

In the Air

THE MODEL AIRCRAFT BUILDER. By CHELSEA FRASER. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. 1931. \$2.50.

THE PRIZE WINNERS' BOOK OF MODEL AIRPLANES. Edited by CARL H. CLAUDY. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1931. \$3.

BERNT BALCHEN: VIKING OF THE AIR. By JOHN LAWRENCE. New York: Brewer, Warren & Putnam. 1931. \$1.75.

BURNING UP THE SKY. By BOB BUCK. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1931. \$1.75.

ADVENTURES OF THE BOY GLIDERS. By EUSTACE L. ADAMS. The same.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING. By THOMAS BURTIS. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1931. \$2.

Reviewed by BARRETT STUDLEY, U. S. N.

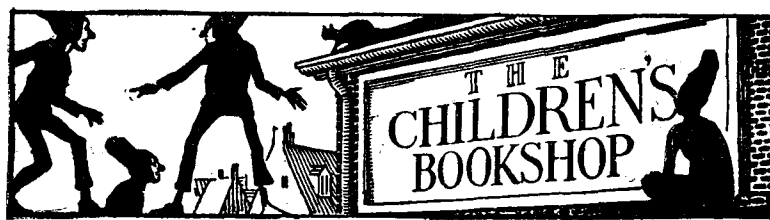
M. R. FRASER'S book is intended for the young person who likes to build models out of the odds and ends of boards and boxes and scraps out in the garage. The author tells you just how to build a mechanical training plane with a stick and controls like the real thing. Or, if you are more ambitious, he gives you the plans of an electrical training plane, in which a tiny plane perched above your cockpit moves in response to the controls just the way your plane would. Then there are scale models in wood of famous planes, and simple models with rubber band motors that will fly. A book for the boy with tools.

"The Prize Winner's Book of Airplanes," gives the descriptions, dimensions, and structural details of more than forty model airplanes which have flown successfully in various contests. It includes diagrams and all directions necessary to construct them. A book for the boy who wants distance and duration from models built to exact specifications.

"Bernt Balchen, Viking of the Air" is the life story of the tough-bodied, clear-headed young Norwegian who flew to fame with Byrd. As a boy, he dug holes in the snow and slept in them to harden himself. In skiing, skating, boxing, hunting, he showed the vigor that later took him flying all over the world. Working on taxicab motors, he learned mechanics. A fortunate appointment made him a Lieutenant in the Naval Air Service, where he won a reputation as a pilot who could take a plane anywhere one could fly. Amundsen, looking for men as a base crew for the Norge in Spitzbergen, chose him to go. And there he met Byrd, who took him to America, across the Atlantic by air, and then to the South Pole. A stirring story of a modern Viking.

"Burning Up the Sky," by Bob Buck is the personal story of the seventeen-year-old boy pilot who, in 1930, captured the junior altitude and transcontinental records. At thirteen he started building models, and then turned to gliders. On his sixteenth birthday he commenced flight instruction. Six weeks later he soloed, and a month later took a private pilot's license. Another two months and he climbed to 15,000 feet for a junior altitude record. Finally, six months after soloing, he started from his home in New Jersey for Los Angeles. With bad weather and engine trouble, it took ten days to cross the continent. But coming back he made a junior transcontinental record of 23 hours flying time. Later he flew to Havana and back, was received by the President, and became the first president of the Sky Scouts of America. He has written his own story here in a direct, modest way which makes good reading.

"The Adventures of the Boy Gliders," by Eustace L. Adams, is a story of two boys and a sailplane. Sixteen year old Toby Trainor can plough through an opposing football team. But when Bob Whittier, thirteen, lets Toby fly his homemade glider, Toby lands in a tree in a mess of wood and fabrics. To make up for it, Toby buys a two place sailplane, and Bob teaches him to fly it. Phil Vance, son of a wealthy banker who holds a mortgage on the factory of Bob's father, likewise buys a glider and hires a professional pilot to teach him to fly. They enter the National Glider Contest, competing against pilots



CONDUCTED by KATHERINE ULRICH

from the whole country. Finally Toby and Bob have beaten everybody except Phil Vance. Caught in a thunderstorm, they are both carried up to a high altitude. Phil tries to ram them. But they evade him and go on to break three records and win prizes that pay off the mortgage. Exciting reading for boys of ten to fourteen.

