

Pioneer Life

CALICO BUSH. By RACHEL FIELD. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1931. \$2.50.

Reviewed by HENRY SEIDEL CANBY

THIS is a really good book, simple in its narrative, meaty, sincere, and with that occasional thrill which is so much more effective when the story lifts you to it, than when some trick or irrelevant sensation spurs the jaded flank of narrative. Calico Bush is the name of the old ballad made on the sheep laurel flower and this story of a pioneer's family of 1743, settling on the mainland of Maine near Mt. Desert island, is woven in and out with authentic customs and folk poetry, both French and English. For the heroine of the story, Marguerite, is a French refugee, a "bound girl" in charge of the children. She has grit and intelligence, saves them from the Indians, does more than her share in making the home, and is a personality. The lives of the pioneers were chronicle, and the difficulty in writing their stories, especially for children, is to keep a nice balance between the routine of frontier life, interesting but still a routine, and the possibilities of adventure which lead the story teller for children into a melodrama of excitement where the hero always wins. Miss Field has got the texture of real life into her story without dulness on one hand or melodrama on the other. The island life flows with a genuine intensity but her touch is always sure upon the life and the family characters to which the adventures happen, and she never lets the episodes run off with the story. It is a skilful and rather touching book, with a remainder of good American experience for the child who reads it.

Tales of Foreign Lands

A DOLL, TWO CHILDREN, AND THREE STORKS. By TERESA. Translated from the Italian by DOROTHY EMMERICH. Illustrated by WILHELM REETZ. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1931. \$2.50.

THE SPARROW OF ULM. By GRACE GILKISON. Illustrated by the author. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1931. \$1.

Reviewed by ALBERTA WILLIAMS

THESE two delightful and intelligent juvenile books, the first a translation from the Italian of a Nuremberg Christmas story and the second a retelling of old German tales, offer just one danger in the role of Christmas gifts for children: improperly disciplined parents may insist upon reading them first!

"A Doll, Two Children, and Three Storks" owes much of its enjoyable quality to its picture of Nuremberg as a veritable capital of toys in the eighteenth century. But apart from this charm it relates a vivid narrative of how the toys in the most popular toy shop of Nuremberg revolted and left the city toyless and forlorn for an entire year, because their favorite clerk was unjustly imprisoned for theft. The famous doll Cunegunda, which now graces the shop window of an antiquarian and which is the sole survivor among the many characters in the book, is responsible for the facts of the story; she it was who related the adventures of the toys to the author. And such adventures! Led by Cunegunda, Charlemagne, and the Nut Cracker, the principal toys in the shop, together with the two children of the unjustly accused clerk, mounted three Nuremberg storks and, leaving Nuremberg destitute of toys at Christmas, departed for a year in fairyland, down in Italy. The remaining toys, with the exception of the Rubber Cat, simply marched off to a grotto and locked themselves in for the year, and the Rubber Cat played the Sherlock Holmes role and succeeded in bringing the real culprit to justice and in releasing the unfairly accused clerk from prison. During the year the Nurembergers, who were very proud of their toys, had been taught a good, firm lesson and, when the toys returned in time for the next Christmas, we are given to understand that these Nurembergers had learned enough not to go about mistreating favorite toy clerks any



Conducted by KATHERINE ULRICH

more. So all ends well, with the Nurembergers properly punished, repentant, and forgiven, with Benito Claus released from prison, with the children returned to Benito, and with the toys back in Nuremberg, obviously the best place for them to be as long as the city's inhabitants are behaving themselves in an agreeable manner.

We believe children eight to twelve, for whom the book is intended, and their parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles will be particularly enthusiastic over the numerous illustrations by the German artist, Wilhelm Reetz.

"The Sparrow of Ulm" is a volume containing five delightful old tales in each of which a bird is the principal character. These stories are intended for children from six to eight years old, but, while it might be well to heed the six-year age limit, the eight-year limit could be extended indefinitely.

