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Bulletin
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March 1960 · Vol. XIII · No. 7



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 XIII

March, 1960

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Anglund, Joan Walsh. Love Is a Special Way of Feeling. Harcourt, 1960. 26p.
3-5 illus. \$1.75.
yrs.

A small book that tells, with sensitive understanding, of the ways love is expressed . . . in the safety of mother's arms, in feeding a lost cat, and in talking to someone "when they want to listen and don't tell us to go away and be quiet." Illustrations have a fragility that matches the tenderness of the text, but both of these qualities limit the appeal for some children, and the writing style is more diffuse than that of earlier titles.

Ad Asimov, Isaac. Realm of Numbers; diagrams by Robert Belmore. Houghton,
7- 200p. \$2.75.

A discussion of theories and concepts in mathematics, in terminology comprehensible to the non-mathematician, and with some variation in the degree of mathematical sophistication necessary to understand different parts of the text. The text explores number systems, decimals and fractions, square roots and logarithms, and infinity. There are some explanations which are not completely clear, and may therefore be misleading; for example, the reference to an "equilateral right triangle" or "In a sense, all decimals can be considered repeating decimals." On the whole, the text is lucid; it is well organized and it has the combination of information, informality and enthusiasm that make all of Mr. Asimov's books enjoyable.

Ad Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Voyage of the "Sea Wind." Houghton, 1959. 37p.
1-3 illus. \$3.

Despite large print and picture book format, the specialized nautical vocabulary of this book indicate that it will be used as a read aloud book for children below third grade. The illustrations, especially those in color, are stunning. The Sea Wind was a three-masted cargo schooner, sailing out of Boston for Bermuda, and Sandy MacDuff was aboard for his first trip with his father, Captain MacDuff. In Bermuda, Sandy made a new friend, Willie. After the ship left Bermuda, a storm came up and the Sea Wind's rudder was shattered. It was Willie who saw the rocket that she sent up as a distress signal, who called for help and saved all hands aboard. It seems unnecessary to refer to Willie as a "little colored boy"; since his race has no bearing on the story, and it is evident that there is no bias. A pleasant, although not unusual story.

R Behn, Harry. The Two Uncles of Pablo; illus. by Mel Silverman. Harcourt,
3-5 1959. 96p. \$3.

A most unusual and beautifully written book. Pablo goes with his disreputable Uncle Silván to stay in the city, and finds that he has another uncle there, a sad, rich, old man. The two men are on bad terms, but through their need for Pablo's affection they

are brought together. Pablo's realization of their frailties and his implementation of a solution to their problems are described with understanding, yet he seems too wise for his years. The book has humor and the characterizations are excellent, but the great charm is a less tangible one, one of flavor and atmosphere. The book has wide appeal and the preceptive reader will see additional dimensions.

R Bennett, Rainey. The Secret Hiding Place; written and illus. by Rainey Bennett.
K-2 World, 1960. 26p. \$3.

Little Hippo was everybody's pet, and he was a bit tired of being watched all the time, even though the whole herd doted on him. He wanted a hiding place where he could be alone. So he hunted for one, but he found that it was frightening to be all alone . . . then he found the perfect, secret place. Although there is repetition in the illustrations, they are lovely in color and technique, with an ingenuous and fresh appeal that is reflected in the text. Third graders who will not disdain the picture book format will appreciate subtleties in text as well as savor the real point of the story.

M Bethers, Ray. Nature Invents, Science Applies; written and illus. by Ray
4-6 Bethers. Hastings, 1959. 48p. \$2.95.

An overview of some of the basic principles of motion as they are shown in natural phenomena and in man-made devices that resemble them. For each phenomenon, a double-page spread describes and illustrates such topics as jet propulsion, camouflage or formation flying. The explanations are, for the most part, clear but not comprehensive; in some instances the principle involved is inadequately explained. Illustrations are not captioned or labeled and are therefore of little help in supplementing the text. This is browsing or introductory material, but with few exceptions the several sections are too brief a survey to be really useful.

NR Brady, Rita G. Lois Thornton, Librarian. Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 174p. \$3.
7-9

Fourth in the author's series of career books for adolescent girls. Lois Thornton fancied herself a writer and wanted to get into the field of television script-writing, so she felt that all opportunity was lost when her family moved to a small town. Rather reluctantly, Lois accepted the offer of a job in the town library "until something better turned up." From this beginning comes a new and fascinating life as Lois finds the satisfactions and challenges of librarianship. The accomplishments of this young lady (untrained but eager) are not quite believable . . . a television program, bibliotherapy on the side, etc. Writing style is mediocre and the characterization is superficial.

Ad Bright, Robert. My Red Umbrella. Morrow, 1959. 32p. illus. \$2.
3-5
yrs.

A small book of rather slight substance. A little girl tells of her red umbrella and of the animals it sheltered during a walk in the rain. The umbrella expands, as shown in the illustrations, to accommodate any number. Then the rain stops, and all the animals go away, and the little girl decides complacently that it is a very good thing she brought her red umbrella. Counting to four and back to one is part of the text, but the pictures are too small to implement this and make the book useful as a counting book.

M Brink, Carol (Ryrie). The Pink Motel; illus. by Sheila Greenwald. Macmillan,
4-6 1959. 83p. \$2.75.

When the Mellen family inherited a motel, they promptly went down to Florida to see what it was like, deciding to run the place until it could be sold. Their guests were an odd lot: two men who seemed to be gangsters, a Miss P. DeGree and her valuable dogs, a magician and the fey Miss Ferry, an artist amongst them. On the trail of a

treasure left by deceased Uncle Hiram, the Mellen children found that the motel itself and the happy life it provided were the real treasure. A mélange of humor (not always successful), adventure, and fantasy. Some of the odd characters are caricatured too heavily, and the overtones of magical events are awkwardly obtrusive, but the author's style is for the most part light and humorous.