"Straight Shooting," by Thomas Burtis, is an account of the adventures of a film flier. Dan Sloan, the son of a famous director, has played with his job as a cameraman until Weatherby, director of the super-feature, "Wings of the Eagle," hauls him over the coals as a loafer and a conceited pup, then gives him one more chance as his assistant. His mettle up, Dan buckles down to work. There is much intrigue and underhand work by a rival company. Weatherby is hurt in an airplane accident and Dan takes charge. Plots, parachute jumps, hair-raising stunts, crashes, follow in exciting succession. But with the help of the Border Patrol, Dan completes the big picture. Some wild and improbable flying, but a good book for a youngster who likes a fast-moving story.

High Adventure

JAVA HO! By JOHAN WIGMORE FABRICIUS. Illustrated by the Author. New York: Coward-McCann. 1931. \$2.50.

Reviewed by STANLEY W. WALKER

RECENTLY there has been a revival of that ancient quarrel as to whether children's reading should be supervised by adults, or whether the youngsters should be allowed to select their own reading.

"Java Ho!" is one book that will perhaps satisfy both factions. For it is a lively adventure yarn told in a way that will please educators and parents. And there is more action in it than in a dozen ordinary juveniles; and that should please the younger critics.

If there are any parents left who still read aloud to their children, they will have a grand time with this book. And they will no doubt learn a few things themselves about the fauna and flora as well as the geography of the eastern tropics. And at the same time the young folk will enjoy the story element, and sending daddy to the encyclopedia now and then.

The publisher's jacket blurb states that "Java Ho!" is based on the log book of a Dutch skipper, Willem Ysbrantszoon Bontekoe, who sailed to the East Indies in 1618. And there is in this book an economy of words and between-the-lines painting of pictures that is reminiscent of Hakluyt. It would seem, possibly, that too much material is

offered here, and that there is not enough sharpening up of high spots; also that there is little or no indication of the many dull, monotonous days that occur at sea.

On the whole, the book is an excellent tale of four adventurous boys. Seen through their eyes, a sea voyage includes

no work, only frolic and adventure. The Captain was kind and just, and "the sailors smoked, laughed, and spat magnificently."

The first half of the story concerns the life of the boys on board ship, where they are thoroughly introduced to sea life, including such humorous incidents as the search for "the spot where you don't get seasick"; and culminating in the burning of the ship, and taking to the open boats.

In the latter half of the story the boys see life on the beach, and have surprising adventures with monkeys, tigers and natives. The glimpses of tropic scenes and of native customs in this part of the book are especially good. For the author is a native of the Dutch East Indies.

Out West

WISH IN THE DARK. By LENORA W. WEBER. Illustrated by F. STROTHMAN. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1931. \$2.

ALDER GULCH GOLD. By JAMES WIL-LARD SCHULTZ. Illustrated by ALBIN HENNING. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1931. \$1.50.

Reviewed by EDWIN L. SABIN

HERE are two Western books for youth. The New West forms the background of "Wish in the Dark"; the Old West, that of "Alder Gulch Gold." The story first named will appeal to girls; the other story is all for boys.

As with Mrs. Weber's preceding books, "Wish in the Dark" revolves around ranch life in Colorado. With its cast of striking characters bent upon making good or destined to be made good, and its element of mystery, it is again a tale capably told. Hope Delaney may be called the leading lady. In a rickety car Hope and the twelve-year-old twins, Becky and Baird, come from Iowa to Colorado, consigned, as orphans, to their Aunt Sarah who is assumed to be living in the town of Trail's End. They bring all their worldly possessions, chiefly Compromise the cat, their father's surgical case (for Hope, who had thought to be a doctor), Becky's waffle iron, and boy Baird's big harp. Their dramatic arrival in Trail's End, their rapidly growing list of new acquaintances, with lively ensuing adventures, brim a story that can be recommended to any family endowed with the spirit of the 'teens.

