his grandson, Doug Kriserich, who has come to spend the summer at Gothic. The two stories intertwine as the boy becomes interested in the ouzels and is instrumental in saving Dipper's life during a flood. As usual in their books the authors bring the animals to life without resorting to personification, make real people of their human characters, and create a feeling for the forces of nature that gives the book substance and power. The illustrations add beauty to the other appeals of the story.

Ad Gilbert, Miriam. Eli Whitney: Master
4-6 Craftsman; illus. by Leonard Vos-
burgh. Abingdon, 1956. 128p. (Makers
of America) \$1.50.

An interesting, generally adequate biography of Whitney that succeeds in making him seem real, but that leaves him in something of a vacuum. Although the actual events of Whitney's life are recounted faithfully, the author never quite succeeds in creating the period in which those events took place. As a result the reader is left with little understanding of why Whitney's new method of producing guns was important—or even of how his method really differed from that which had been used before. Considerable space is given to the invention of the cotton gin and to Whitney's troubles in protecting his patent, but again, the effect of the cotton gin on the economy, and eventually on the history of the country is ignored.

NR Govan, Christine (Noble) and West, Emmy.
5-7 The Mystery at the Mountain Face;
illus. by Frederick T. Chapman.
Sterling, 1956. 159p. \$2.50.

Ted and Bitsy Cordell and their friends are once more involved in a mystery. They are vacationing at Duffy's farm and have bought a small piano to use for square dances. Immediately a villain appears and tries to rob them of the piano. In the usual pattern of these stories, they cover up for the robbers until their state policeman friend can come along, because they know the local police to be too incompetent to handle the case. The villains are brought to jus-

tice and the children are praised for their interference. The mystery itself is too confused for brief description—even the authors losing the trail at one point.

SpC Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Train
1-2 Engineer; illus. by Victor Havel.
Childrens Press, 1956. 30p. \$2.

A fictionalized informational book. Young Tommy expresses a wish to become a train engineer, and his Uncle Bill tells him the things he will have to learn and the steps he will have to take to achieve his ambition. Although the diesel is mentioned, major emphasis is given to the now out-moded steam engine. The repetitive style gives the book the tone of a reader rather than a trade book, and it could be used as supplementary reading material at an upper first grade level.

M Greene, Carla. I Want To Be an Orange
1-2 Grower; illus. by Audrey William-
son. Childrens Press, 1956. 29p. \$2.

Fictionalized informational book about orange growing. Jimmy visits his Uncle John and is shown the operation of a large orange grove. The text is written at a beginning second grade reading level, but because of the stilted style and unattractive illustrations, the book would be useful only where supplementary reading material at this level is needed.

NR Hall, William and Robin. Telltime Goes
K-1 a'Counting; pictures by Charlotte
Steiner. Crowell, 1956. 28p. \$2.

Telltime, the rabbit with ears that point like clock hands (one being longer than the other), sets out to learn to count to ten. He has help from the small animals around his home and not only learns to count to ten, but by adding his friends and family together, manages to count to 100. The book is designed to help young children learn to count but the treatment has little that is helpful and some features that are definitely harmful. The story is too slight to be of real use or appeal. The juxtaposition of numerals and drawings is too confusing for the book to have any possible value as a counting book.

SpC Hannon, Ruth. A Catholic Child's Pic-
3-5 ture Dictionary; illus. by Ted Chaiko.
Simon and Schuster, 1956. 58p. \$1.50.

Over 400 words, some of them familiar ones and others highly specialized religious terms, are defined in a strictly religious sense. In many instances understanding of the definition depends on prior knowledge of the religious aspect of the term that is being defined. The

book could be used in Roman Catholic homes or religious education classes, but would have little to offer the non-Catholic child.

R Harnett, Cynthia. Stars of Fortune. Put-
7-9 nam, 1956. 256p. \$3.

With the same adept handling of events and characterizations that marked her earlier books as exceptional, the author has again created a period and event from English history. This time the action centers around the Washington family of Sulgrave Manor at the time when Princess Elizabeth was being held prisoner at Woodstock. The plot involves an attempt, in which the Washington children have a part, to help Elizabeth escape from England. The setting is accurate and the characterizations vividly drawn. Although the plot is quite far-fetched in that Elizabeth was much too astute a woman ever to have had a part in so feebly planned and so dangerous a scheme as this one, the author's skill as a storyteller makes the events seem credible nonetheless, and the result is an exciting adventure story, if not wholly accurate historical fiction.