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Stories of Favorite Operas; illus. by Robert Galster. 5-9 Crowell, 1959. 276p. \$3.75.

Twenty three libretti of popular operas are told in detail, but in simplified style; the re-tellings are not absorbing reading, but the book is most useful. Each opera is introduced by a very brief description of its origin and its first performance. Appended are an index, short biographical notes on the twelve composers whose works are included, and cast lists for each opera.

M Burack, Abraham Solomon, ed. Four-Star Radio Plays for Teen-Agers; A Collection of Royalty-Free Radio Dramas Adapted from Great Literature. 7- Plays, Inc., 1959. 246p. \$4.

A dozen abbreviations of classic novels which may be used royalty-free for amateur production. The adaptations have been written by several different authors, but are somewhat alike in the way that they have been cut and re-written to half-hour length. Simple directions for music cues have been inserted. Some of the conversation from the original source is given verbatim, but much of the burden of exposition depends on a narrator. Not outstanding, but may be useful material.

Ad Calhoun, Mary Huiskamp. Houn' Dog; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. 3-5 Morrow, 1959. 32p. \$2.75.

A picture book with text that has a Southern Mountain flavor. Houn' Dog was distinguished by having, of all the dogs in the hills, the sharpest smell and the sweetest beller. He was tricked by Slyfoot the Fox into getting stung by a swarm of bees, but recovered in time to outrun the pack in the big fox-hunt. The writing has humor of the tall-tale flavor, and the illustrations are well suited to the text.

R Cumming, Marian. A Valentine for Candy; illus. by Susanne Suba. 4-6 Harcourt, 1959. 160p. \$3.

Set in Texas in 1894, the story of a girl from the North who came to stay for a year in a small Southern town. Candace found it hard to adjust to the differences she found, and some of the girls she met at school were not at all receptive to the idea of playing with a Yankee. Little by little, prejudices wore away and Candy had many happy experiences before the Valentine's Day that brought two delightful surprises: snow in Texas and a visit from her father. Sprightly writing style and an interesting series of adventures make enjoyable reading. The author is especially skilled at describing the characters and conversations of small girls.

R DeJong, David Cornel. The Happy Birthday Umbrella; illus. by Harvey Weiss. 2-3 Little, 1959. 51p. \$2.75.

A pleasantly nonsensical story about a small boy whose treasured umbrella was improved and ornamented by all of his adult friends. David loved the old yellow umbrella when he found it, and he loved it even more by the time it had a window in the top, bells along the edge, fringe, and a handle that came from a circus wagon. A wonderful birthday present for David. The relationships between the boy and older people are warm but the adults are somewhat caricatured.

R De Leeuw, Adèle. Love Is the Beginning; by Adèle and Cateau De Leeuw. 7-10 World, 1960. 219p. \$3.

A pleasant, restrained book about a young girl's adjustment to a move to a new town

away from all her friends and a much-desired summer job. Chris was also forced to give up her plans for college when the family moved, because her father's purchase of a small-town newspaper took all the money they had. It took a long time for Chris to get over her resentment and accept the facts that there were interesting people in Blairsville, that she would get to college some day, and that Pete would go on loving her even if she weren't on campus. The writing is realistic and honest: for example, no dramatic campaign endears the new editor to the townspeople; it is a question of time passing—of the family becoming acquainted—of slow acceptance. Excellent family relationships and several sharp vignettes of life in a small town.

NR Drummond, Violet H. Mrs. Easter and the Storks; written and illus. by Violet 3-5 H. Drummond. Barnes, 1960. 32p. \$2.75.

Mrs. Easter and her nephew Billie Guftie went to Denmark where two storks, Sally and Sam, lived on the Jensen's roof. Sally was captured by a zoo superintendent, Sam flew after her with Billie as his passenger and was followed by Mrs. Easter, umbrella-borne. (Even the illustration looks like Mary Poppins.) They all arrived in England, where Sally fainted in flight and floated down at the feet of the King, etc. Too long, too labored, and not truly humorous.

SpR Duggan, Maurice. Falter Tom and the Water Boy; illus. by Kenneth Rowell. 5-7 Criterion Books, 1959. 61p. \$2.50.

A story that originally appeared in a New Zealand educational journal and was subsequently published in England. Falter Tom is an old man who, having been a sailor, goes every day to the shore to look at the sea he loves; one day a strange boy swims up to him and a queer friendship begins. With a magic charm, Falter Tom is enabled to join the boy in his life beneath the sea, and when the time comes for the old man to decide whether he will go back to land or stay in the sea forever, he chooses to stay with the water boy. A fantasy written in a lilting style that has echoes of the brogue in it. The mystical aspect will probably limit the audience to whom the book will appeal.

M Emery, Anne. That Archer Girl. Westminster, 1959. 175p. \$2.95. 7-9

An acid portrait of a teen-age girl who was wealthy, beautiful, and completely spoiled and unhappy. Anne Archer had only one friend, and she lost Christie through her own selfishness; she had only one male she really cared about, and she lost Ron because she couldn't resist making other conquests. The social stratum in which Anne moves—that of the rich suburban private school—is a milieu unfamiliar to many readers, and may lessen the appeal of the book. Candid and consistent as the author's portrait of that Archer girl is, it is a portrait of hostile personality and, with no alleviating relief, a novel with such a background and such a protagonist has a narrower scope than the author's other novels.

Ad Foster, Martha S. Ginger Box; illus. by Charles Geer. Bobbs-Merrill, 1959. 3-5 127p. \$2.25.

