

books which is well worth exploring for among them one may find good entertainment, and, should you be looking for it, excellent antidotes for the much too often, vague, and formless job dreams of youth:

"Betty Blake, O. T." A Story of Occupational Therapy. By Edith M. Stern. Dodd, Mead: \$2.

"Frills and Thrills." The Career of a Young Fashion Designer. By Louise Barnes Gallagher. Dodd, Mead: \$2.

"Penny Marsh Finds Adventure." In Public Health Nursing. By Dorothy Deming. Dodd, Mead: \$2.

"Single Stones." A Fourth Year Medical's Research Problem. By Gertrude E. Mallette. Doubleday, Doran: \$2.

"Forty Faces." Experiences at a Teachers' College. By Mary Urmston. Doubleday, Doran: \$2.

*In the table below are books which are centered about actual individuals who have led distinguished careers.*

## Moose Country

*ADVENTURE NORTH.* By Kathrene Pinkerton. New York: Carrick & Evans. 1940. 268 pp. \$2.

Reviewed by LOUIS J. HALLE, JR.

ACCORDING to her publishers, the author of "Wilderness Wife" has written this novel especially for the older girls and boys. But they post no sign explicitly forbidding us grown-ups to trespass. It is all about the fur-country, the wilderness of the Hudson Bay region, with its lakes and rivers, its spruce swamps, its muskeg, its moose, and its primitive Ojibwa Indians. Ann's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, gave up town-life one spring when Ann was fourteen and Philip ten to undertake a pioneering existence on this far frontier.

The group lived in tents on the shore of Far Lake till they had built a cabin. Ann and Philip learned to paddle a canoe, to shape birch-bark, to chink log walls with moss, to avoid losing their way in the woods, and many other skills. They acquired a mischievous baby bear for a pet. They went on occasional trips to the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Fort Caribou to purchase supplies and talk to Mr. Gillespie.

For several agonizing chapters Miss Pinkerton's little group lived in fear of being dispossessed because Pe-tah-bo claimed Mr. Jackman's trapping territory as his own by ancestral right. Ann is the heroine of this story and, needless to say, Ann saves the situation.

If you want to warm your heart with a tale of happy people, of the simple life and virtue rewarded, this is your book. You will also learn from it how fur-trappers and Ojibwas live in the great wilderness of the North.

### This Issue's Cover

The Saturday Review's special cover for its Children's Book Number was designed by Roger Duvoisin, the distinguished book-illustrator. Among his recent work has been the illustration of a new edition of W. H. Hudson's "Tales of the Pampas."

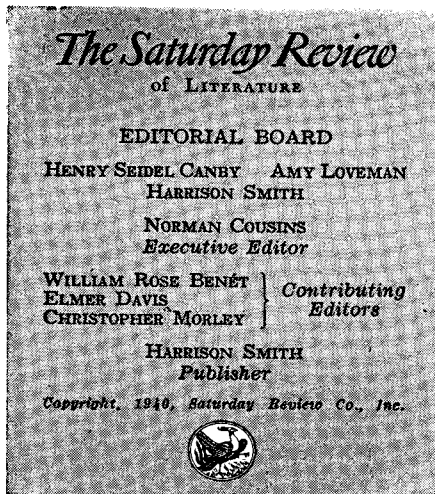
*Drawing from "Adventure North," by Kathrene Pinkerton.*



## VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE — ZOË C. DURRELL

Title and Author	Age and Sex	What It's About	Our Opinion
FIFI <i>Ludwig Bemelmans</i> (Simon & Schuster: \$2.)	Small Children	A French poodle gets into trouble on a trip across the jungle in Uganda. A kind of stream-lined Babar, mostly pictures, with rhymed text.	Amusing leaning toward sophistication
JOCK'S CASTLE <i>Katherine Gibson</i> (Longmans: \$2.)	6-10 Both	Jock the miller, with the help of Sniffer his dog, rescues King Henry from bandits and is given a castle as his reward.	Amusing
DINA AND BETSY <i>Adele de Leeuw</i> (Macmillan: \$1.)	6-10 Girls	All about the life of two little girls on the Dutch island of Welcheren. Authentic details and charming illustrations make this a valuable book about these picturesque people.	Good foreign
THE LOST LOCKET <i>Ethel Parton</i> (Viking Press: \$2.)	9-13 Girls	Another of the lively Newburyport chronicles, set this time in 1830. Humor, excitement, and adventure abound.	Satisfactory Americana
PETER BY THE SEA <i>Julian R. Meade</i> (Doubleday, Doran: \$1.50)	5-10 Both	Peters' desire for a blue automobile and a puppy of his own bring him new friends and interesting experiences at the seashore.	Well planned and executed
THE HOUSE ACROSS THE WAY <i>Eliza Orne White</i> (Houghton Mifflin: \$2.)	7-11 Girls	The eight lively Rhodes children romp through this pleasant book making many friends and helping their community.	Too much family
BILL AND NANCY <i>Mildred Wasson</i> (Liveright: \$2.)	8-12 Both	A plausible family story with an engaging eleven year old hero who is led into many escapades by his imagination and enthusiasm.	Adequate
DAVID AND PATIENCE <i>Edith Tallant</i> (Lippincott: \$2.)	7-11 Both	Two Newfoundland children refuse to believe their fisherman father is lost at sea. Excellent picture of life in the "Grenfell country."	Exciting and instructive
LADY ARABELLA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY <i>Margaret and Mary Baker</i> (Dodd, Mead: \$1.75)	6-8 Both	What happened when the duke's daughter and the herdsman's baby became exchanged on their first birthday. Nice silhouettes on every page.	Amiable
SWEET POSSUM VALLEY <i>Christine Noble Govan</i> (Houghton Mifflin: \$2.)	9-14 Girls	Story of a happy summer on a farm in the ante-bellum South. Full of nice children and interesting characters.	Lively and entertaining
CROOKTAIL <i>Agnes Akin Atkinson</i> (Harpers: \$1.50)	7-11 Both	A lovable wounded raccoon is befriended by Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson, who restore him to health and a happy life in the woods.	Good nature
THE WEATHER HOUSE PEOPLE <i>Marie McSwigan</i> (Lippincott: \$1.50)	5-10 Girls	The carved wooden figures in a tiny Swiss weather house come alive when Jeanie is ill.	Nice idea but unconvincingly written
THE SEA IS ALL AROUND <i>Elizabeth Enright</i> (Farrar & Rinehart: \$2.)	8-12 Girls	When Mab goes from Iowa to live on Pokenick Island all of her expectations of the joys of life by the sea are fulfilled.	Unusually fine

