

Children's Books

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Book of Giants (E. P. Dutton) is sure to please your boys and girls, and it holds a deal of interesting matter for you.

A little book of five stories for children by that master of the art of telling them, Evalden Stein, is called "When Fairies Were Friendly" (The Page Co.). Each story is long enough to take two evenings to the reading, if you wait till half past seven to begin, and very eager the little boys and girls will be to hear the rest. There is an appealing, gentle charm to the stories, a feeling for what is lovely and lovable, a sense of romance and fairy spell that makes them most desirable. Thelma Gooch has made the pretty pictures and the cover design.

"Jacinth and Her Fairy Friends" (W. A.



From "Rootabaga Stories." By Carl Sandburg. (Harcourt, Brace & Co.)

Wilde Co.), by Nellie M. Fairpoint, who is also the artist who made the quaint drawings in line for the story, is a little book that tells how a small girl went all the way to the Pixie Wood and met the Pixie-kings and what she did for them and they for her and what she learned in the doing. A friendly, happy little tale.

There are two books by Johnny Gruelle, and here, too, author and artist live inside the same skin. "Johnny Mouse and the Wishing Stick" (Bobbs, Merrill Co.) is one. "The Magical Land of Noon" (P. V. Volland Co.) the other. Both are a sheer, ridiculous joy. Endless invention marks this writer, a sense of the comic, a homely quality of style and fancy that is most entertaining. Merely to look at such a picture as the one that shows Johnny Mouse amusing himself by making the pancakes jump over his stick is to feel good. And what could be more fascinating than the way Johnny and Janey fly on their home made airplane to the other side of the moon, to be followed later by their grandparents. Both books are printed with full page color pictures and have picture board covers and are nice, sizable flat volumes, good to spread out and look at.

If you want to read the sad story of the last giant, or the dainty one of the princess who couldn't dance until she met the fairy, and the brook and the soft south wind, or the exciting tale of the Tailor of Nevermindwhere who taught the king a lesson, or others of a like kind, then get "The Princess of Cozytown" (P. V. Volland Co.), by Ruth Plumly Thompson, with its particularly good illustrations in the gayest of colors by Janet Laura Scott. It is uncommonly good, this pretty volume in its pretty box. Another real treat is Verbena Reed's "The Birdnest Boarding House" (Dutton), with the absurdest, most adorable drawings by Oliver Herford. Look at Winnie Wasp shampooing her auburn hair, or grand Mr. Worm in his silk hat, or bathing Willie, which he hated to do. It is hard to come up to such pic-



From "At the Bird-Nest Boarding House." By Verbena Reed. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)



From the "May Byron Books for Children." (George H. Doran Company.)

tures as these, but Miss Reed has done it and the book is full of fun and laughter and the most amazing adventures.

For little children and for little half hours that call for amusement is this next book, "The Pinafore Pocket Story Book" (Dutton). Miriam Clark Potter tells them as she told them once to her own children and again for the readers of the New York Evening Post. There are poems, lots of pictures, and the whole book is a sympathetic answer to that perennial, cry "Tell me story."

"Half Past Seven Stories" (Putnam) is what Robert Gordon Anderson calls his new book, following that one so dear to thousands of children, "Seven o'Clock Stories." The same characters are with us again, having fine, new adventures and lots of thrills and fun. The pictures are by Dorothy Hope Smith. For smaller children there is "The Little Child's Book of Stories," compiled by Ada M. and Eleanor L. Skinner (Duffield), who have gone to many authors and to folk and legend for the tales they give and the pretty songs they sprinkle through the pages. It is enough to say that the pictures are by Jessie Wilcox Smith and in full color and that the volume is a small quarto in a very fine, bright picture binding to show that it is eminently fit for

From "The Children Who Follow the Piper." By Padraic Colum (Macmillan Co.)



Christmas. For the same little folk there is "The Elves of Mount Fern," by Katherine Creighton (Dorrance), known for her nature stories. Elves and flowers and insects and birds play their different parts in the quaint little book, that holds five different stories. A still smaller book is a ballad arrangement of the famous old yarn of "Jack the Giant Killer," by Reginald Wright Kauffman (Henry Altemus), where in rollicking stanzas we are told of the various exploits of the intrepid Jack. And for each stanza there is a full page picture in color by Margaret Campbell Hooper.