The story of a Quaker family at the turn of the century. Fifty dollars has disappeared from the Grayson home, and Elder Knudson holds Mr. Grayson responsible, since the money belongs to the Friends. Young Penny Grayson goes to see Mr. Knudson and pleads with him, telling him that she is the culprit, even though her misdeed was unintentional. He refuses to see Stephen Grayson, who loves his daughter Esther; when the money is found by Penny, the Elder relents and the lovers may proceed with their plans to marry. The disappearance of the money (and its discovery in the ginger box) is the main theme of the book, the love interest being secondary. A simple story, with good background. The character of Elder Knudson seems exaggerated, and his behavior in suspecting other Friends of misdemeanor is quite unlike a Quaker.

- NR Frankel, Lillian (Berson). 101 Best Nature Games and Projects; by Lillian
4-6 and Godfrey Frankel. Sterling, 1959. 128p. illus. \$2.50.
Organized into such areas as "Birds," "Insects," "Nature Photography," and "Casts and Labels"; within each of these sections are very brief divisions into topics. These are so brief as to be of little use or information in many cases; there is, for instance, less than a page under the heading "Lightning and Thunder" and the topic of tracking animals in the snow has devoted to it less than a page of text, with two sets of unlabeled tracks shown in the illustration. The illustrations throughout the book give little information. The book is not as useful as Cassell's Nature Games and Activities (Harper, 1956) in which the explanations of rules—in the section on games—are much more clearly given.
- R Frost, Frances. The Little Naturalist; illus. by Kurt Werth. Whittlesey House,
2-5 1959. 48p. \$2.50.
A book of delightful nature poems that originally appeared in magazines, now collected for posthumous publication. (Available in a special library edition.) Illustrations in black and white or in muted colors enhance the pages. The poems are gay, imaginative, warm and lovely; the author wrote of the birds and animals she observed with a childlike candor and a completely adult perception and maturity.
- M Garst, Doris (Shannon). Red Eagle; illus. by Hubert Buel. Hastings House,
4-6 1959. 145p. \$2.75.
Lame Foot was the son of a Sioux chief, and he felt keenly the bitterness of being unable to keep up with the other boys. When one of the older men of the tribe asked to be his sponsor, Lame Foot began to make more of an effort to overcome his handicap instead of using it as an excuse. When he brought back to the camp an eagle which he had caught and kept alive, the lad earned his name of manhood—Red Eagle. Reminiscent of the author's Crazy Horse, which also has the theme of an Indian youth who is looked down on by his companions because of a physical defect (in their eyes). The writing here is a bit more florid than it is in the author's many fine biographies, and the story line is trite and patterned. The book seems purposefully written to be easy-reading for middle grades.
- NR Goodenow, Earle. The Careless Kangaroo; story and pictures by Earle Goode-
K-1 now. Walck, 1959. 31p. \$2.75.
The story of a forgetful kangaroo who picked up another animal by mistake and pocketed him, leaving her baby out alone all night. When she woke up, she had forgotten the whole incident and told the baby kangaroo, who happened to be nearby, that all the day before she had had an awful time looking for something . . . she forgot what. Although this is meant as nonsense, it has uncomfortable overtones. The writing style is awkward and the humor forced; the whole story is used as a vehicle for the introduction of other Australian fauna, often with no logic even at the nonsense level.
- R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Raccoons!; illus. by Garry MacKenzie.
2-4 Scribner, 1959. 94p. \$2.50.
The life-cycle of the raccoon described in a simple narrative style. Illustrations are somewhat repetitive, but are attractive in green, brown, and black. The author gives names to her animals, but their behavior is consistently realistic, and often engaging. Good beginning science material.
- Ad Hader, Berta (Hoerner). Reindeer Trail; A Long Journey from Lapland to
2-4 Alaska; by Berta and Elmer Hader. Macmillan, 1959. 48p. \$3.25.
The story of the way the reindeer were brought to Alaska from Lapland. First the authors describe the life of the Eskimo in days past and his plight when ships brought hunters of whale and seal who depleted the Eskimo's sources of food and clothing.

One man who understood the problems of the Eskimos went to Lapland to plead for a group of temporary settlers who would bring reindeer to Alaska and teach the Eskimos about them. And this is how reindeer came to Alaska, because the Lapps left their homes to help others. Textbook writing style obscures the story, but the background and the information are interesting, and the illustrations are attractive.

NR Hall, Marjory. Romance at Courtesy Bend. Westminster, 1959. 192p. \$2.95.
7-9

Quincy Bradford was facing a bleak vacation: her boy friend going off to a ranch, her best friend away on a trip, and the peacefulness of her quiet Cape Cod neighborhood upset by the building of a motel. The motel, built at a turn of the road called Courtesy Bend, was what she most resented, but after thinking it over, she changed her mind. In fact, Quincy was so helpful to the owners that they offered her a job. In a pattern familiar in teen-age romances, she became the focus of activities and had a gay and busy summer. With few exceptions, characterization is superficial and the situations hackneyed.

R Hamre, Leif. Leap into Danger; tr. from the Norwegian by Evelyn Ramsden.
6- Harcourt, 1959. 156p. \$2.95.

First published in Norway in 1957. The story of two Air Force pilots who are forced to parachute into the winter wilderness while on a routine mission. Geir and Peter come to know each other well as they struggle to survive until help can reach them. The book has, fortunately, the fast pace and mounting tension which can so often be lost in translation. A good adventure story in which the fact that all action and dialogue depends on a cast of two heightens the suspense by stressing the isolation of the men.

R Hark, Mildred. A Home for Penny; by Mildred Hark and Noel McQueen; pic-
3-5 tures by Arnold Spilka. Watts, 1959. 202p. \$2.95.

