

Starting the Children Right Along the Path of Reading

More Books in the Home Is the Object Aimed At in the Book Week for Children

SANTA CLAUS comes twice a year for children whose families are interested in Children's Book Week. And to-morrow the big week begins.

If parents feel the urge to enter into the spirit of getting good books for their children they certainly will have no complaint to make against the publishers this season. A few years ago the accusation might have been made that good reading for children was hard to get in the books being published, that the old stories were all that there was to turn to. Whether this was true or not, it cannot be said of this season. Both quality and quantity are great in the offerings this fall in children's books. And just what is Children's Book Week?

What the Week Is
"A joint, annual effort to encourage the love of books among children and the discussion of children's reading in communities."

The attention which is being given to children these days, as to their education, their health and their recreation, is extended to their reading. Child welfare includes "more books in the home," especially more books for children.

To parents who throw up their hands over the proposition of finding out what their children want in reading matter, of selecting the right diet for them in books, The Publishers' Weekly suggests that librarians, booksellers and teachers are near at hand for consultation.

New shops and departments, exclusively given over to the handling of children's books, have been springing up on every hand. These are especially attractive, and the goods they handle would be sufficient to make them so if no effort were made beyond stacking these out for buyers to see. Grown-ups will find new editions of the books they read when they were children, in more gorgeous bindings and with better illustrations. They will also find that there is better variety in new books than there was when they were little.

For Very Little Folks
TO BEGIN with the books of the season which we have received, those for the very little people are the first to consider. These are not so great in number, but those there are offer delightful material for reading aloud at bedtime and other times.

A new fictional friend may be introduced to children in The Story of Doctor Doolittle, by Hugh Lofting, Frederick A. Stokes, publishers. The kind, inconsistent doctor is an acquaintance almost any child will appreciate. He may not reach the proportions of Alice or of some of the fairy tale people, or even of Peter Rabbit, but he is an entertaining individual to know, and his adventures remind one of the yarns children sometimes make up themselves. He overcomes difficulties in much the same nonchalant way a child story-teller slides over discrepancies and surmounts impossible situations.

The animals which are his friends and pets play a large part in helping him out, and the doctor really doesn't have to worry a great deal when he has his sagacious parrot, his sensible donkey and his clever monkey to depend upon in emergencies.

Mr. Lofting knows how to write for children. He sees his story with their eyes and just tells it to them in their own language, never in any way insulting them by talking down to them. If he has to use a word which may be new to some of his audience he explains it without spoiling the narrative, and goes on.

More of Old Granny Fox
ANOTHER volume of the Green Meadow Series by Thornton W. Burgess really needs no comment. The announcement that Little, Brown & Co. have published the fourth book in the series, and it is about Old Granny Fox, is enough. The other characters known to readers and hearers of the Bedtime Stories, and especially Reddy Fox, play some part in the stories. What would Granny Fox be unless she were trying to catch somebody?

A Brownie Robinson Crusoe, by Charlotte B. Herr (Dodd, Mead and Company), is modeled upon the plan of the real Robinson Crusoe story, but the hero is a Brownie who will appeal to little people. His adventures combine some of the knowledge children have of the life about them with the imaginative life they all live more or less in the world of make-believe.

Stories for Good Children, by Lora B. Peck (Little, Brown & Co.), is a selection of tales from many lands. Hindoo, Irish, Chinese, Japanese and Indian stories are represented. They are short and simply told. Peggy's Giant, by M. D. Hillyard (A. C. Black, Ltd., London, and Macmillan, New York), is one of the best stories for little people who like to have persons read to them that we have ever come across. Like Tea Toys and a Tale, sent to us earlier in the season by the same publishers, this story hits just the right atmosphere and tells just the details children like to have told. We do not assert that these stories are classics among children's books. But we do know that little people like them particularly, and that they make decidedly wholesome and pleasant reading.

Not the least of the book Peggy's Giant are the illustrations, which are "by Peggy." They are different in subject matter, of course, but they remind one of the illustrations in Kipling's Just So Stories.

