

CHRISTMAS AMONG CHILDREN'S BOOKS

By Margaret Vincent Buddy

This year's crop of fall juveniles is as bewildering to the Christmas shopper as it has ever been in years past. The jackets are brilliant, the blurbs tempting, and the problem of finding the right book for each name on the list is one that no adult dare tackle unaided. Following are twenty of the most outstanding of the new books which may help as a guide:

For the picture book age, *Little Goose Gosling* by Helen and Alf Evers, Farrar and Rinehart, 75 cents, is a gay small book about a proud young gosling. *Jinny: the Story of a Filly* by Bert Clark Thayer, Farrar and Rinehart, \$2.50, is graphically told in photographs. *Gaston and Josephine in America* by Georges Duplaix, Oxford, \$2, continues the story of those enterprising porkers.

For the ages from five to eight, far and away the gayest book of the season is *Hansi* by Ludwig Bemelmans, Viking, \$2, Hansi and his sister spend an exciting Christmas vacation high up in the Austrian Tyrol. *Three Japanese Mice* by Lois Lignell and Belz Princehorn, Farrar and Rinehart, \$1.50, has delicately beautiful illustrations like Japanese prints. *Midget and Bridget* by Berta and Elmer Hader, Macmillan, \$2, are two lovable Mexican burros. *The Steam Engine Book* and *The Fire Engine Book* by William C. Prior, Harcourt Brace, \$1, each, are factual books with excellent photographs. *Miki and Mary: Their Search for Treasure* by Maud and Miska Petersham, Viking, \$2.50, takes the children on a beautifully pictured journey half around the world. A child with a sense of humor will cherish *Now Open the Box*, by Dorothy Kunhardt, Harcourt Brace, \$1.25.

For the around ten age, *The Gold Laced Coat* by Helen Fuller Orton, Stokes, \$1.75, relates the adventures of a daring boy at old Fort Niagara. Both lively and humorous is *Pogo, the Circus Horse* by Josef Berger, Coward McCann, \$2. *Wind in the Chimney* by Cornelia Meigs, Macmillan, \$2, is laid in Pennsylvania in the days of Washington. *The Spanish Twins* by Lucy Fitch Perkins, Houghton Mifflin, \$1.75, continues this highly successful series. *Away Goes Sally* by Elizabeth Coatsworth, Macmillan, \$2, is the tale of a journey to Maine by sleigh a hundred years ago.

For older boys and girls, one of the best dog stories of recent years is *Beth, a Sheep Dog*, by Ernest Lewis, Dutton, \$2. *Cher Ami* by Marion B. Cothren, Little Brown, \$1.25, tells of the carrier pigeon whose heroic last flight brought aid to the Lost Battalion. *When the Stars Come Out* by Robert H. Baker, Viking, \$2.50, has fascinating charts and photographs. *Gypsy Lad* by Captain S. P. Meek, Morrow, \$2, is a champion setter in the hunting fields of Virginia. *Just Among Friends* by Cecil Aldin, Scribners, \$2, is the perfect dog picture book for all ages.

LIFE ON THE LAST FRONTIER

WE SAGEBRUSH FOLKS. By Annie Pike Greenwood. D. Appleton-Century. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Laurence Bell

Those who pass this book by on the assumption that it is one of those books in which facts are eclipsed by legend and folk tales will be doing an injustice to both the author and themselves. When Mrs. Green-

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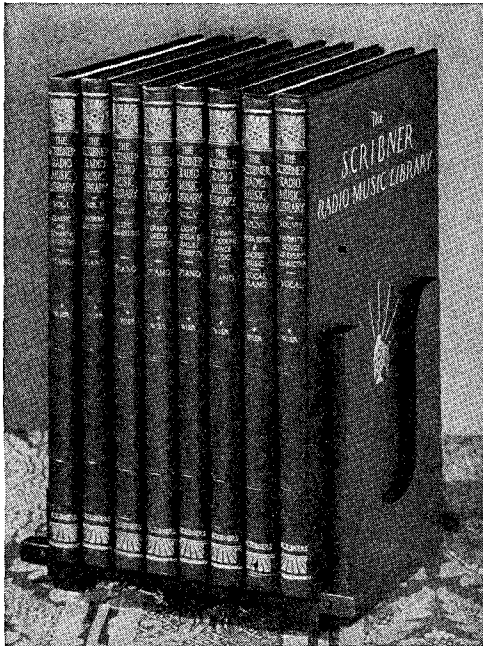
(Continued from page 33)

wood, daughter of a cultured family of the upper middle class, went to the sagebrush wastes of southern Idaho to help her husband make a home, she found plenty of material for a writer. No astral phenomena has influenced her account of the fifteen-year struggle against a horde of obstacles, which included poverty, disease, hunger, and the depredations of the cattle ranchers, who regarded the farmers as interlopers.

Mrs. Greenwood was reared in comparative luxury, the daughter of a Utah physician; her husband, Charles Greenwood, was the grand-

son of a German baron. Both were cultured, intelligent people. They had barely settled down, however, in Kansas, when Greenwood's pioneering yearnings got the better of him and he set forth for Idaho, where the volcanic ash soil was to be made fertile by irrigation. When Mrs. Greenwood came later there was only one other woman in the "neighborhood," and the flimsy little house perched on lava rock foundations seemed even more flimsy to her by comparison with her childhood home in Utah, although most of the other settlers lived in tar-paper shanties. But, despite unbelievable poverty (Mrs. Greenwood writes of having lost a silk dress, ordered by mail, because of not having enough money to pay the postal insurance fee), she managed to have a little garden, a few flowers, educate her four children, and realize her lifelong ambition to write. Ultimately, they lost their farm, but one feels that the Greenwoods felt only a passing concern.

We Sagebrush Folks is written in a straightforward, intimate manner, retarded only by frequent philosophical deviations that get the reader and author nowhere. It provides valuable material for both sides of the farmer-capital controversy, and should be of interest to every one to whom farmers are more than just people who plant things in the ground and sit down to await their growth.



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HARASSED LADY

ANNE OF ENGLAND. By M. R. Hopkinson.
Macmillan. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Frances Fenwick Hills

With many extracts from letters and documents of the period to support her argument, Mrs. Hopkinson attempts to replace the general conception of Queen Anne as a stout, weak-willed but kind-hearted lady by a picture of an abused but never humble sovereign. The author obviously believes Anne to have been a remarkable person whose life held much of the romantic and whose reign was indeed "one of glory." Circumstance, however, and not Anne's personality nor any particular action of hers, seems more responsible for whatever romance and drama there is to be found in the Queen's life.

Born of the Duke of York's secret marriage to the daughter of the first Earl of Clarendon, she was placed by fate in a unique position. Her claim to the throne seemed of little importance until her elder sister had married into the Hanoverian line, and her father, an ardent Catholic, became James II of England. Anne, reared as a Protestant and a thorough Englishwoman, had won the hearts of the people, their affection and belief in her doubly strengthened by her marriage to a Protestant Prince, George of Denmark. When, upon her father's death, Mary returned to England with her Hanoverian husband, she found her sister Anne—this according to Mrs. Hopkinson—by far the more popular of the two. Their quarrels the author attributes to Mary's bad temper and jealousy. Certainly Mrs. Hopkinson's portrayal of Mary is anything but flattering.

There is a vivid account of Anne's ascent to the throne, her coronation, of her vain attempt at moderation in forming her cabinet, and of her ardent desire to end the War of the Spanish Succession. Her life was not a quiet one, rendered still more confusing by the demands made upon her by her friend Sarah Churchill, later Duchess of Marlbor-