A pleasant story about an orphanage. Penny wanted, as did the other boys and girls, to belong to a family of her own. She had friends, and she mothered a younger child, and she was fond of the adults at the Home; but she wanted to be adopted. When her two best friends had been adopted and had left, Penny faced the fact that she might not be adopted at all; but gradually she realized that her life was quite happy and that the head of the Home, Mrs. Brown, was as dear as any other mother. Characters are established well, and the small events of the plot are logically related to the behavior of the characters. Writing style is smooth and the conversation very natural.

M Henry, Marguerite. Muley Ears, Nobody's Dog; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Rand
2-3 McNally, 1959. 64p. \$2.75.

With his unusually long ears, the stray dog was bound to be called something like Muley-Ears. Living in warm Jamaica, Muley-Ears was able to fend for himself quite well by adopting one tourist family after another that rented "his" house. The dog found everybody friendly except one man who was shamed into a change of attitude when he found that he had mistakenly suspected the dog of stealing his lunch. The story is quite sentimental and the behavior of the unfriendly fat man seems very artificially contrived to give focus and movement to a rather limp tale.

M Holmes, Marjorie. Saturday Night. Westminster, 1959. 203p. \$2.95.
7-9

Carly Williams wasn't one of the gang until Danny—gay, popular, fickle Danny—began to date her. When they went through the bitter experience of losing a friend who drowned, Carly felt that they would be closer than ever . . . but she was wrong. Danny found a new girl; and Carly learned all the bitter anguish of rejection. Although the novel is fairly patterned, and there is one questionable incident in which a blinded

clairvoyant locates the drowned boy, the author writes with ease and pace. There is some very perceptive character delineation, especially in the portrait of Danny, the perennial charmer.

R Howard, Elizabeth. The Courage of Bethea. Morrow, 1959. 256p. \$2.95.
6-9

When Bethea's father died, she went to stay with her aunt and uncle, but she longed to go away to school. Not many girls had the opportunity a century ago, but Bethea managed to achieve her wish to attend the Western Female Seminary. While there is interest in family relationships and in a love affair, the most interesting part of this novel is that which tells of life at the school. The author has created a convincing atmosphere, with rich period flavor and well-developed characters. Bethea's courage is demonstrated not only in her determination to get an education, but in her adjustment to her father's death and to her mother's remarriage.

Ad Howard, Robert West, ed. This Is the South. Rand McNally, 1959. 304p. illus.
9- \$6.

A composite portrait of the South as described by thirty-two authors, each of whom has written a chapter on some particular aspect of Southern history, people of the region (the Negro, the Factor, the Cracker) or on some facet of the contemporary scene. The writing varies from rather scholarly and solid historical style to folksy rambling about recipes or restaurants. Interesting browsing material, with a good index and excellent bibliography.

Ad Hurd, Edith (Thacher). Last One Home Is a Green Pig; pictures by Clement
K-2 Hurd. Harper, 1959. 64p. (I Can Read Book) \$1.95.

The duck and the monkey decided to race, and the last one home would be called a green pig. First one got a ride, then the other; first one fell off his vehicle, then the other. On one mode of transportation after the other, each alternately had the lead and then fell behind. Finally the monkey parachuted from an airplane to his treehouse home, so he won the race. Based on The Race, the book has been adapted as a story for beginning independent readers. Although the device used becomes repetitive, the book has more movement than other books by this author.

Ad Inyart, Gene. Tent under the Spider Tree; pictures by Carol Beech. Watts,
4-6 1959. 143p. \$2.95.

The story of three little girls who go on a camping expedition on farmland belonging to the father of one girl. The three have a running feud with a boy in the vicinity, and the most interesting aspect of the book is the way in which the girls affect each other's behavior. One of the girls is an aggressive personality and continues hostilities after the other two are willing to become friendly. A well-written story, with good characterization; it is unfortunate that there is one aspect of the book that adults may question: these youngsters, off on their own, have with them a sheath knife and a rifle, both of which they use.

NR James, Josephine. A Cap for Kathy; illus. by John Firnic. Golden Press, 1959.
7-9 188p. Trade ed., \$1. Cloth bound ed., \$2.52.

A run-of-the-mill nursing story, except for the fact that the book contains a sympathetic presentation of a disturbed youth. He is a friend (of Kathy's brother) who is guilty of arson, and much of the story is concerned with Kathy's reluctant suspicion of her brother and of her related friendship with a fireman. The book becomes rather involved with these sub-plots added to a family tragedy (father's illness) and the chief story line about nursing school. The ending is the traditional sentimental capping ceremony, here held in the garden of Kathy's home where her father is in a wheel chair.

R Kettelkamp, Larry. Kites; written and illus. by Larry Kettelkamp. Morrow, 3-5 1959. 48p. \$2.95.

Interesting to read and useful as informational material. Both text and diagrams are lucid and simple, giving clearly instructions for making several kinds of kites and also giving suggestions for ways in which to decorate them. The history of kites, some of their practical uses, and some very helpful information about wind-flow are included. The author-illustrator does an unusually fine job in designing illustrations that clarify the text and embellish the page layout with equal success.

R Kumin, Maxine W. Sebastian and the Dragon; illus. by William D. Hayes. Putnam, 1960. 40p. \$2.75.

Absolutely delightful. Gay nonsense, told in rhyme, about the smallest boy in the third grade class, Sebastian. When a prize was offered for the most unusual animal for the new zoo, Sebastian went off hunting for a dragon; frightened and weary, he lay down to rest in a cave . . . and there he was, a dragon. A small dragon, with a cough, and Sebastian's water pistol was just what he needed to cool him off. They talked all night, the dragon agreed to go live in the zoo, and Sebastian was feted and made President of the zoo.

Ad Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Beachcomber Boy; written and illus. by Eleanor 2-4 Frances Lattimore. Morrow, 1960. 127p. \$2.50.