R Harrington, Lyn. Ootook: Young Eskimo
4-6 Girl; photographs by Richard Harrington. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 127p.
\$2.75.

Brief text, supplemented by excellent black and white photographs, describe the life of Ootook, a young Eskimo girl living at Padlei, a trading post on Kinga Lake in the far North. There is a slight thread of story in Ootook's efforts to obtain a fox trap to begin her own trap line, but the book is primarily useful as an interesting picture of everyday life among modern Eskimos.

NR Hearn, Florence. Children of Bible Days;
1-3 pictures by Dorothy Handsaker Scott.
Broadman, 1956. 27p. (Little Treasure Series). 65¢.

Six short stories involving real and imaginary children of the Bible. The first four children are real and are taken from Old Testament stories. The last two are imaginary and are described in connection with two New Testament figures—Paul and Peter. The Old Testament stories are incomplete and would be meaningless to children who did not know the full stories. The New Testament stories are pointless.

R Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. The Priceless
4-6 Cats; and Other Italian Folk Stories;
illus. by Gioia Flamenghi. Vanguard,
1956. 158p. \$3.

A collection of twenty-two folk tales from Italy.

Some of the stories are based on legends about real people and some are pure fantasy. Not all of the stories are suitable for telling, as presented here, but they will all be of interest to the student of folk literature and some can be used for storytelling. A section at the end gives additional information about each story and will be of especial interest to students of folk lore.

SpC Jenkins, Sara Lucile. Amos, Prophet of Justice. Association Press, 1956. 127p. (Heroes of God). \$2.

A fictionalized biography of Amos that creates an interesting picture of the period in which he lived but that will be of little value for most readers in clarifying his teachings. As usual in these volumes, there are no sources given and in this instance the characterization of Amos does not entirely agree with that found in most adult books about him.

Y R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Mr. Justice Holmes; illus. by Robert Todd. Follett, 1956. 192p. \$3.50.

A very readable biography of Holmes that is actually more a character study of Holmes the man than a study of "Justice" Holmes. The characterization is well handled, and the book is especially interesting for the account of the conflict and lack of understanding between Holmes and his father. Since the issues of the day and Holmes' work as a jurist are only superficially treated, the book will not have much appeal for older readers, but it will be useful with younger readers who are having similar family conflicts.

Y R Kellogg, Charlotte. Paderewski. Viking, 1956. 224p. \$3.50.

A mature, exceedingly interestingly written biography of Paderewski, taking him from the age of twelve, when he entered the Warsaw Conservatory, through his long and varied career as pianist, composer and statesman. The author has achieved a well-rounded picture of Paderewski, both as a personality and as a leader, and of the period in which he lived. The book will serve well as a stepping-stone for readers who are almost ready for adult books.

Ad Kendall, James. Humphry Davy: 'Pilot' of Penzance. Roy, 1955. 165p. \$3. Using as source material contemporary biographies and records of the Royal Institution, but writing in a distressingly self-conscious style, the author has nevertheless done a rather interesting and well-proportioned biography of Sir Humphry Davy. Davy was more than the scientist whose early experiments

with laughing gas and whose subsequent lectures on many phases of industrial and agricultural science set him apart for all time; he was also a poet of talent (Wordsworth and Coleridge were his intimates) and an enthusiastic fisherman; but, of most importance, he was the discoverer of Faraday. Includes an index.

SpC King, Marian. A Gallery of Children; Portraits from the National Gallery of Art. Lippincott, 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

A collection of distinguished paintings of children from the National Gallery, arranged chronologically and representing a variety of schools. The paper and format are excellent but, unfortunately, the pictures are all in black and white. The text opposite each picture gives some biographical material on the painter or subject, or both, some historical background, a description of the colors, a discussion of mood and often a few words about the technique employed. An interesting, although not especially outstanding addition for art collections.

R Lansing, Elisabeth Carleton (Hubbard). 6-8 Sure Thing for Shep; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Crowell, 1956. 180p. \$2.50.