The book takes its name from the first story in it, that of the sparrow who showed the arguing citizens of Ulm how to bring through the city gates the beams for their great cathedral. The old, familiar tale is thoroughly fresh and alive in the author's narration of it.

The second story in the book, "The Starling of Segringen," is really the gem of the volume. The author's keen sense of humor, always kindly and in evidence in every tale in this book, is at its best when she tells of the starling and of the barber and his wife. We see so clearly the bright, cheerful, little barber, his scolding wife, and the clever starling that it is impossible for the moment to believe that this is only a fairy tale. We become equally convinced in "The Jackdaw of Rheims," a story not originally intended for children but which has been well adapted to their understanding in the present book.

Miss Gilkison has a special talent for gently and humorously robbing the vain of their glory. She finishes off a pompous city councilor or an austere cardinal so deftly as to make even a six-year-old see that unapproachable people are not always to be taken too seriously.

Old Friends in New Dress

THE STORY OF SIEGFRIED. By JAMES BALDWIN. Color illustrations by PETER HURD. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1931. \$2.50.

This excellent hero tale joins the list of "Scribners Illustrated Classics for Young Readers," and has in keeping with the other titles a handsome holiday appearance. It should make many new friends among boys and girls who thrill to the deeds of great and god-like men.

THE OREGON TRAIL. By FRANCIS PARKMAN. New York: Farrar & Rinehart. 1931. \$3.

The many vigorous and dramatic drawings by James Daugherty distinguish this classic of the West.

THE OMNIBUS JULES VERNE. Philadelphia: Lippincott. 1931. \$3.

Four Jules Verne stories between two covers! The book contains "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," "Around the World in Eighty Days," "The Blockade Runners," and "From the Earth to the Moon and the Trip Around It." Maps and a frontispiece for each tale add a festive note.

OUR CHILDREN. By ANATOLE FRANCE. New York: Duffield & Green. 1931. \$3.

Anatole France and Boutet de Monvel, the artist, matched their happiest moods in two books for children, "Our Children" and "Boys and Girls." They are now to be had in one volume. Our small sigh is a technical one for the uneven quality of the printing.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. By CLEMENT MOORE. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1931. \$1.50.

Arthur Rackham's inimitable pictures for this jolly Christmas poem make an attractive and tender book.

THE DUTCH CHEESE. By WALTER DE LA MARE. New York: Knopf. 1931. \$3.

Two favorite fairy stories from "Broomsticks" delightfully illustrated in color and black and white by the fairies' foremost interpreter, Dorothy Lathrop.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER. By MARK TWAIN. Philadelphia: Winston. 1931. \$2.50.

Christopher Morley has written an introduction for this edition which young persons will enjoy reading. They will like also the numerous illustrations by Peter Hurd.

BAMBI. By FELIX SALTEN. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1931. \$2.50.

New illustrations by Kurt Wiese, larger type and format place this edition definitely in the junior library.

COMPLEAT ANGLER. By IZAAK WALTON. Philadelphia: David McKay. 1931. \$5.

Twelve full-page pictures and many decorations by Arthur Rackham make this large boxed edition a handsome gift for Rackham enthusiasts.

THE LEWIS CARROLL BOOK. Edited by RICHARD HERRICK. New York: Dial Press. 1931. \$3.

A nice selection with Tenniel and Henry Holiday illustrations, containing "Alice in Wonderland," "Through the Looking Glass," "The Hunting of the Snark," "A Tangled Tale." Phantasmagoria Nonsense from Letters.

THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME. By JOHN FOX, JR. New York: Scribner's. 1931. \$3.50.

Pictures by N. C. Wyeth revive the popular story of the Blue Ridge Mountains. MEMOIRS OF A FOX-HUNTING MAN. By SIEGFRIED SASSOON. Illustrated. New York: Coward McCann. 1931. \$2.50.

This account of a charming English boyhood omits the chapters on the War in the edition for young readers.