"Alder Gulch Gold" by Mr. Schultz of course does not lack Indians, albeit the theme is the gold diggin's of Alder Gulch, in that Montana of 1863 which then was Idaho Territory. Henry Wilson, aged eighteen, tells the tale, beginning with his trip by steamboat up the Yellowstone River to Fort Benton. At the fort he and his uncle throw in with Beaver Bill, trapper and trader, who had been teaching Henry the sign language on the way up. The three outfit from the Blackfoot camp of Chief Big Lake, Beaver Bill's friend; and here Henry is adopted as brother by Big Lake's son, Eagle Carrier. To have the Blackfeet's favor was a stroke of fortune. In Alder Gulch the Wilson party are plagued by gold-cache thieves, they are present at the conflicts between the Vigilantes and the Plummer gang of desperadoes, they are glad to see Eagle Carrier again; and in the closing clean-up Henry reflects that this mixture of the good and the bad, in those wild days, was "part of the making of a nation." As always, Mr. Schultz gives his readers an honest story of straight narration, drawn from the life and lore that he has known.

A selection of the letters by Maria Edgeworth, whose stories were avidly read by a generation of children, is about to appear. They are being edited by Miss F. V. Barry, and are said to be of great interest. Miss Edgeworth was a letter-writer of much power and vivacity.

A Tuskegee "Varmint"

ZEKE. By MARY WHITE OVINGTON. Illustrated by NATHALIE H. DAVIS. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1931. \$2.

Reviewed by WILLIAM H. SCOVILLE
The Hampton Institute

ZEKE was the youngest of a family of five colored children way down in Callis County, Alabama, in the "Black Belt."

His father, a drunkard, and his mother, an invalid—both died before he was in his 'teens. But his older brother and sister, Scip and Teora, carried on and with the aid of the farm demonstration agent made their old farm the pride of the community.

Zeke, quiet, shy, the student of the family, became the head of the country school and at Scip's special wish was sent to the great industrial school, "Tolliver Institute."

His two other brothers had gone to the city—

Dey's runnin' elevators now in Mon'-gomey. I ain't hankerin' to see Zeke goin' up an' down all day in a box. Doctors an' lawyers and preachers dey can get mighty po' cause folks cant pay de bills. Den dat kind drops inter elevators. If Zeke got a good trade, he safe. Tolliver Institute dat's de best school. There he can learn how to raise poultry.

So Zeke went to Tolliver and after his first term worked half the time at his poultry project and the other half at his books—a good training for any boy black or white.

At first, led astray by the glamor of older, wilder boys, he seriously broke the rules and escaped dismissal only because of his extreme youth. But finally his absorption in his chickens and interest in baseball saved him from further temptation, while his devotion to the Major's daughter, "the kind of girl that walks straight ahead," and his admiration for his roommate, Natu, a native from Nigeria, Africa, who danced so superbly, an older boy of real character, helped to keep him straight.

His reading with dramatic fervor early in the year had given him the nickname "Preacher," but later his skill as pitcher won him his classmates' admiration. And the final baseball game between the Seniors and his class, the Freshmen, which he won by cool work when the regular pitcher had weakened, is quite the climax of the book.

He has learned to "mix." His chicken project has been a success. He has earned a place on the baseball team and in his class. The homely virtues, honesty, steadiness, punctuality, conscientiousness, all tell in the long run, and the year has been a success—the shy country boy has made good.

"No Man's Land," the name of the girls' side of the grounds, is a delicious and characteristic touch of Negro humor and is only one proof of the author's intimate knowledge of Negro school life and character.

It is a good story that could be told of many a colored boy who has found himself in the great Negro industrial schools of the South.

Lawrenceville has been a famous boys' school for years, scholastically. But Owen Johnson with his "Varmint" and other tales of Lawrenceville boys put it on the map with an entirely different though probably an equally valuable reputation—the glory of boyhood adventure, sport, and athletic attainment.

And so Mary White Ovington has brought to Tuskegee, thinly disguised as "Tolliver," additional fame. Known for years as the great Negro School founded by Booker Taliaferro Washington and renowned as an exponent of industrial training, Tuskegee will now have a niche in the Hall of Fame of boyhood fiction through "Zeke." The establishing of this kind of school tradition with its emphasis on honor and loyalty comes with the mature years of an institution and is an interesting development in the life of the school and the race.

The New Books Fiction

(Continued from page 354)

we should read about this young man rather than any other surgeon's apprentice. M. Maurois's "Ariel," for instance, though open to many objections, did give the impression of an unusual young man with an interesting mind; "Special Hunger," except for copying out extracts from the poems and letters, and telling us that he wrote them, does not. We are not admitted, even by speculation, to the poet's mind except as it appears in the poems, and for that one had far better read the poems without the interpolated text.