Barry's family lived in a cottage on the South Carolina seashore and Barry's favorite activity was prowling along the beach collecting . . . just collecting. Anything he could find. He was very much intrigued to learn that there was such a thing as a beachcomber, and he decided that he was one. When he finally met an elderly man who was a beachcomber, Barry wasn't so sure that he wanted to be a beachcomber boy; baseball was much more interesting. The events of Barry's life are simply and quite smoothly told; all of the storyline is sedate and believable. The one weakness of the book is a stilted quality in the conversation, a note that is occasionally found also in the descriptive passages.

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. The Youngest Artist; written and illus. by Eleanor 3-5 Frances Lattimore. Morrow, 1959. 127p. \$2.50.

Eliza loved to paint, and she hoped that some day her father would have one of her pictures framed and placed in the window of his bookstore. She also hoped to find some day the secret stairway in her house—her father had searched for it when he was a boy but had never been able to find it. Both of these wishes come true for Eliza in a pleasantly understated and natural way. The description of her activities is given in a rather deliberate and simple style, episodic in organization except for the theme of painting. A realistic story of everyday life with a mild Southern flavor.

R Lawrence, Mildred (Elwood). The Questing Heart. Harcourt, 1959. 191p. \$3. 7-9

Dinny's plans to go to college were changed when a storm ruined the peach crop and the family finances were depleted. She had a happy year, however, as the responsibilities of helping in home and orchard gave her self-confidence and unexpected satisfaction. Dinny's relationships with her friends, male and female, with her family, and with her island community are realistic and consistent. Perceptive, quiet writing with a good sense of values and some very nice depiction of character.

M Lenski, Lois. At Our House; A Read-and-Sing Book; with music by Clyde Robert 4-6 Bulla. Walck, 1959. 48p. illus. \$2.25.

yrs.

On each page, a brief poem about some small aspect of everyday life; below this is printed a simple tune to which the words are set; on the facing page, an illustration

of the activity described. Drawings in blue, black and white are appropriate for the bland tone of the text. There is an appeal for children in reading of, or in singing about, familiar things; the poetry is, however, often colorless and occasionally labored. The use of elision ("deliv'ry boy") achieves rhythm, but creates difficulty for independent reading.

R Lines, Kathleen M., comp. A Ring of Tales; illus. by Harold Jones. Watts, 4-6 240p. \$3.95.

First published in England in 1958, a collection of familiar stories, excerpts from books, and poems is presented. Selections range from fairy tales chosen from excellent sources, some old, some from newer favorites like Milne and de la Mare. A quite unusual and distinguished collection, good for parents to read aloud at home, and very suitable as a source for story telling. Illustrations are perfectly suited to the magic mood of the collection.

M Lynn, Gordon. The Golden Book of Camping and Camp Crafts; Tents and Tar- 5-7 paulins; Packs and Sleeping Bags; Building a Camp; Firemaking and Outdoor Cooking; Canoe Trips; Hikes, and Indian Camping; illus. by Ernest Kurth Barth. Golden Press, 1959. 111p. \$1.95.

A compendium of information about camping. Includes information on tents, packs, clothing, food, activities and rules of safety, and facts about tools and other equipment. Almost all of the information is useful, but the book seems to have been written for a range of ages: some of the material is, in both text and illustrations, for young beginning campers—other parts of the text are not suitable for younger readers. For example, the instructions on making a tent or repairing an ax-head indicate that the reader is old enough so that he need not be told (presumably) that "winter camping means warm clothes." Illustrations of equipment are rather good, but much of the drawing is poor and irrelevant. Some of the instructional material (swimming, for example) is so inadequate that it might better have been omitted.

R McClung, Robert M. Otus; The Story of a Screech Owl; illus. by Lloyd Sand- 2-3 ford. Morrow, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

Direct, simple writing; accurate and without sentimentality, this is as satisfying as are the previous books by McClung. Large, clear type adds to the usefulness of this concise account of the life cycle of a screech owl. Only the name personalizes Otus, and the use of the same name for the baby owl who recapitulates the cycle is a most effective device. Good nature writing.

NR McCready, Thomas Leighton. Adventures of a Beagle; illus. by Tasha Tudor. 3-4 Ariel, 1959. 48p. \$2.75.

Named for the day she was acquired, May Day the beagle was a happy addition to the Warner collection of pets. May was a nuisance, but she was lovable and loved. The details of her puppyhood and activities, her enmity with some of the other animals and her friendship with a few of them are the substance of the book: there is no plot. The style is just slightly coy and sentimental, and the text rambles along and depends for its appeal on the fact that a growing dog is cute. Listed as an Easy Reading book, but difficult vocabulary and solid descriptive text would limit it to the third grade and above.

R McGee, Dorothy Horton. Herbert Hoover; Engineer, Humanitarian, Statesman; 7- illus. with photographs. Dodd, 1959. 308p. \$3.50.

A comprehensive biography of Hoover, written with competence and little of the eulogistic tone that mars much biographical material. The writing style is serious and reportorial in style. Hoover's childhood is described rather briefly, and the major portion of the book is devoted to his career before, during, and after his term of of-

fice. The author concludes with a summary of Hoover's achievements, a bibliography, and an excellent index.

M Malvern, Gladys. Blithe Genius; The Story of Rossini; decorations by Donald Bolognese. Longmans, 1959. 202p. \$2.95.

A rather floridly written biography of Giacomo Rossini. From poverty and obscurity, the composer moved toward fame, romance, and fortune. His dramatic career needs none of the embellishment given it by this fictionalized account. The style of writing seems to obscure the facts rather than to enhance them. The factual biographical material is, however, of interest.

NR Marks, Mickey Klar. Straw Hat Theatre; illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. Knopf, 4-6 1959. 147p. \$2.75.