A DAY IN A CHILD'S LIFE. Music by MYLES B. FOSTER. Illustrated by KATE GREENAWAY. New York: Frederick Warne. Reissue 1931. \$2.

THE QUEEN OF THE PIRATE SALE. By BRET HARTE. Illustrated by KATE GREENAWAY. New York: Frederick Warne. Reissue 1931. \$1.50.

A Search for Treasure

THE MYSTERY CROSS. By GUNBY HADATH. New York: Frederick A. Stokes. 1931. \$1.75.

Reviewed by MITCHELL CHARNLEY

THOUGH he tells a simple and familiar story—the story of a boy's search for treasure left him by his father and sought by a villainous enemy—Mr. Hadath has put distinction into this small book. A writer well known to English boys—his stories are favorites in *Boy's Own Paper*, the leading British boys' magazine—he is a stranger on this side of the water. "The Mystery Cross" is a pleasant introduction.

The distinction in the story lies in its effortless writing and its excellent characterization, rather than in its plot. It is the tale of David Keddie, orphan, summoned to a strange treasure hunt by a stranger messenger, an aged and weatherworn drummer who appears in a little seacoast town with a message directing the boy to seek at the foot of St. Palfry's Cross for wealth. The search for the cross leads David and the drummer, loyal servant of the boy's dead father, into adventure all over England and finally into the heights of the French Alps; there the search ends, and the villain of the piece dies ingloriously.

A simple story, this, and one told frequently enough (with a few slight variations). Yet Mr. Hadath has succeeded in investing David and the drummer, Aunt Deborah and the treacherous Roach, with so much life, such vitality, that they make of the simple story a very real one. The book is one a boy can read with profit because of its literary merit, and one he will read engrossedly for the same reason—even though he doesn't recognize it!

The Story of Christmas

THE CHRIST CHILD. From the Gospels According to Matthew and Luke, with Drawings by MAUD and MISKA PETERSHAM. New York: Doubleday, Doran. 1931. \$2.

Reviewed by MARGERY BLANCO

AMONG the host of picture books stylized, quaint or sophisticated, each striving for special effect, it is a pleasure to come upon anything as serene and simple as the Petershams' "Christ Child." Its cover, with a picture of the Bethlehem stable set against a background of gold-starred blue, reminds one of old-time Christmas Eves, half-forgotten carols and all that goes with the legend of the first Christmas. It is interesting to know that Mr. and Mrs. Petersham went to Palestine expressly to get the real setting for their pictures, and that the little rounded hills, the funny long-eared lambs and queer branching cactus plants that figure so decoratively through the pages are a part of the genuine background. The pictures are soft and delicate in coloring and have all the feeling of Eastern warmth and sunshine. We are glad that the text is not re-told, but taken directly from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, the only words in which the story of the Nativity should be presented to children. The printing was done in Germany under the direct supervision of the artists and is a very fine example of what is possible in color work, perfect in tone and gradation. Both for its beauty and special appeal this book should have a foremost place on the Christmas list.



ILLUSTRATION, BY ARTHUR RACKHAM, FOR "THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS," BY CLEMENT C. MOORE (LIPPINCOTT).

♦ SUGGESTIONS for CHRISTMAS ♦

THE DIARY OF A PROVINCIAL LADY. By E. M. Delafield.
 RICHARD HUGHES OMNIBUS.
 BROOME STAGES. By Clemence Dane.
 HATTER'S CASTLE. By A. J. Cronin.
 DEATH AND TAXES. By Dorothy Parker.
 THE WAVES. By Virginia Woolf.
 DWARF'S BLOOD. By Edith Olivier.
 THE COLLECTED GHOST STORIES of M. R. James.
 ONLY YESTERDAY. By Frederick Lewis Allen.

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 MR. FORTUNE SPEAKING. By H. C. Bailey.
 THEY WALK AGAIN. Edited by Colin de la Mare.