After his grandmother's death, fourteen-year-old Shep Masterson was fiercely determined to keep the southern mountain farm and cabin where the two of them had lived. He was dismayed to learn there was thirty dollars owed in back taxes, but he was confident that his Uncle Jake would return and solve that problem. Jake, the black sheep of the family, proved a weak source of help, with his predilection for liquor and race tracks, but he was as concerned as Shep that the home farm be saved, and in time it was. With admirable objectivity, the author depicts Shep's growing awareness of his uncle's weaknesses and his decision to remain loyal to his uncle in spite of those weaknesses.

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. The Monkey of Crofton. Morrow, 1957. 127p. \$2.25.

Luke thought he wanted his parents to bring him a monkey when they returned from India. However, before they could return he found a monkey that belonged to an organ grinder, and in the short time that he had it came to realize that monkeys are too mischievous to make very satisfactory pets. When his parents returned he was content with the puppy they had brought instead. Although the type size and format are similar to Miss Lattimore's books for young children, this one is written at a fourth grade

reading level and would have to be read aloud to younger children.

R Leekley, Thomas B. King Herla's Quest,
5-7 and Other Medieval Stories from
Walter Map; illus. by Johannes
Troyer. Vanguard, 1956. 127p. \$2.75.

Eight stories taken from the thirteenth century writings of Walter Map and retold with wit and vigor. Some of the stories are based on historical events, and all reflect the belief in the supernatural that was prevalent at the time Map wrote them. The style lends itself well to reading aloud or to storytelling.

Ad Lerrigo, Marion O., Southard, Helen and
10-12 Senn, Milton J. E. Learning about
Love; Sound Facts and Healthy Attitudes
Toward Sex and Marriage.
Dutton, 1956. 64p. \$2.

An introduction to some of the problems of courtship and marriage for young people. Contents include: Years of Decision, Some Basic Facts about Men and Women, It's a Two-Sex World, Choosing a Marriage Partner and Making Marriage Work. The material is useful, although not as detailed as that to be found in Duvall's Facts of Life and Love for Teen-Agers (Association Press, 1956). Of primary usefulness for guidance classes.

R Lewellen, John Bryan. Jet Transports;
6-10 illus. by Bob Barker. Crowell,
1955. 151p. \$2.50.

Writing graphically of the failure of BOAC's jet transports, the Comets, and their subsequent removal from service, the author then tells of America's Boeing 707, and describes in detail the ninety-two hours of its test period. He discourses in a chapter, "How the Jets Keep from Getting Lost," on such things as air currents (including jet streams), why a person's sense of balance fails him in a plane, instruments for blind flying and landing, sky airways under government control, and related topics. There are detailed but interesting discussions of engines—piston, turbojet, turboprop, rocket, ramjet and nuclear-powered—with the advantages and disadvantages, and the probable future of each. The book has excellent black and white illustrations and a useful index.

SpR Lewis, Elizabeth (Foreman). To Beat a
9-12 Tiger, One Needs a Brother's Help;
decorations by John Huehnergath.
Winston, 1956. 215p. \$2.95.

A starkly realistic story of life in Shanghai at the time of the Japanese invasion of China. A

group of Chinese boys from many sections of China and from varied social and economic backgrounds, come together as a gang, living by their wits, but with a code that permits stealing from the Japanese and their collaborators only—not from loyal Chinese. Each boy in the gang emerges as a personality and the effects of the early training of each reflects in the ways in which each responds to the situations he now faces, situations requiring conduct that is at variance with all that the boys had previously been taught regarding honesty and respect for the property of others. The maturity of style and the concepts which the author introduces will have more to offer the thoughtful, mature reader than the reader who is primarily interested in adventure and action stories, although this has both.

M Lineaweaver, Charles and Marion. The
4-6 First Book of Canada; pictures by
W. R. Lohse. Watts, 1955. 65p. \$1.95.

Text and excellent illustrations combine to give a rather good picture of the geographical contrasts that are Canada. However, it is not a well balanced book since some irrelevancies are treated in detail and there are some startling omissions—e.g., there is no discussion of the Alcan Highway or the St. Lawrence Waterway, and no mention is made of newsprint, one of Canada's chief exports. Occasional intrusion of fictional characters detracts from the text. The index is brief with a tendency to group small topics under large headings.