The Land of the Great Out-of-Doors, by Robert Livingston (Houghton Mifflin), contains much description of the life a little brother and sister spent in the country. It has a little too much philosophizing and not enough action to be as popular with children as might be. However, the good times in the book are almost enough to carry

"Reading Maketh the Full Man"



JESSIE WILCOX SMITH

By permission of Children's Book Week Committee

the story over, and the illustrations by Maurice Day are especially taking.

Preentious Books
AMONG the more pretentious volumes for the child's library are two published by Duffield & Co. A Child's Book of Modern Stories has been compiled by Ada M. Skinner and Eleanor M. Skinner. It contains pictures by Jessie Wilcox Smith which alone would make it worthy a place on the child's bookshelf. Stories by Louisa A. Alcott, Alice Farwell Brown, Juliana Horatio Ewing, Mary Stewart and other well known story-tellers are included in the collection. Just as grown-ups have their Best Short Stories for such and such a year, this collection may represent to children some of the best stories told for them in modern times.

The other attractive volume from Duffield is Stories, by Juliana Horatio Ewing, with pictures by Edna Cooke. Jackanapes—yes, the very same Jackanapes which many of us had in a slim volume on our own shelf when we were little—leads the list. "Mary's Mead-ow," "A Very Ill-Tempered Family" and "Lob Lie-by-the-Fire" and others are in the collection. They are longer than children's stories ordinarily run

Pictures to Be Colored
AGROUP of play books which will be enjoyed by children who like to dabble in color is Black's Painting Books (Macmillan). There is some reading matter in explanation of the pictures to be colored. The colors are suggested and the owner of the book may become the decorative artist for his own library. The little books are an educational as well as recreational value. The subjects of the books are Visual Botany, Stories from British History, Scenes from Many Lands, Bible Stories from the New Testament, Scenes from Land and Sea, and Nursery Rhymes. The last has words and music for little songs.

Another play book is Folk Story Plays for Children, by Margaret Lynch Conger, James A. McCann Company, publishers. This contains little dramas which children may act out themselves. It explains the properties needed and all of the business for the amateur actors. The lines are such as children might make up themselves except that once in a while they are really just too silly. One fears that the actors might have attacks of giggles. Pictures in the book suggest ways in which the scenery might be painted on large sheets of wrapping paper.

Poetry and Jingles
ALL little people like jingles. Some of them may not care for poetry, but all of them like jingles, and it is well to let all of them have access to some poetry and develop a taste for it

if they will. It strengthens imagination and cultivates a love for beautiful expression and beautiful things. The place Eugene Field and James Whitcomb Riley filled in the lives of some of us should make parents realize the value of good poetry for their children. Besides, school children like to learn a few good poems, and it adds to the inspiration to be able to find them themselves instead of having to depend on teacher for all of them. A number of volumes of children's poetry have been put out this fall.

The Christmas Child, by Nora Archibald Smith (Houghton Mifflin), contains some catchy little Christmas poems and some very much better poems for children at just any time in the year. The Megfoots, by Marvin M. Taylor, contains rhymes for smaller people. These attempt and fall short of good nursery jingles. Little drawings by Marjorie Very accompany each rhyme. The Four Seas Company are the publishers.

In Words and Pictures
ACUNNING little book for children is Amerliar-Anne and the Green Umbrella (George W. Jacobs & Co.). It is "told in words by Constance Heward and told in pictures by Susan Beatrice Pearce." The pictures are even more important than the reading matter. The story could be made up from the pictures. One of the favorite practices of little people who cannot read is the reconstruction of stories that are read to them from the pictures in the book.

Ever since Alice went to Wonderland writers for children have imitated some of the devices with which Lewis Carroll was so successful in interesting young readers. Peggy in Toyland, by Archibald Marshall (Dodd, Mead & Co.), proclaims Mr. Doggson's influence in spots through the story as well as in the title. Peggy is a little girl who is very fond of dolls. Some of the parts about dolls and little girls with their dolls are distinctly original. She will be liked especially by children who play alone with their toys.

Many Fairy Books
FAIRY books have been numerous this fall. The old ones have been reprinted in beautiful editions. Fairy tales by authors known for other than children's writings have been brought out, and some of these editions have been mentioned in The Tribune earlier in the season. Among the most attractive books are The Happy Prince, by Oscar Wilde, and Princess Pipipatino, by Alexandre Dumas, both published by Brentano and Grimm's Fairy Tales, published by Scribners. The Children of Odin, by Padric Colum, published by Macmillan, is another of the best of those collections of folk-lore. It tells the Norse legend in simple style, and is a clear arrange-

ment of these intricate stories. The illustrations by Willy Pogany are in color, and they, too, catch the spirit of the legends.