About once in so often we get a version of "Christmas in Many Lands" (Page). It is an engaging subject and endlessly popular. This year's version is a nice big octavo with colored plates and old fashioned looking black and white drawings and with a Christmas story laid in eight different countries and told by five different authors.

And now for a swift survey of a handful of books of poetry and plays.

Mary Gould Davis has done a beautiful and successful thing, to which there must have gone an infinity of work and thought, in her anthology, "The Girl's Book of Verse" (Stokes). Old and new poems are included, but not one that is not beautiful. There is an introduction immensely worth reading by Dorothy Canfield Fisher and the volume is beautifully printed.

Sara Teasdale is herself a poet, and her

book, "Rainbow Gold" (Macmillan), is another anthology that is full of good things. Here, too, the age of the poem has nothing to do with its selection. It is there because Miss Teasdale believes that some boy or girl will find joy in it. Dugald Walker has made pictures of grace and fancy for the volume, which is a fine piece of press work. Still another anthology for young people is by John Drinkwater, who has written for his collection an introduction that tells something about poetry, what it means and what it is, and runs through a bit of its history. The poems are from both older and contemporary writers and are selected with fastidious care (Houghton-Mifflin).

Told in the rhythm of the favorite "Night Before Christmas" is the amusing tale "The Christmas Eve of a Puppy, a Mouse and a Kitten," by "Mittens, a Cat" (Dutton). The youngsters will adore it, and the pictures of Clara L. Van Vredenburg, delicately done drawings in line, will also appeal. The book is charmingly bound in boards. Also for small boys and girls is "Klipper-Klopper and Other Verses for Children," by Marjorie Wilson (Houghton-Mifflin), a group of singing lines that tell simple little stories or convey impressions of nature or childish emotions and fancies very happily.

"Christmas Carols" (Macmillan) is a col-

lection of old English carols for Christmas and other festivals that have been selected by L. Edna Walter and harmonized by Lucy E. Broadwood, who has done other work of the same kind. The folio is beautifully printed, the music and verses on one page, with the opposing page carrying a picture in color by J. H. Hartley, who has also made the marginal decorations. Most of the favorites are here and some not so well known but equally fine. Another book that is part text and part music is "The Fairyland of Music," by Ernest Austin (Dutton), an original idea well carried-out. It seeks to show children how music can be made by themselves out of their fancies and the sounds of nature. In the book Daddy helps them and writes out all the music, and there is heaps of fun waiting for any music loving child in the result.

A book that has two poems in it and one play is "Sing a Song of Sleepy Head," by James W. Foley (Dutton). His work is so well known that I need do no more than say that this book is eminently characteristic and that the children will like it as much as older folk like his "Friendly Rhymes."

"Happyland's Fairy Grotto Plays" by Emile Blackmore Stapp and Eleanor Cameron (Houghton Mifflin) holds a play for each one of the six fall and winter months. These plays are well known through their serial publication. They are short, clever, easy to act, well written and



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are made from her own puppets, and this is a book it would really be a pity to miss. Another collection of plays from nursery tale sources is "The Cat and Fiddle Book" (Longmans, Green), by Lady Bell and Mrs. Herbert Richmond. The eight playlets included are very simple, but they are lively and amusing.

Half a dozen or so books striking the religious note come next. There is Amy Lefevre's "The Most Wonderful Story" (Revell), a life of Christ written for small children, told in a narrative form, simply and with dignity and tenderness. "The Boy Jesus and His Companions," by Refus M. Jones, (Macmillan), is for older children. The stories are told with a full sense of their dramatic value and the author gives plenty of background by painting in something of the manners and customs of the Biblical era. He has long since made a name for himself with this type of work. "Bible Stories in Bible Language" by Lorinda Munson Bryant (Appleton), is exactly what the title indicates. The stories are all from the Old Testament and have been chosen for their representative and dramatic value, for their sheer interest as human documents told in a magnificent manner. Since it appears to be impossible to send children any longer to the Bible itself, nothing could be better than a book like this, which adds and subtracts nothing from the original story. The book is illustrated by a number of reproductions of world famous pictures. The King James Version is the one which has been used. Another book by Caroline Kellogg, "Stories from the Old Testament" (Bobbs, Merrill), has gone to the same great source. But these stories are free renderings, told in a manner intended to appeal to young children, and very little of the actual Bible language remains. They ought to serve their purpose, however, that of making children

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From "A Wonder Book." By Nathaniel Hawthorne. (George H. Doran Company.)