R Lisitsky, Genevieve Hellen. Four Ways
8-12 of Being Human; An Introduction to
Anthropology; illus. by C. B. Falls.
Viking, 1956. 303p. \$4.50.

An absorbing introduction to anthropology that takes four primitive societies—Semang of Malaya, Eskimo, Maori and Hopi—and describes their development of social mores and of religious beliefs and customs. The early development of each society is discussed and the impact of modern civilizations on each is described. The material is presented in a mature style to appeal to the thoughtful reader, yet with a clarity and simplicity that will put it within the realm of understanding of many junior high school students.

NR Lowe, Edith, ed. The Child's Book of
K-2 Psalms; illus. by Nan Pollard. Reg.
ed. Garden City, 1956. 54p. \$1.25.

A collection of excerpts from thirty-six psalms, and one psalm (Twenty-third) reproduced in its entirety. A tall, thin book, illustrated with rather saccharin blue and brown pictures.

R Metcalfe, June M. Mining Round the World; Stories of Mines, Minerals and Men; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Oxford, 1956. 123p. \$2.50.

Some unusual types of mines and mining activities are described, beginning with recent uranium discoveries in Canada, Belgian Congo and the United States, and including a tin mine in Malaya, a copper mine in Utah, the Broken Hill Lode in Australia that yields lead, silver and zinc, the Kimberley diamond mine and the Robertson gold mine, both in Africa. Although the writing is quite awkward in spots, the subject interest will be strong enough to hold the reader's attention, and the information given about the mines is accurate.

R Morison, Samuel Eliot. The Story of the "Old Colony" of New Plymouth; illus. by Charles H. Overly. Knopf, 1956. 303p. \$3.50.

An absorbing account of the history of New Plymouth that deals with the early beginnings of the Separatists movement, the voyage of the Mayflower, the difficulties faced by the first settlers, and the political, social and economic development of the colony up to the time of its absorption into what is now the State of Massachusetts. Many legends and misconceptions are explored, and exploded, and the colonists emerge as infinitely more interesting than the typical history book credits them with being. The writing has a clarity and simplicity that will enable young readers to follow it with ease, plus a maturity that will challenge them to look with greater depth of understanding into all that made up the people and the events of the period. This is history at its best for young people or adults.

M Nixon, K. Pushti. Warne, 1956. 46p. \$2. K-3

Rather pleasing, although not especially original story of a young Siamese kitten who sets forth to see the world. After being frightened by a large dog and falling into a pond while trying to find the kitten reflected in the water, Pushti is glad to be taken home to his mother and less venturesome sisters. The illustrations are colorful and frequently catch the look of a real Siamese kitten. Because of the confusing arrangement of the text on many of the pages, the book would need to be read aloud to children.

NR Nye, Harriet Kamm. Wishing on a Star. 7-9 Dodd, 1956. 246p. \$2.75.

Betts Howland, high school graduate, accepts a summer job as a counselor at a nearby girls'

camp more as a means of escaping home and a recently acquired and bitterly resented step-father than for any other reason. During the summer she falls in love with the swimming instructor, improves her family relationships, saves the camp from being taken over by a wealthy neighbor, and reforms those girls in her cabin who have severe personality problems. All this by continuing to be selfishly self-centered herself up to the last week or so of camp. The setting is interesting, but the characters are too superficial and the handling of the problems too unrealistic to have any real value for readers.

Ad Parker, Bertha Morris. The Golden Book of Science; illus. by Harry McNaught. Simon & Schuster, 1956. 97p. (A Giant Golden Book). \$3.95.

A brief overview of the many aspects of science—plant and animal life, weather, geology, astronomy, atomic energy, etc. Each subject is dealt with in a single page, or at the most two pages of text and illustrations. Because of the brevity of the text, the book's value will be chiefly that of an introduction to the whole field of science—a browsing book to excite interest rather than a reference tool. The index includes references to material that is contained on the end papers only and that would be lost in re-binding.

NR Patchett, Mary Osborne Elwyn. Flight to the Misty Planet. Bobbs-Merrill, 1956. 236p. \$2.75.