The famous collection of fairy tales by Edouard Laboulaye, folk tales of Bohemia, Spain, Italy, Brittany, Finland and Russia, is published in good style by Harpers. The introduction by Kate Douglas Wiggin to Laboulaye's Fairy Book gives an interesting touch to the edition:

"There was once a green book, deliciously thick, with rill-edged pages and the name of the author in gold script on the front cover. "Like an antique posy ring, it was a box of jewels, shop of rarities; it was a veritable Pandora's box, and if you laid warm childish hands upon it and held it pressed close to your ear you could hear, as Pandora did, soft rustlings, murmurs, flutterings and whisperings from the fairy folk within. For this was a fairy book—Edouard Laboulaye's Tales, and its heroes and heroines became first the daily companions and then the lifetime possession of the two little girls to whom it belonged."

"The daily companions, and then the lifetime possessions" are what fairy stories contribute to all children who have access to them. The Laboulaye stories were translated by Mary L. Booth and the Harper volume is illustrated by Edward G. McCandlish.

Other good fairy books received are The Green Forest Fairy Book, by Loretta Ellen Brady (Little, Brown & Co.), Tales of Wonder and Magic, by Katharine Pyle (Little, Brown & Co.); The Magic Whistle, by E. Gordon Browne (Dodd, Mead & Co.); and the latest Oz book, Glinda of Oz, by L. Frank Baum (Reilly & Lee, publishers).

Beautiful Gift Books
THE new type of animal stories which are being written for children, with a certain attempt at quaint personification of the people of forest and meadow, had its inspiration either consciously or unconsciously in Uncle Remus, by Joel Chandler Harris. These stories of Little Boy by the old colored man have been published in a splendid gift edition by Appletons. The original illustrations by A. B. Frost and E. W. Kemble accompany the stories. The introduction to the book was written by Thomas Nelson Page, and he expressed the feeling which many of us have about the place Joel Chandler Harris fills in the world of children's stories:

ly for grown folks and entirely for white folks. In the main, intellectual and imaginative food was handed down and given out orally and by word of mouth as was done in the Ancient Days."

Another luxurious reprint received last week is Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe (Cosmopolitan Book Company). The book is handsomely bound in blue and has color illustrations throughout by N. C. Wyeth. It will make a splendid gift for boys or for girls, and Robinson Crusoe is another of those fictional characters without whom children's educations are somewhat lacking.

A deluxe edition of Old French Fairy Tales, by Comtesse de Segur (The Penn Publishing Company), is almost as much an art book as a book of children's stories. The color illustrations by Virginia Frances Sterrett are exceptional in their delicate tinting and their graceful, imaginative line. It contains five series of short tales about certain central characters, Blondine, Good Little Henry, Princess Rosette, the Little Gray Mouse and Ourson. They are beautifully simple in conception and style.

The Courtship of Miles Standish, Longfellow's poem, with an introduction by Ernest W. Longfellow and pictures by N. C. Wyeth, with a tercentennial dedication, is published by Houghton Mifflin; A Nursery Story of the Bible, by Louise M. Pleasanton, with colored and black and white illustrations by Florence Choate and Elizabeth Curtis, published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, and A Book of Boyhoods, by Eugene M. Fryer (E. P. Dutton & Co.). Any of these would make a gift book in which children would delight.

Heroes and Heroines
ATREASURY OF HEROES AND HEROINES, by Clayton Edwards, Frederick A. Stokes, publisher, contains biography of the great figures of history whose lives offer interesting contributions to children's educations. A few famous fictional heroes and heroines are also included in the collection. The illustrations are by Florence Choate and Elizabeth Curtis.

Other books with an educational purpose combined with that of entertainment are The Boys' Life of Lafayette, by Helen Nicolay (Harper & Bros.); Boy Heroes in Fiction, by Inez McFee (Crowell); Girl Heroines in Fiction, by Inez McFee (Crowell), and Boys' Book of Sea Fights, by Chelsea Curtis Fraser (Crowell).