The style is a little inclined to affectation, in the way of employing words in the description of backgrounds which by their consciously unusual use draw attention disproportionately to themselves; for instance, "At the far end, under choiring windows, on a wing of shade, the altar lifts a tracery of silver, testing and avowing." It is impossible to give any verdict on the book except that there are better lives of Keats, and better novels also, to spend one's time on.

ZODIAK. By WALTER EIDLITZ. Harpers. 1931. \$2.50.

Herr Eidlitz has performed a brilliant tour-de-force. Carefully selecting his ma-

terials, episodes, characters, and ideas—he has sketched the outlines of a modern fable, set down the epic of the future: Soul versus Machine. The book errs only slightly on the side of propaganda, where it might, under less competent hands, have gone far astray.

Gambo is the son of a Greek mother by a Turkish father. At the conclusion of the peace treaty, there is an interchange of population that brings him, together with his family and fellow-peasants, from their Asia-Minor village, to Greece. Here young Gambo, fired by the mystery of the great machine that has borne him to Europe, cuts himself adrift from the others, and begins his pilgrimage to America as car-washer, chauffeur, airplane pilot, secretary to a distributor of war materials, and finally emergency mechanic on the great Soviet plane *Zodiak*, on its globe-girdling propaganda tour.

Throughout the book there is a consistent and imaginative contrast of the old and the new, the Asian earth with its superstitions and religions, and the new world that machinery is creating. The small but precious aspirations of the human body are set in nice contrast with the aspirations of the new race; Gambo is alternately torn between a latent mysticism, a desire for human love and companionship, and a pressing urge to become a figure in the monstrous organization that is soon to rule the world.

More than this fable is set forth in Herr

Eidlitz's book. He possesses a deep and sympathetic insight into human emotions, and an ingratiating style. He is at home in the ancient land of Egypt as well as in the most modern power-house or airplane. The reader will be constantly refreshed and stimulated by his viewpoint and his exposition of the age-old problem, now so startlingly reiterated. "Shall we not some day reach a point where the machine becomes all powerful and the man of no consequence?" Henry Ford has asked. Herr Eidlitz's novel is an imaginative and well-nigh definitive reply to that question. The translation by Eric Sutton is excellent.

Religion

STORMERS OF HEAVEN. A Gallery of Thinkers. By SOLOMON B. FREEHOF. Harpers. 1931. \$2.

There are many roads to heaven, according to Mr. Freehof. In his all-embracing tolerance, he includes in his gallery of "stormers" a group of "Five Famous Atheists" as well as Five Famous Freethinkers, Five Famous Christians, Five Famous Founders of Judaism, etc., etc. There seems to be a heretical intention on his part to substitute the number five for the sacred seven. But in order to fill out the requisite number of atheists he was driven to include Bertrand Russell, who is an agnostic, and when he came to his group of "Royal Builders of Religion" he stopped, discouraged, with

Akhnaton, Asoka, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine. And Moses gets in twice, once as a founder of Judaism and again in a group of Famous Religious Geniuses—posing both times as a monotheist, whereas of course he was nothing of the kind. Such distinctions as that between monotheism and henotheism, however, are not to the mind of an author who can include among his freethinkers such disparate figures as Socrates, Spinoza, Voltaire, Huxley, and Bob Ingersoll, and can sum up their achievements by saying that they have "wedded philosophy to theology." Mr. Freehof's vagueness of thought and inaccuracies of fact more than counterbalance whatever value there may be in his genial tolerance.

JOSEPHUS ON JESUS. By Solomon Zeitlin. Philadelphia: Dropsie College. \$2.

JESUS AND THE GOSPEL OF LOVE. By Canon Raven. Holt. \$3.

WISE MEN WORSHIP. Edited by Mabel Hill. Dutton. \$1.

HAS SCIENCE DISCOVERED GOD? Edited by Edward H. Cotton. Crowell. \$3.50.

RELIGIOUS ESSAYS. By Rudolf Otto. Translated by Brian Lunn. Oxford University Press. \$2.50.

WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO BELIEVE? By Herbert Parrish. Sears. \$2.50.