An attempt at science fiction that borders too closely on the melodramatic. While on a routine training flight, Steve Strong and Nick Pentland crash-land on Venus. There they find animal and plant life developed to a point comparable to the eocene era in earth's development. They also find another flier, Pat Lomax, who had crash-landed some time before. Their adventures and eventual rescue are more comparable to the comics than to good science fiction.

R Picard, Barbara Leonie, ed. French Legends, Tales and Fairy Stories; illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Oxford, 1955. 216p. \$3.50.

In a style eminently suited to her subject, and one which should carry even the reader or listener not addicted to these literary forms, the author retells some medieval courtly tales, some legends from various provinces and some stories of French epic heroes. The illustrations, some in black and white and others in black, white, grays, and soft blues add to the attractiveness of the book.

Ad Price, Christine. Song of the Wheels.
7-9 Longmans, 1956. 214p. \$3.

A story of the Farmer's Rebellion led by Will Prendergast, in the early days of New York's history. The events of the rebellion are seen through the eyes of two boys—Jared Marsh, whose family are lured to the Philipse Manor at Yonkers without realizing what is in store for them there, and Asa Tibbets, whose family were unjustly evicted from the farm taken over by the Marsh family and whose father dies in a New York prison. The events described are historically accurate; the story loses some of its effectiveness from the lack of focus that results from the frequent shifts in point of view from Jared to Asa.

R Pringle, Patrick. Great Discoverers in
8-12 Modern Science. Roy, 1955. 206p. \$3.

Although the biographees treated here are predominantly English, their discoveries are of universal interest and the author has emphasized the sense of world citizenship which is a part of every truly great scientist. The sketches are exceptionally well-delineated human documents; there is realism and idealism (without sentimentalism), humor and human interest material, and simple explanations of complex scientific theories and facts. Included are Fleming (penicillin), Baird (television), Appleton (ionized layers), Watson-Watt (radar), Hopkins (vitamins), Davis (self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus), Piccard (balloon and bathyscaph observation), Banting (insulin), Whittle (turbojet), von Braun (V2), Einstein (Relativity and Quantum theories) and Oppenheimer (atomic bomb).

M Puttcamp, Rita. Borrowed Boots; illus.
7-9 by Clifford N. Geary. Viking, 1956.
186p. \$2.50.

Fifteen-year-old Sam Randal, living near Brownsville, Texas, shortly after the Mexican War, found himself frequently at odds with his father, Captain Pete Randal. The Captain resented his son's small size and refused to acknowledge that Sam had any good qualities. Sam, in turn, disagreed with his father over the treatment of the Mexicans, whose homes were being confiscated by the Texans. The issue came to a head when Sam became friends with Juan Cortina, whose estate of Santa Rita was claimed by Captain Randal. In the ensuing conflict Sam found himself torn between loyalties on both sides and by the realization that both sides were to some extent in the wrong, at least in the way in which they were handling the problem. In the end Sam was given Santa Rita by the Cortinas when they were forced to

flee to Mexico. The author has introduced some complex and difficult problems but has oversimplified both the statement of the problems and their solutions, with the result that, while she obviously is making a point, the reader is never clear just what it is.

Ad Renick, Marion (Lewis). Seven Simpsons
3-5 on Six Bikes; illus. by Gertrude Howe.
Scribner, 1956. 122p. \$2.25.

Beany longed for an adventure comparable to those he watched on TV. He was even willing to settle for one as tame as searching for the lost house that a friendly farmer had told him about. Before he could start hunting, however, he had to learn to ride a bike. When this was finally accomplished, the entire family set forth to find the house—all of them on bikes except the three-year-old, who doubled up with his father. A rather slight story, but with nice family relations. A list of bicycle safety rules is included at the end.

R Riesenberg, Felix. Great Men of the Sea;
8-12 illus. by Rus Anderson. Putnam,
1955. 250p. \$3.

Beginning with the story of the Ark and early legends of ships at sea, and continuing down to the Nautilus and present plans for a nuclear-powered merchant ship, the author has written an information-packed, fascinating story of ships and the men who have sailed them. But it is also the history of power-politics and economics—an excellent book of supplementary history reading. The author's ability to maintain interest at a high level will carry the reader past occasional passages with fuzzy meanings. The endpapers are world maps with most strategic trade centers shown. Index included.

R Ross, Frank Xavier. Superpower; The
9-12 Story of Atomic Energy. Lothrop,
1955. 185p. \$2.95.