For the Outdoor Boy
QUARTERBACK BATES, by Ralph Henry Barbour (Dodd, Mead & Co.), is the story of a seventeen-year-old high school boy who has made a reputation as a football player on the school team. Like most boys who put something a little out of the ordinary

This Season's Offerings for the Little Folks Include Many New Books and Old Favorites

over in a small town school, he has been made so much of that when he enters Prep school he finds it difficult to empty his mind of the conceit stored in it. His one ambition in athletics is to make the Parkinson football team, and after many trials he is successful.

Leslie W. Quirk's book, The Boy Scouts of Lakeville High (Little, Brown & Co.), is the third volume of the Black Eagle Patrol series. It is the story of a season of athletic games. The Lakeville boys, with the exception of one lad who has no athletic skill, hold a grievance against the Black Eagle Patrol, which the Scouts find hard to smooth over, but they finally win the whole school's confidence, and in the end everybody wants to become a Scout.

Another Scout story, Coxswain Drake, of the Sea Scouts, by Isabel Hornibrook (Little, Brown & Co.), is a tale about how, during the summer vacation which opens on an island off the Massachusetts coast, Lonny Drake, the leading street corner boy joined the Scouts and made good.

The Real West
WILLIAM S. HART, in his book Injun and Whitey (Houghton Mifflin Company), the first of his Boys' Golden West series, tells us a story of the West as it really is.

Soolook Wild Boy, by Roy J. Snell (Little, Brown & Co.), is the story of an Esquimaux orphan.

Fourth Down, by Ralph Henry Barbour (D. Appleton & Co.), is, as its name signifies, another football book by Mr. Barbour.

Making Good, by Captain G. B. McKean (the Macmillan Company), is a story of ranch life in western Canada.

Scouts of the Desert, by John Fleming Wilson (the Macmillan Company), is a Boy Scout story of the Mojave Desert.

The Pursuit of the Apache Chief, by Everett T. Tomlinson (D. Appleton & Co.), has as its setting the Arizona canyons in the country of the Apaches.

Dick Arnold Plays the Game, by Earl Reed Silvers (D. Appleton & Co.), is another story of athletic prowess.

Reddy Brant, by W. C. Tuttle (the Century Company), is a series of stories about a fourteen-year-old orphan.

The Boys' Book of Magic, by Hereward Carrington (Dodd, Mead & Co.), contains card tricks, magic stunts, ventriloquists' feats, etc.

At the Sign of the Two Heroes, by

Adair Alden (the Century Company), gives the adventures of three lads on the shores of Lake Champlain.

The Blue Pearl, by Samuel Sewall, Jr. (the Century Company), is another Boy Scout story of the woods of the Northwest.

Martin Crusoe, by T. C. Bridges (Harcourt, Brace & Howe), gives a boy's adventures on Wizard Island.

Jimmy Quigg, Office Boy, by Harold S. Latham (the Macmillan Company), is the story of a boy who had to get on and work for his living.

The Mark of the Knife, by Clayton H. Ernst (Little, Brown & Co.), is a school story in which athletics are the most important adventures.

Scouting on the Border, by Everett T. Tomlinson (D. Appleton & Co.), is a story of United States army life on the Mexican border.

Boys' Book of Model Boats, by Raymond F. Yates (the Century Company), tells how to make all kinds of boats.

A pretentious volume called The Boy Scouts' Year Book, published for the Boy Scouts of America, has been issued by D. Appleton & Co.

Girls' Books Have Changed
GIRLS' books have changed in the last ten or fifteen years. Not a many of the books about ladylike, middle-class girls are being written. There is a trend toward adventure and good times.

Treasure Mountain, by Edna Turpin (the Century Company), is an exciting tale of a girl's adventures in the mountains of Virginia.

Anita, by Bertina B. and Ernest Cobb (Lathrop, Lee & Shepard Company), tells of a girl brought up in the mining regions of Colorado.

A Harum-Scarum School Girl, by Angela Brazil (Frederick A. Stokes Company), and The Head Girl at the Gables, by Angela Brazil, are good stories of girls' school life.

Little Friend Lydia, by Ethel C. Phillips (Houghton Mifflin Company), is the story of a little orphan who finds a home and has many pleasant adventures.