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## NEWSPAPERS AND THE ELECTION

FOR the third successive Presidential election, the majority of the newspapers of this country have been on the losing side. It has been estimated by *Editor and Publisher* that Mr. Roosevelt in 1932 was supported by 40 per cent of the press; in 1936 by 36 per cent, and in the election just held by barely 23 per cent. It may still be a little too early to generalize on the significance of these figures, but it is certain that many publishers are asking themselves why it is that in a decade when newspapers have had the largest readership in their history, and at a time when day-by-day news has been and is the most challenging, dramatic thing in print, that the editorial page in general should have fallen so far short of the mark set for itself on the very occasions when public opinion in this country has been on full dress parade in a way that could actually be measured.

We are not concerned here with the reasons which motivated the large majority of the newspapers to back Presidential candidates who were rejected by the majority of the American people; that is a subject for separate discussion. Nor do we suggest that the election results of the last eight years indicate that papers should automatically identify themselves with what appears to be the winning cause just for the sake of being on the winning side. But what does concern us here is the evidence—furnished three times hand-running—that the influence or power of the newspaper editorial is definitely on the wane; that it has perhaps lost its reputation for being the principal moulder of public opinion in the country.

Of far more importance than the question as to whether the newspapers have failed to reflect the viewpoints of their readers, or whether the readers have failed to reflect the view-

points of their papers, is the question as to whether the editorial page as we have known it has become or is on the way to becoming an empty voice on the biggest issue in our national life; that is, unless we are to judge that the people who read newspapers don't vote or that the people who vote don't read newspapers. It may be said by some that the newspapers are away ahead of the people, just as it may be said by others that the people are away ahead of the newspapers, but whichever is true, there can be no doubt of the distance apparently now separating the two.

All this might make an interesting subject for detailed and objective study by historians or writers interested in the workings of the press and the public mind. Such a study would attempt to discuss the entire pattern of American voting behavior in relation to all the media which seek to help shape public opinion. This study would have to do more than has been done to date in analyzing the power of the newspapers; it would attempt to ascertain whether radio has proved that people are more interested in listening to all the arguments and then making their own decisions than they are in reading most but not always all of the arguments and then taking an editor's advice. This study, too, would attempt to ascertain on the basis of what has happened whether radio or other factors or both have made it necessary to discount generously the role of the press as a mirror or maker of public sentiment. Other questions this study might attempt to answer would concern a possible decline in the power of the editorial *per se*. Why is it, for example, that there has been nothing since the turn of the century to capture the national imagination as did William Allen White's editorial, "What's the Matter with Kansas?" published in 1896? What is the relation, if any, to this decline of the ever-increasing prominence of the editorial columnist? Then, as a footnote or even as an appendix to the main study, what degree of effectiveness have the columnists themselves enjoyed or suffered as generators of the public will? If the editorial page as presently constituted is on the way out, will its successor be the columnist; and, if so, is it to be expected that the columnist will prove any more successful than his anonymous predecessor?

Finally, such a study, in considering other factors which have entered into the poor election record of the newspapers, would do well to look into the phenomenon of the non-politician in politics. What is the significance of the emergence as political advisers of the swing band leader, the prize-fight-

er, the screen star, the trapeze artist, and even the literary critic? Were these persons given a wide forum for their election views because of their knowledge and wisdom or because of their notoriety? Or is it possible that these politically-minded entertainers and laymen are, if anything, an improvement over the average efforts of the professional politicians?

These are only a few of the questions which any study of the press and the polls should attempt to answer. Meanwhile, we suspect that not among the least interested in the results of such a study would be the publishers themselves.

N. C.

## Passport Beyond Tyranny

DAVID ROSS

I THINK of robins  
Now the bladed air  
Is honed to sharpness,  
And the first frosts  
Zealous with torches,  
Take the year in custody.

Wind without warrant  
Searching the nest;  
Plunder of tyrant  
Tearing asunder by hate;  
Marauder and vandal  
With torch and with knout,  
Who pillage and swindle,  
Who level by arson  
All pity, all reason;  
These are the baiters of birds  
Loosed in a pitiless season.

O fortunates, feathered with visas,  
The wing is passport beyond tyranny;  
With passage booked for south  
And sun for convoy,  
Who sniffs the registry  
To grade your birdliness?  
Who boards the atmosphere  
To count your quotas now?  
Once on the beam for south,  
Your needle trembling on escape,  
A robin's out of ransom's reach,  
Or reprisal of snow.

Not only in their wings, good fortune,  
But in their star:  
For winter's map is fixed by solar-treaty;

Against him stands the axis, poised,  
And the sun's battalions mobilized,  
Holding winter to his signature.  
Thus winter cannot breach his pact  
Or disavow his set frontier  
And go inching up by latitudes  
Until he tyrannize the sphere.