Trini goes to Cape Cod to spend a summer with her mother, a famous actress, and she becomes stagestruck. At first she has a hard time getting along with the members of her mother's company, but she does win a part as the younger sister in a new play. Trini is a selfish and generally unpleasant character, and the way in which she is accepted by the adults around her seems improbable. Writing style is heavy with clichés and the characterization is quite superficial.

M Marx, M. Richard. About Mexico's Children; with photographs by the author. 3-4 Melmont, 1959. 47p. \$2.50.

A compilation of photographs that illustrate aspects of Mexican life, stressing activities that are peculiar to children: schools and games, for example. Some of the photographs are excellent, some few are neither informative nor attractive. In one instance, the captions for two photographs have apparently been reversed. The text will add little to a child's understanding of Mexican life, and the chief weakness of the book is that it lacks any kind of unity or organization.

NR May, Helen. The Swan; The Story of Anna Pavlova; illus. by Peggy Fortnum. 5-7 Nelson, 1959. 54p. \$2.95.

An effusively written biography of Anna Pavlova, in which the author (who was one of the great dancer's pupils) is frequently coy in mentioning herself and is constantly eulogistic in describing Pavlova. Biographical information is quite sketchy, the writing style makes reading quite difficult, and the veneration of the author for the biographee is cloying because of flowery writing even though it becomes clear to the reader that the devotion is deep and abiding. The illustrations are in color and in black and white, and the latter are especially attractive: lively and graceful sketches of dancers.

Ad Mazière, Francis. Parana; Boy of the Amazon; photographs by Dominique Darbois; ad. from the French. Follett, 1959. 47p. (A Children of the World Book) Library binding, \$2. Trade binding, \$2.25.

Adapted from the French version, a pictorial record of the daily life of a small boy who lives in the Amazon forest. Parana is shown at play, especially with his many pets, and at the training that will prepare him for adult life in the jungle: swimming, paddling a canoe, shooting with bow and arrow. Many of the photographs, excellent in themselves, are repetitive, so that the effect of the whole book is rather static. Gives some very interesting information about home and community life, but it is unfortunate that the book contains, as it does, many photographs that were apparently chosen because they were appealing, but which tell little and add nothing to the book.

M Miers, Earl Schenck. America and Its Presidents; portraits in color by Stanley Dersh; line drawings by Paul Granger. Grosset, 1959. 216p. \$4.95.

The biographies of the presidents of the United States are correlated with all of the

important national events that happened during their lifetimes. Several pages are devoted to each man in this oversize book, and each biography is accompanied by a full page illustration in color. The trite writing style is almost too jocular, even if the book is used as browsing material, and certainly is unsuitable if the book is intended as a ready reference source. The information given is useful and the book concludes with a listing of important facts about the life of each president; these include dates of birth and death, year of election and principal accomplishments, educational background, and statistics on popular vote, electoral vote and running mate.

NR Miller, Mary Britton. Jungle Journey; illus. by Tobias Schneebaum. Pantheon, 4-5 1959. 32p. \$2.95.

The story of Tobias' trip through the Peruvian jungle, told in verse. Unarmed, Tobias, though "very often a fool" walked through the jungle without being harmed; he met at last the aboriginal people for whom he was looking and they took him into their hut and treated him like a brother. The verse is halting, the plot over-extended, but the greatest weakness of the book is in the awkward, occasionally unpleasant, details. For example: "Was Tobias scared pink? Did his liver turn white . . . ? or ". . . But as soon as he tried to breathe the foul air that he found in there he nearly died. . . ."

Ad Morton, Duryea. Who Lives in a Field; illus. by Douglas Howland. Coward-3-5 McCann, 1959. 127p. \$3.

Separate chapters describe each of the inhabitants of a field who are being observed by a boy. Each chapter devotes itself to the experiences of one animal and its family: a barred owl, a whitefoot mouse, a short-tailed shrew, a woodchuck, a cottontail rabbit, and a gray fox. The information is good, and the animals are described in a readable narrative style with an occasional tendency on the part of the author to attribute to an animal an emotion that is human. The book is weakened by the concluding chapter, entitled "The Boy," in which all of the preceding histories are recapitulated as observed from the boy's experiences while watching from his tree-house vantage point. This is a good idea but poorly handled.

NR Pack, Robert. The Forgotten Secret; illus. by Nola Langner. Macmillan, 1959. 2-3 28p. \$2.75.

All of the townspeople wondered why the children ran to the old man with the sky-blue sack. Why did they follow him, what was in the sack, and was he making them wish for something that they never could have? The mayor stole the sack and looked in . . . and he found that it contained childhood happiness. The tale is told in rhymed couplets, metrically weak, and seems overly long. The basic concept—that children lose an appreciation of the childhood joys and that this "secret" is forgotten by adults—has value, but it is probable that this will be more appealing to an adult than to the child who cannot share the nostalgia even were he to understand the concept. Many pages have printing imposed on a colored background so that reading is difficult.

R Parker, Elinor Milnor. I Was Just Thinking—; A Book of Essays; wood engraving-8- by Clare Leighton. Crowell, 1959. 180p. \$2.75.

A fine collection of essays, delightful for casual reading and for introducing readers to a literary form with which they may be unacquainted or to an author who is unfamiliar. The book is divided into four sections: "Reading, Writing, and Talking," "Out of Doors," "Traveling," and "This and That." Each section contains six to ten essays, some few being by the same author. There is variety of style and tone, essays serious and humorous, and the subject matter is diversified enough to please any reader. Some of the material is centuries old, but most of it is contemporary writing.

Ad Reeves, Katherine. A Feather Bed for Toby Tod; illus. by Grace Paul. Crowell, 3-4 1959. 56p. \$3.