Poetry

THE SIGNATURE OF PAIN. By Alan Porter.
Fiction

FATHER MALACHY'S MIRACLE. By Bruce Marshall.

S.S. SAN PEDRO. By James Gould Cozzens.
Juvenile

RAGGEDY ANN'S SUNNY SONGS. By Johnny Gruelle, music by Will Woodin.

For Collectors

A Year's Subscription to The Colophon—\$15.

For Students of Typography
 MISE EN PAGE. By A. Tolmer—\$12.
New Editions

CASUALS OF THE SEA. By Wm. McFee
 (Modern Library, 95c).

DREAMTHORP. By Alexander Smith (Oxford Press, 80c).

Christopher Morley

BROOME STAGES. By Clemence Dane.
 MALAISIE. By Henri Fauconnier.
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 THE SIGNATURE OF PAIN. By Alan Porter.
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ALBERT GROPE. By F. O. Mann.
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Henry S. Canby

CITY CHILD. By Selma Robinson.
 THE MARTIAL SPIRIT. By Walter Millis.

FIRST NIGHTS AND FIRST EDITIONS. By Harry B. Smith.

SHADOWS ON THE ROCK. By Willa Cather.

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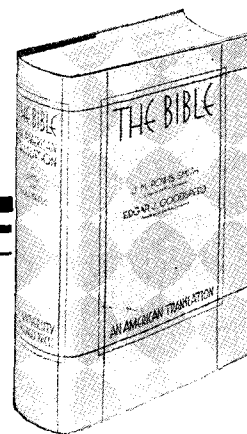
Social Satire

THE GARDENER'S FRIEND AND OTHER PESTS. By GEORGE S. CHAPPELL.
 Reviewed by MARION P. SMITH

THIS ingenious work of collaboration, that bears the names of Mr Chappell and Mr. Hunt, is widely heralded by the publishers as a "spoof," a word which the editors of the "New English Dictionary" wisely refrain from defining, but which they give as a synonym for "hoax or humbug." As Mr. Chappell's "Cruise of the Kawa" was undoubtedly a glorious "spoof" adventure book, publishers and reviewers may rashly conclude that everything that flows from his pen is an addition to the literature of hoax and humbug. But this book is not. It is a delicious bit of social satire, and its garden lore is above reproach. It chronicles the formation, activities, and downfall of a suburban Garden Club throughout the twelve months of its existence. The authors and founders of the club, who served as its secretary and treasurer, acted on the advice of their friend, Harry Golightly, editor of *Beau Monde*, and established the Hammonasset Garden Club on a firm foundation. As Harry put it, "You wish to have a club with distinct social prestige, not merely an excuse for meetings of a lot of rather ordinary people who like to stick seeds in the ground." So Mrs. Horace Punderford, Elsie Chalmers, "whose place, though small, was always immaculately kept; the two Trainor sisters, Sophy and Lucy, impeccable spinsters coeval with their own box bushes," and two or three others, equally desirable, were chosen charter members. In time the doors were opened, for one reason or another, to a few of the "villagers"; but this turned out a mistake, as events at the last meeting proved.

Papers were read at each session of the club, sometimes by members, sometimes by horticultural experts who were invited to attend. It is difficult to choose from so much that is excellent, but the present reviewer would tie for first place the lecture by Mr. Fosberg of the Connecticut Agricultural College on Insect Pests, and Henry Chalmers's paper on "Manure." In the course of the year the members visited the Spring Flower Show in New York, the Ellington Gardens at Great Neck (where they were held up for two dollars a head admission fee) and were in turn visited by the Caravan Players. These temperamental young artists produced "Black Rose" in Fanny Graham's garden, a play chosen by the club members for its supposed horticultural interest but which "dealt not with the queer flowers of poesy, but with miscegenation, a social problem never discussed in the salons of Hammonasset."

Designs from old wood-cuts embellish the absurd little lyrics that introduce the records of each month, and Haenigsen's illustrations are as amusing as the text; possibly more so.



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