The Magical City

To a onetime country boy who dreamed of the wonders of New York and listened breathlessly to the tales of a city-traveling grandfather, Anne Carroll Moore's "Nicholas" (Putnam) seems like the revisioning of childish dreams. Miss Moore has the unusual ability of seeing the ordinary sights and sounds of town and country through the eyes of a child. Her

gnomes, her brownies, her elves, her lions, are as real as any ever created by a child anywhere. Nicholas himself. her fanciful hero, who sees New York and Maine in the protective company of Ann Caraway, is a character of much quaintness and humor. He has the happy faculty of asking the right question at the right time - and Ann Caraway when she answers him tells some of the best stories in the book, such as those of sage Oloffe and Washington and Washington Irving. Moore has made Nicholas so real, and his goings and comings so filled with magic, that the book actually relights old places for the reader. I shall never go into the New York Public Library again without stopping to say howdy to the lions and calling them Leo Astor and Leo Lenox. The signal towers on Fifth Avenue have a new significance now, and the flashes are illuminated by Nicholas's delight in them — poetical rather than annoying. Here is a volume so packed full of odd joys that it shows not only an unusual and rare imagination but a fine industry and an understanding of the child mind which will be rewarded I know in the wide appreciation of children for Miss Moore's little masterpiece.

-J. F.