Elizabeth, Her Folks, and Elizabeth, Her Friends, by Barbara Kay (Doubleday, Page & Co.), are about the same heroine. They belong to the "Elizabeth, Her Books," series and this young lady is a friend whom other girls will like.

Trusting to the Child's Taste

Within Certain Limits Individual Judgments Should Be Considered

"There was a child went forth every day; And the first object he look'd upon, that object he became; And that object became part of him for the day, or for many days, or stretching cycles of years."—Walt Whitman.

DURING the years of childhood decisions and rules made by grown people surround a child pretty carefully. Certain kinds of food are best for him—they have been tested and proved best; certain studies are necessary; in well ordered households, fixed bedtimes and rising hours for the children are invariable. A certain code of manners for children has been worked out by fathers and mothers. This must be observed for the sake of peace—if not for the sake of the future and society.

In fact, children have little chance for the exercise of individual choice except in their games and play, which are to them the most vital part of life. Games are indeed often taught by older people, or "led" by directors, but those that are most fun are really discoveries of the children themselves. Sliding down haystacks (a farmer usually stops this irately because of your destruction); playing hide-and-seek in a cornfield, where you almost get lost; if you are a city child, "catching" rides on sleighs, sometimes "hitching" with your sled and rope, sometimes jumping on, or leaping off, of danger; skating on "rubber" ice under the bridge where the ice is thin. No grown-up could have watched your recklessness without at least flinging out a rope to save you from drowning.

But you didn't drown. You were pretty close to the edge, but children have an unaccountable sense of the line between the fun of a little danger and destruction. With plenty of out-of-doors and a few restrictions in regard to playmates most children can be trusted to discover the best fun for themselves.

And so with reading. Books have unlimited possibilities as children's friends and as recreation. Children lucky enough to have many books around them, to hear stories, folklore, poetry, history, read aloud, grow up with this literature a part of them. Many children miss this experience either because they have not enough books or because their reading is too closely limited by parents or teachers, and they do not have a chance to exercise their own choice, to develop and follow tastes of their own.

A mother may tire of reading The Elephant's Child over and over to a five-year-old boy every evening for a month, but if she is wise she will sacrifice her impatience to the child's delight, realizing that he is sure to know when he has had enough of it and that by that time appreciation of the fun, the exaggeration, the play of words and caricature of youthful egotism in the story will have been

absorbed by the listener. His sense of humor, his penetration of human psychology, will be keener, though it will be many years before he calls his love of The Elephant's Child by any analytical terms. At eight years old perhaps the Swiss Family Robinson for a few weeks completely obliterates all the myths, history stories, fairy tales and poetry that are usually delightful. And this book may prove pretty tiresome to the parent who is reading aloud. But when his joy has been exhausted temporarily another book of adventure is demanded, and parents must know when to suggest.

When a boy starts to read to himself he often will read nothing but modern boys' stories. They are easier, less complex, perhaps, than books of biography or history. He'd rather you'd read aloud to him, from Sir Henry Newbolt perhaps, or some other author whose books you like too. You can't understand his interest in the stories that are to you trivial. He tells you he likes them because all five books in the series are about "Jim and Dick," the twins, and he feels as if they were real boys.

But you are relieved at his zeal for Palmer's Translation of the Odyssey. He makes you reread many times the sentence, "As the early rosy-fingered dawn appeared . . . the men took their places at the pins, and sitting in order smote the foaming water with their oars." He likes the sound of it. And you realize that he knows Odysseus and Penelope and Telemachus; they thrill him far more than "Jim and Dick." He knows them well, because of the myths you read him when he was seven and eight and nine years old. In school, allusions to characters of myth and history have always been familiar to him; the stories are part of him. He has lived with them through all his boyhood. And he will go on into adult life with a feeling for good books, a sense that they belong to him.

A big responsibility this—that fathers and mothers and aunts and uncles and big brothers and sisters shall not only give children a chance to love books, but also surround them with a generous supply of a variety of books, so that the children may develop taste of their own.

Children's Book Week, held annually in November, is an opportunity to pay special attention to children's reading, especially to the books of the children around us. The bookstores are having special displays of the new books written for children as well as beautiful editions of the older books loved by children for generations.