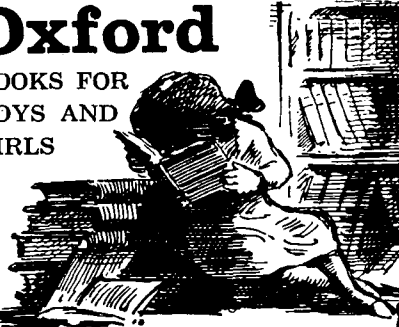


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GIRLS



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who, in later years, was to become the designer and decorator of many of the town's finest homes and public buildings. At twelve, however, he was primarily interested in his family, his friends, his wood-carvings, and the busy life of the harbor town, and it is these things that are described in the book. —E. S. R.

IMAGINATIVE AND FOLK TALES

HORTENSE. By Natalie Sarage Carlson. Illustrated by Nicolas. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.75. Hortense was a Normandy cow leading a placid existence when her beautiful white calf disappeared. All she asked of life was to find her calf but her search led her into many strange adventures with pirates, a shipwreck, and an eventful journey through Africa. Fate returns her to the court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon. Children in fourth and fifth grades should find this imaginative search both unique and entertaining. While the humor is sometimes subtle and sophisticated it is also sprightly and original. Many excellent illustrations in black and white by Nicolas Mordvinoff add distinction to the book. —R. H. H.

THE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS. By Dodie Smith. Illustrated by Janet and Anne Grahame-Johnstone. Viking. \$2.75. The *dramatis personae* of this first children's book by the author of "I Capture the Castle" are Pongo and Missis, "a young married couple of Dalmatians," their fifteen puppies, their pets, the Dearlys, and a sinister woman named Cruella De Vil, who dotes on furs and is never seen without her cloak of "absolutely simple white mink." From Cruella's evil wish for Dalmatian fur coats to match her hair the plot develops, and Dalmatian puppies are kidnapped all over England.

In this amusing and well-written story the laws of good fantasy are obeyed. Pongo plans and executes a masterly rescue of the puppies—but the humans involved are never undeceived in their belief that he is just a good dog and all the rest is coincidence. —A. O'B. M.

MISS GRIMSBEE IS A WITCH. By Gerald Weales. Illustrated by Lita Scheel. Little, Brown. \$2.75. Jimmy Felbs is very upset when his teacher says there are no witches today, for he knows that his friend Miss Grimsbee, the very respected president of the Garden Club, is a witch of many talents. Jimmy and Miss Grimsbee set out to prove that there are witches by turning the teacher into an alligator bag, the streets into sponge rubber,

and the school into ice cream. A delightful combination of the everyday and fantasy, with sly allusions to today's government which will make reading it aloud fun for adults as well as children. Amusing line drawings by Lita Scheel. —NORMA RATHBUN.

MIKE FINK: Snapping Turtle of the O-hi-o-, Snag of the Massassip. By James Cloyd Bowman. Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Little, Brown. \$3. The exploits of Mike Fink are vigorously told by the same storyteller who has given us "Pecos Bill" and "Winabojo." Mike, who had the Mississippi and the Ohio so well under control that there was no need for Davy Crockett to remain in the neighborhood of the waterways, was the undisputed king of the Mississippi and the keel boatmen. Mr. Fisher's black-and-white illustrations have caught the humor and exaggeration of the tales. Storytellers will have fun relating these stories in the same language used by the tale-swapping rivermen. —AUGUSTA BAKER.

THE HAT-SHAKING DANCE AND OTHER TALES FROM THE GOLD COAST. By Harold Courlander with Albert Kofi Prempeh. Illustrated by Enrico Arno. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.95. The Ashanti people have lived on the Gold Coast of Africa for many years. Though life is changing, the old traditions are not forgotten, and people still gather to hear stories, many of them about the spider, Anansi. He is the smartest and yet the most stupid of all the creatures, sometimes a great hero and sometimes a veritable rascal. It will be interesting to use this collection with Philip Sherlock's "Anansi, the Spider Man," for the Gold Coast Anansi is the forerunner of the West Indian Anansi. Mr. Courlander has included notes on each of the stories. The stylized illustrations by Enrico Arno add to the attractiveness of this book, which Prempeh, the Gold Coast African, and Courlander, the folklorist, have added to the storyteller's shelf. —A. B.



—From "Hortense."

a placid existence."

FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

THE SHIELD RING. By Rosemary Sutcliff. Illustrated by Walter C. Hodges. Oxford. \$3. This absorbing tale of the struggles of the Vikings against the Norman invaders revolves around Frytha, a small child at the beginning of the story. When her home is burned and her family destroyed by the Normans, she and a faithful retainer escape to the inner fortress, the shield ring, of the Viking defenses. She grows to young womanhood acquiring some of the gentler arts but also learning to take her part in the defense of the homeland. Her companionship with Bjorn, their capture as spies by the enemy, and the last fateful battle add excitement to this well-written story of the fight for freedom against invading forces. For older boys and girls.

—SARAH JONES.

THAT JUD! By Elspeth Bragdon. Illustrated by Georges Schreiber. Viking. \$2.50. Mrs. Bragdon is to be saluted for this fine story of youth, as fresh as the New England breezes that blow through it, as sound as the moral values that premise it.

Her hero is a potentially "bad" boy, ward of a Maine town, who lives in a kind of spiritual loneliness because of the criticism constantly directed at him. Then a young priest and three other men give him their faith and confidence, and so armored he comes to a full realization of his own innate fineness.

Jud is an appealing young person, and his story, written with honest conviction, is one of considerable stature.

—E. S. R.

BOSS CHOMBALE. By Margaret Carson Hubbard. Illustrated by Peter Spier. Crowell. \$2.75. Peter's father, an engineer, brought his family to Kafue, Northern Rhodesia, and Peter had to prove that he was not a "new chum." After many trials and some errors, he learned the ways of the bush and won the affection of the natives who nicknamed him "Boss Chombale." Mrs. Hubbard, who lived in Northern Rhodesia, knows the country and its inhabitants intimately. This is one of the best African stories for boys and girls because of the warm and natural relationships between the natives and the Hartley family, and between the Hartleys themselves.

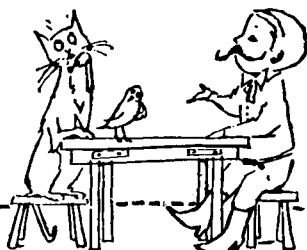
—A. B.

ELEPHANT BRIDGE. By Jeffrey Potter. Illustrated by Roberta Moynihan. Viking. \$2.50. Though this is a story of Burma at war, fighting has little place in it. It is, rather, the story of the remarkable experience of a young Burmese boy and his life with a herd of elephants. Too young to enlist with



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THIS DEAR-BOUGHT LAND. Illustrated by JACOB LANDAU. A boy's growing into manhood in Capt. John Smith's Jamestown colony. "Robust story . . . Miss Latham, who won the Newbery Award, has a knack of making the past seem very much alive."—N. Y. Times Book Review.

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