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 wellwritten 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 -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.

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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FOR BOYS AND GIRLS SPRING 1957



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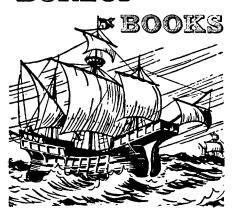
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the other men of his village, Maung Po ran away, hoping to join the army. Instead, he was adopted by a mother elephant recently bereft of her baby, and a strange affection and understanding between the young boy and the elephants developed. Together they destroyed a bridge the enemy had built across a deep chaung, or dry river bed, and by eliminating this means of transportation aided in the defense of Burma.

A great feeling for the jungle comes through the descriptive text and the innumerable black-and-white illustrations.

—F. L. S.

JOE SUNPOOL. By Don Wilcox. Illustrated by Allan Houser, Little, Brown. \$2.75. Joe Sunpool, a young Navaho Indian, has many adjustments to make as he leaves the reservation and enters Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, His homesickness, his frustrations, and some of his personal relationships at times dim his dreams of becoming a printer and contributing his talents to the improvement of his people. His boxing ability, his superb horsemanship, and the understanding friendship of a Cherokee girl help him meet the challenge of a new environment. Junior high school boys will like this story of courage and determination, and they will gain a better insight into the character and problems of the Indians Joe represents. The illustrations by the noted Indian artist Allan Houser have a simplicity and strength that are in accord with the text.

ADVENTURE TO HOME. By Robert Wells. Illustrated by Mary Stevens. Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.50. Twelve-year-old Dirk sometimes found the customs of the Pennsylvania Dutch "plain people" restricting, but he loved the warmth and closeness of his family life. It was hard for a boy who loved to ride to accept the fact that "a horse is to work." The opportunity to head West with his Uncle Justus in the early 1800s taught him something of life outside his own community and made his return on his own horse even more joyous. This is a simple and pleasing story for young readers, containing colloquial words and phrases to challenge their reading skill.

-М. Р. D.

ABOUT PEOPLE

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY: America's Best-Loved Poet. By Toby Shafter. Messner. \$2.95. In many ways Miss Millay is a natural subject for a biography aimed at teen-agers. Not only have adolescents always loved her poetry, but certain aspects of her life will also be especially appealing to



"Warm and natural relationships."

them. It is these aspects which the author has skilfully emphasized—her poor but carefree and unconventional childhood, her poetic triumphs while she was still in her teens, and her conquest of New York's literary world while in her early twenties. Dramatics at Vassar and in Greenwich Village, the many suitors, travel in Europe, her love for and marriage to Eugen Boissevain, and finally her sad death are all, in spite of a lack of distinction in the writing style, well and wisely handled. Miss Shafter has done a creditable job which will be enjoyed by teen-age girls, especially those with any literary aspirations of their own. --LILLIAN MORRISON.

ELIZABETH. By Frances Winwar. Illustrated by Enrico Arno. World. \$3. In telling the romantic love story of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning the author has succeeded in presenting two remarkable individuals as well. There is almost as much of Italy's upheavals and France's struggles under the shadow of Napoleon as there is of the Victorian life of the Barretts on Wimpole Street. Therefore Elizabeth's passion for both personal and national freedoms and her admiration, sometimes misplaced, for strong men can be more readily understood. Robert Browning emerges as a voice for true democracy as well as the gallant lover.

The careful research that was done for the earlier "Immortal Lovers" is evident here, and one new poem—
"Song"—appears in print for the first time.

—Grace Slocum.

THE MAN WHO WAS CHOSEN. The Story of Pope Pius XII. By Elise Lavelle. Illustrated with photographs. Whittlesey House. \$2.75. By its very nature the exalted office of the Holy See obscures the man who holds it. It is, therefore, a credit to the author, who is the religious editor of The New York Times, that she has been able to show in this biography the warmth and stature of the personality of Eugenio Pacelli, the present Pope. We catch glimpses