Toby Tod traveled in a van with his Uncle Peel, who was a peddler; Uncle Peel loved a wandering life, but Toby Tod yearned to settle down. When they stopped one fall in the town of Golden Pond, Toby started to school and that was just what he wanted to do. He liked everything about the town—the people, the crops, and his soft feather bed. Toby wanted to stay; Uncle wanted to travel. Their problem resulted in a compromise, with a dénouement precipitated by an overturned circus train. Except for this last improbable incident, a pleasant tale of a boy who has the satisfaction of seeing his wishes for a particular kind of security come true. Good writing style, and a unified development of plot.

NR Reynolds, Helen. Carol of Long Chance Mine. Funk, 1959. 216p. \$2.95.
7-9

Carol Sutherland, eighteen, lives with her widowed father near Long Chance Mine until family finances force a move to the city. Father goes to a hospital, Carol goes to work and has the usual office problems with her co-workers. She also finds romance, and the story ends with Carol and Daddy back at Long Chance Mine where he is again manager, and with Carol's boy friend from the city (presented as a last-page surprise by Daddy) as the new assayer. Dull writing, filled with trite phrases and clichés; plot and characters are stereotyped.

M Rosenfield, Bernard. Let's Go to the White House; illus. by Jerry Robinson.
4-6 Putnam, 1959. 48p. \$1.95.

Rather dull writing, in which the address to the reader seems unnecessary in, for example, such a question as, "Do you recognize Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams among them?" when referring to presidential portraits in the Green Room. Poor writing style, mediocre illustrations and a considerable amount of unimportant detail. Glossary comprises eight terms, one of which is "residence," defined as "A place in which people live." The word is not peculiar to the topic of the book in any respect nor is it so difficult as to be singled out for definition; this sort of haphazard selection of material is typical of the author's approach.

M Rowe, Viola Carson. Free for All. Longmans, 1959. 247p. \$3.50.
8-10

A novel that is chiefly interesting because of the period in which it is set. Stephanie's story begins at the close of World War I and reflects with rather depressing realism the days of flappers, Mah Jong, saloons and Theda Bara. Stephanie's father gets involved with petty criminals, her sister has an unhappy marriage with a jazz musician, and Stephanie herself has a mournful love affair with a married man. The details of the American scene between two world wars is faithfully portrayed but the writing style is slow and the book seems long.

Ad Ruskin, John. The King of the Golden River; Or the Black Brothers; illus. by Charles Stewart. Watts, 1958. 60p. \$3.
4-8

A new edition of an old favorite. Ruskin's story of the two cruel brothers who failed and the gentle youngest brother who won the realm of Treasure Valley has, in any edition, the same charm; the only weakness here is the small print. The format of the Rainbow Classics edition (World, 1946 and still in print) is more attractive and easier to read because of print size and spacing.

NR Sarver, Hannah. Choose This Day. Funk, 1959. 245p. \$2.95.
7-9

In 1849, Angela Forbes was sixteen and living in the wilds of New Caledonia; her mother decided that the girl needed schooling and a chance to acquire some social graces, so she was sent to live with friends in Fort Victoria; there Angela fell in

love with Jim. From there she went to England to claim her inheritance; just as she was about to go to court for her presentation to Queen Victoria, Angela was claimed by another missing heir—Jim, her suitor from the New World. Contrived plot and pedestrian writing, with too little historical information in the background to give the book value.

M Schlein, Miriam. Kittens, Cubs and Babies; illus. by Jean Charlot. Scott, 1959. 4-5 47p. \$3. yrs.

The lion is big and fierce—other animals run away when he hunts; but the lion was once a little cub and even the huge elephant was once a baby. Cats were once helpless kittens and grown people were once little babies. They had to learn then how to do things; all children do. The thought may appeal to the child who feels inadequate because he is small, and the text is acceptable, although it is not outstanding. The effect of the text may, however, be nullified by the illustrations; they are inappropriate to the gentle concept of the words and they are visually harsh, overflowing the page in a distracting way.

Ad Sherburne, Zoa. Evening Star. Morrow, 1960. 219p. \$2.95. 7-10

Nancy's family ran a summer resort on their island, and they capitalized on the fact that one ancestor (Nancy's great-grandfather) had been an Indian chief. Nancy and her sister had learned much Indian history and Nancy participated in the campfire story-telling. Neither ashamed nor unduly proud of their ancestry, the family sees clearly the reactions of some of their guests. Nancy's first romantic interest is realistically presented, family relationships are good, and the story line, although fairly placid, holds the reader's interest.

R Shuttlesworth, Dorothy Edwards. The Story of Spiders; illus. by Su Zan N. Swain. Garden City, 1959. 57p. \$2.95.

An excellent book on spiders, with illustrative material that is beautiful as well as clear and informative. Illustrations are in color, and the author and artist have been careful to designate relative size. There is one unfortunate error in the label of a diagram of the animal kingdom: the phylum porifera is referred to as proifera, no doubt a typographical error, since information throughout the book is accurate. The place of the spider in the animal kingdom, the special attributes of spiders (for example, webs or silk production) and some of the varieties are described. Index and a brief reading list are appended.

Ad Silverman, Mel. Hymie's Fiddle; story and pictures by Mel Silverman. World, 2-4 1960. 48p. \$2.50.

A warm and touching story of a brother and sister in the tenement district of New York. Hymie and Penny live with their widowed mother and spend most of their time playing near her pushcart. Only Penny enjoys Hymie's violin playing, everybody else being aware that he's terrible, and her love for the brother who is regarded by all the adults as an impractical dreamer is beautifully stated. Written with directness and humor, the book is valuable for the kind of urban background it presents, but there are adult overtones that weaken the story.

R Slavita, Chana. Let's Go to a Ballet; pictures by Laszlo Roth. Putnam, 1959. 4-6 47p. \$1.95.