Another of the author's lucid discourses on modern scientific developments. After tracing theories of the atom from ancient Greek times, through eighteenth and nineteenth century English theories and experiments to the present, Mr. Ross explains the known components of atoms and characteristics of each. Recently unclassified information about the development and performance of nuclear weapons is included; and there are exciting accounts of the present and future possible peaceful uses of atomic reactors for power production, and the use of radioisotopes in industry, agriculture and medicine. A good index, diagrams and many excellent photographs are included.

R Sawyer, Ruth. The Enchanted Schoolhouse;
4-6 illus. by Hugh Troy. Viking, 1956.
128p. \$2.50.

A short tale of a modern Irish boy and his task of enchanting an American schoolhouse. Brian Boru Gallagher, named for a high King of Ireland, is given an opportunity to visit his uncle, a lobster fisherman in New England. Brian has heard about the wonders of refrigerators, etc., in the "new" world, and he decides to come prepared with his own Irish wonder, a fairy. Brian and the fairy travel together, and when the opportunity for enchantment arrives, they amaze the little fishing village by helping to build a new schoolhouse. The story has charm and fine lilting language for reading aloud.

R Saxon, Gladys Relyea. Sea Beach Adventure;
5-7 illus. by Paul Galdone. Holt,
1956. 190p. \$2.75.

Thirteen-year-old Paul Parton was the only non-artistic member of the Painting Parton family. Although he had no desire to become artistic, having settled on a scientific career, he did wish that he could win an award of some kind, mistakenly thinking that this was necessary to make his family proud of him. The story takes the family through a summer at Sea Beach, California, where they have been commissioned to do a book about the town. Paul spends the summer with a new friend, Bill Low, training a pet seal and raising earthworms to sell. Although he does gain some favorable publicity during the summer, his best reward is the praise his family gives him for learning to stick with a project once it is started and for using his head in an emergency. A pleasing family story and a subject to interest young would-be naturalists.

NR Scharbach, Alexander. The Gold Race;
7-9 illus. by Gerald McCann. Dodd,
1956. 205p.

A story of the 1849 gold rush and of the race among wagon train captains to be the first to reach the gold fields with much needed supplies. Fourteen-year-old Joey and his sixteen-year-old brother Pete are allowed to join Jim Stewart's train, with the understanding that they must keep up or be left behind. Joey does a better job than his rather flighty brother, but the two eventually make it, and their train is the first to reach California

that year. The story of the trek and of the experiences the two boys have in searching for gold adds nothing new to the many books already available on the subject. The characters are not well developed; Pete is especially unbelievable. Although the events along the way are potentially exciting, much of the suspense is lost through inept writing.

R Sellman, Roger Raymond. The Crusades;
10-12 pictures by S. E. Ellacott. Roy, 1955.
73p. \$2.50.

A complete, interesting and well-written account of the Crusades, stressing the self-interest as well as the idealistic motives. Especially good are the discussions of the social, economic and cultural implications of the Crusades. Although the book's greatest use will be as a reference work in medieval history, many an enthusiastic student of history will read it for pure enjoyment. Included at the end are Explanatory Notes (a sort of glossary), a Select Book List (fiction and non-fiction) and a good index. Charts and maps are adequate.

NR Sewell, Anna. Black Beauty; The Auto-
4-6 biography of a Horse; especially ed.
and abridged by Barbara Nolen; illus.
by Tom Gill. Simon & Schuster, 1956.
96p. (Golden Picture Classics). 69¢.

Cut, re-written version of a story that has long since outlived its usefulness as a children's book. This account does nothing to correct the weaknesses of the original story and, in view of the innumerable good horse stories available for children today, has even less reason for being.

R Sheehy, Emma Dickson. Molly and the Golden Wedding; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Holt, 1956. 159p. \$2.50.

A quietly told story of the rather mild adventures of a young girl living in the Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania, in the early 1900's. The adventures include getting caught in a blizzard and riding a mine train up into the mountains to hunt for arbutus. There are visits to the nearby farm owned by an aunt and uncle, and through it all runs plans for the golden wedding celebration of Molly's grandparents. Although not outstanding writing, there is a warmth to the family relationships and an appeal to the experiences of Molly that should have interest for young girls.