RELIGION FOLLOWS THE FRONTIER. By Winfred Ernest Garrison. Harper. \$2.50.

THE MORAL CRISIS IN CHRISTIANITY. By Justin Wroe Nixon. Harpers. \$2.

THE MEANING OF MYSTICISM. By Woodbridge Riley. Richard R. Smith. \$1.25 net.

By the author of THE GREAT MEADOW A BURIED TREASURE

By ELIZABETH
MADOX ROBERTS

One of our foremost writers has written a new story to stand beside her two American classics: *The Great Meadow* and *The Time of Man*. "Comedy as wise as it is exciting."—MARY ROSS, *Herald Tribune*. "A human comedy of an appealing and genuine quality."—*New York Times*. "She has not disappointed the hope and expectation of many who regard her as the most important figure of present day American literature."—WILLIAM SOSKIN, *N. Y. Evening Post*. The Literary Guild Selection for November. \$2.50

Limited, signed edition. \$7.50

GIFTS...



DEATH AND TAXES

By DOROTHY PARKER

New poems by the author of "Enough Rope" and "Sunset Gun." "The ultimate desirability in a volume of light verse." — LAURENCE STALLINGS, *N. Y. Sun*. \$1.75

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

And Other Patriotic
Verses

By FRANKLIN P. ADAMS

"This new book of F. P. A.'s inimitable light verse is completely delightful." — EDA LOU WALTON, *N. Y. Herald Tribune*. \$2.00

A magnificent story of A MODERN JOB

JOB

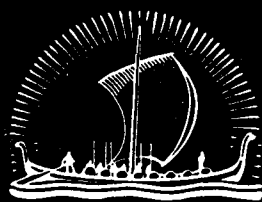
THE STORY OF A SIMPLE MAN

By JOSEPH ROTH

Translated by Dorothy Thompson

This story of a modern Job starts in the ghettos of Russia, moves to the streets of New York and ends as a vivid and unforgettable memory in the hearts of its readers. "An inspired book."—*New York Times*. "So full of tenderness, so genuine, in its emotion, so poignant . . . a book to remember." — *The Saturday Review*. "Touches us to tears."—ISIDOR SCHNEIDER, *Herald Tribune*. "Has in it more than a hint of the greatness of the Old Testament legend whence it takes its name." — LEWIS GANNETT, *Herald Tribune*. The Book-of-the-Month Club Selection for November. \$2.50

EVERY business man will be interested in *NEW ROADS TO PROSPERITY*, The Crisis and Some Ways Out, by Paul M. Mazur, author and banker. This book clarifies the present situation in America and presents concrete suggestions both for meeting the emergency and for methods of insuring future prosperity. \$2.00



"ONE of the great circus books of all time," says May Lamberton Becker of *CIRCUS* by Paul Eipper. In this book the author of "Animals Looking At You" brings the circus to life with its "men, beasts, and joys of the road". There are 49 magnificent photographs by Hedda Walther. A book for young and old alike. \$3.00

THE SHORT STORIES OF SAKI

Introduction by CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

An omnibus volume of all the stories of the great English humorist—a favorite author of A. A. Milne's, G. K. Chesterton's, Hugh Walpole's. \$3.00

12 SECRETS OF THE CAUCASUS

By ESSAD-BEY

Arabian Nights Entertainment in a modern travel and adventure book. "The strangest book of the season."—HOWARD VINCENT O'BRIEN, *Chicago Daily News*. \$3.00

ALL YE PEOPLE

By MERLE COLBY

A stirring American romance of the 1800's. "It comes perilously close to being the long-sought Great American Novel." — HARRY EMERSON WILDES, *Phila. Ledger*. \$2.50

THE VIKING PRESS

18 East 48th Street
New York

In Canada: The Macmillan Co.
of Canada, Ltd., Toronto

EDUCATION OF A PRINCESS

By MARIE, GRAND DUCHESS
OF RUSSIA

The best-selling non-fiction book of the year. Over 100,000 people have bought and been thrilled by this story of a Princess who was swept through war and revolution into a new life in a new world. Illustrated. \$3.50

DWARF'S BLOOD

By EDITH OLIVIER

Into a love story, beautifully told, Miss Olivier has written a parable of married life for every man and woman. \$2.