Although the writing style is rather dull, this is a good introduction to ballet, covering most of the aspects of this dance form that would be of interest to a reader not already a ballet fan. Training of the dancers, the work of the choreographer, the functions of such contributors as scenic designer and costumer are all described. The in-

formation given on technique itself—the positions and the steps—is minimal.

Ad Slobodkin, Louis. Excuse Me! Certainly! Vanguard, 1959. 26p. illus. \$2.75.
K-2

A picture book very much like the author's Thank You—You're Welcome. Humorous pictures in Slobodkin's inimitable style enhance the pages. The text, however, is somewhat repetitious; it echoes Thank You—You're Welcome and it also repeats within its own pages, expanding the one fairly slight idea: mannerless small boy, not observing politeness about him, is told how to answer and becomes a model of propriety and savoir faire.

M Steiner, Charlotte. Lolly's Pony Ride; written and illus. by Charlotte Steiner.
3-5 Doubleday, 1959. 30p. \$2.75.
yrs.

Lolly wanted a pony and she asked Santa Claus for one, but she received only a hobby horse for Christmas. So she drew a great big pony, climbed on and galloped off for a series of adventures. Mildly interesting, but the device seems imitative and the adventures themselves fairly routine (circus environment, dreams of glory). The imaginative portion is written first person, present tense; the beginning and ending of the story in third person, past tense—this device actually helps keep the two sequences separated.

Ad Tresselt, Alvin R. The Smallest Elephant in the World; illus. by Milton Glaser.
3-5 Knopf, 1959. 32p. \$2.95.
yrs.

The smallest elephant in the world was very unhappy because all the other animals and birds in the Indian jungle laughed at him . . . he was the size of a house cat. So he ran away, and being so small he was not found when he stowed away on a ship. He found a boy named Arnold, but Arnold's mother didn't want even so small an elephant as a pet. She called a circus and they did want him and he found a very happy life there; nobody laughed at a small elephant, even the big elephants. A pleasant bit of nonsense, told in bland, light style. The illustrations are vivid and stylized in orange, green, black and white. The use of a cat's face painted on the elephant's back is very reminiscent of The Travels of Babar.

NR von Sanden, Walter. Ingo; The Story of My Otter. Longmans, 1959. 109p. illus.
5-6 \$2.50.

Translated from the German, a book that tells of the author's experiences with a pet otter; illustrated by many photographs of Ingo. Some amount of information about the habits of otters may be gleaned from the account, but it is in the main rather dull and quite repetitive. Some of this may be attributed to translation, but the other weakness of the book is inherent in the author's writing style: a tendency to describe the animal in human terms. For example, "Ingo certainly felt this in his subconscious" or the fact that the author gives specific quotations as stated by the otter—the reader is certainly not meant to infer that the animal actually spoke, but the effect is an investiture of human traits. There is a great discrepancy between vocabulary difficulty and subject interest in a consideration of their appropriateness for a particular age group.

R Walker, David E. The Fat Cat Pimpernel; illus. by Alan Howard. Barnes, 1960.
K-2 31p. \$2.50.

An unusual cat story, delightful in its simplicity of expression and imaginative use of language. Pimpernel, who has made repeated unsuccessful attempts to catch Bertram Blackbird, becomes involved with another cat; he finds himself in the role of Bertram's protector and in this amicable new relationship a friendship is born. Good humor, good writing style, and originality in plot—augmented by attractive illustrations.

M Warring, Ron. Modeling with Balsa. Sterling, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

6-9

Gives basic information on the use of balsa as a modeling material: ways to handle this wood, the variety of sizes usually sold, tools and materials needed, and suggestions for cutting and finishing. The major portion of the book gives instructions for making particular models, it being necessary to make a tracing of the model on the page before cutting the wood. Since kits are so easily available and comparatively inexpensive today, this extra procedure seems hardly to warrant the trouble. The diagrams are clear and are labeled for actual size; instructions are adequate although not simple. There is no glossary or index. This is not an imaginative or creative book, but may prove useful to the boy who needs guidance for each step of construction.

Ad Willard, Barbara. The House with Roots; illus. by Robert Hodgson. Watts, 5-6 1959. 183p. \$2.95.

An entertaining story of an English family with four children who live in an old house that is slated for demolition. When it is found that the ruins of an old abbey lie below the house, the youngsters rally the townspeople into a successful campaign to save their historic site. The children are remarkably vivid and individual, and the writing style is lively, the one weakness of the book being that the characters are obtrusively British in their conversation, often precocious and occasionally both.

M Wiseman, Bernard. Morris the Moose. Harper, 1959. 32p. illus. \$1.75.

1-2

Moose finds cow, claims cow is moose; cow denies with indignation; both appeal to deer, deer says both cow and moose are deer, etc. etc. This has a happily improbable humor, but there is nothing else to the book: the one idea is repeated in text and illustration, so that it becomes somewhat boring. All the animals are happily assured of their own identities when they see their images reflected in a stream. Slight and attenuated, illustrated in cartoon style.

M Zim, Herbert S. The Southeast; A guide to Florida and Nearby Shores; illus. 7- by Dorothea and Sy Barlowe. Golden Press, 1959. 160p. (A Golden Regional Guide). \$1.

A companion volume to The American Southwest. The book is pocket-size, paperbound, and a sort of ready reference smorgasbord. The central section is a fairly complete and well illustrated series of pages on trees, fruits, flowers, shells, fish, birds, etc. Before and after these pages are almanac and chamber-of-commerce type of informational sections on climate, industries, history, principal cities, a calendar of events, commercial attractions and other material. Much of this is written in brochure style: for example, "Drive over modern, paved roads—nary a mountain!" The chief use of the book would seem to be for the tourist, although the poor organization of material within the sections and the deficiencies of the index limit even this use.

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