

CHILDREN UNDER TEN AND THEIR BOOKS*

WE would by no means limit the reading of a given boy or girl to the books of this list or of any list of books for children. We would see to it that early connection is made with adult books, with histories, books of travel and exploration, natural histories, the sciences and the arts. Allowance must be made for a wide variation of taste among child readers, and for the capriciousness of childhood which frequently enjoys at a later period or under different circumstances the book rejected as "silly" or "not interesting".

The recently published letters of well-known authors concerning the books they read as children leave us with a stronger conviction than ever that the crucial point in any guidance of children's reading lies in having certain books at hand at the psychological moment. It is a fatal thing, especially in New England, to delay the first reading of "Alice" to the reasoning years. Old England has always known this and has stood by the sense of nonsense in her nurseries. When Hugh Walpole learned to read by reading "Alice in Wonderland", he was asserting the natural right of childhood to choose for itself among the books at hand. No one who has read "Jeremy" will regret that "Alice" rather than "Jonas" was his choice.

In response to many inquiries from parents, and out of a varied experience in the suggestion of children's books as gifts, we have arranged two lists of books in an approximate order of purchase for a child or a family of children under ten years old. Many

of the books will be read to children long before they are able to read for themselves. Herein lies the real opportunity of the parent or teacher who knows how to read nonsense in verse or prose, and has faith in the power and beauty of the English of the Bible, the great poets, and of such writers as Bunyan, Defoe, Hawthorne, Stevenson, and Kipling. The selection of titles has been made with the idea of giving right of way to literature and good drawing during the most impressionable years of life.

SOME FIRST BOOKS

THE FARMER'S BOY. *Illustrated in color with line drawings by Randolph Caldecott. Frederick Warne and Co.*

We have given this book in paper covers, as a first picture book to many children between the ages of one and three. Fifteen more indispensable titles of old nursery rhymes will be found on its cover. The sixteen books may be had in boards in two or in four volumes.

MOTHER GOOSE. *Illustrated in color by Kate Greenaway. Frederick Warne and Co.*

That Kate Greenaway was a child psychologist as well as an artist, every young mother who studies her drawings will discover for herself. Her "Marigold Garden", "Under the Window", "The Pied Piper", "A Apple Pie", and "A Day in a Child's Life" should not be allowed to stay out of print.

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES. *By Robert Louis Stevenson. Illustrated in black and white by Charles Robinson. Charles Scribner's Sons.*

Kate Greenaway's child pictures and verses suggested to Stevenson the writing of his own verses for children.

SONGS OF INNOCENCE. *By William Blake. John Lane Co.*

"The most perfect expression of Blake's vision of life". Scudder.

THE BIG BOOK OF NURSERY RHYMES. *Edited by Walter O. Jerrold. Illustrated in color and in line drawing by Charles Robinson. E. P. Dutton and Co.*

This collection has been a favorite gift book for about fifteen years. It contains others verse than traditional Mother Goose melodies.

THE COMPLETE NONSENSE BOOK. *By Edward Lear. Edited by Lady Strachey with an introduction by Lord Cromer. Duffield and Co.*

This edition contains "all the original pictures and verses together with new material". c. 1912.

*A supplement to the January article.

- THE POSEY RING, a book of verse for children.** Compiled by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. Doubleday, Page and Co. We would add, with this collection, E. V. Lucas's "Book of Verses" in the more expensive of the two editions, published by Henry Holt and Co.
- THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT.** By Beatrix Potter. Frederick Warne and Co. The "little book" makes a distinct appeal to many children and no one has understood this better than Beatrix Potter. Her "Tailor of Gloucester" is a Christmas story.
- THE STORY OF THE THREE BEARS.** Illustrated in color and with line drawings by L. Leslie Brooke. Frederick Warne and Co. Leslie Brooke's "Three Bears", "Three Little Pigs", "Tom Thumb", his "Golden Goose", and his nursery rhymes are loved by children of all ages. The books are published in paper covers and in boards.
- THE CHILDREN'S BOOK.** By Horace E. Scudder. Illustrated. Houghton Mifflin Co. "A collection of the best and most famous stories and poems in the English language."
- THE BIBLE FOR CHILDREN.** Arranged from the King James Version. The Century Co.
- THE FABLES OF ÆSOP.** Edited by Joseph Jacobs. Illustrated by Richard Heighway. The Macmillan Co.
- GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES.** Translated by Mrs. Edgar Lucas. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. J. B. Lippincott Co. There is a good edition of Grimm, edited by Lucy Crane, illustrated by Walter Crane, and published by the Macmillan Co.
- ENGLISH FAIRY TALES.** Edited by Joseph Jacobs. G. P. Putnam's Sons. Joseph Jacobs was a born storyteller as well as a student of folk lore. His renderings are characterized by humor and idiomatic English.
- JUST SO STORIES.** By Rudyard Kipling. Illustrated by the author. Doubleday, Page and Co. The "juvenile edition", larger in size, is more attractive to young children.
- A SHORT HISTORY OF DISCOVERY.** By Hendrik Willem Van Loon. Illustrated in color by the author. David McKay. "This little book is an historical appetizer. . . . It merely says: Dear Children: History is the most fascinating and entertaining and instructive of arts."
- THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.** By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Illustrated by Frederic Remington. Houghton Mifflin Co. The childhood of Hiawatha will be familiar to children long before this book, with its fine pictures of American Indian life, is added to their library.
- BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PICTURE BOOK.** Illustrated in color by Walter Crane. John Lane Co. While some young children are attracted by the strong color of the Walter Crane picture books, especially in paper covers, the sumptuous settings and costumes make a more definite appeal to children already familiar with fairy tales.
- ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND.** By Lewis Carroll. Illustrated by Sir John Tenniel. The Macmillan Co. "Through the Looking Glass" may be had in a separate volume or bound with "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland".
- DAVID BLAIZE AND THE BLUE DOOR.** By E. F. Benson. George H. Doran Company. Like "Alice" this book is the story of a dream. The first chapter contains valuable information concerning imaginative boys under ten.
- THE SLEEPING BEAUTY, AND OTHER TALES FROM THE OLD FRENCH.** Retold by Sir Arthur
- Quiller-Couch.** Illustrated in color by Edmund Dulac. George H. Doran Company. There are two editions of this fine collection. The larger and more expensive one contains more illustrations.
- SELECT FABLES FROM LA FONTAINE.** Adapted, and illustrated in color, by M. Boutet de Monvel. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.
- JOAN OF ARC.** Illustrated in color, by M. Boutet de Monvel. The Century Co. The English edition of this wonderful book has just come back into print.
- THE BROWNIES, THEIR BOOK.** By Palmer Cox. The Century Co. Palmer Cox studied children's interests so faithfully that his drawings are as popular as ever.
- THE CHICKEN WORLD.** By E. Boyd Smith. G. P. Putnam's Sons. Boyd Smith has done no better work than in this picture book which he made several years ago while living in France.
- THE HAPPY HEART FAMILY.** By Virginia Gerson. Illustrated by the author. Duffield and Co. A nonsense story, printed for little children as arranged by the artist-author.
- JANE, JOSEPH AND JOHN.** By Ralph Berggren. Illustrated in color by Maurice E. Day. Atlantic Monthly Press. Ralph Berggren's verses are modern but are childlike in spirit, a quality sustained by Maurice Day in his charming pictures of children at play.

SOME LATER BOOKS

- THE ARABIAN NIGHTS.** Edited by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. Illustrated in color by Maxfield Parrish. Charles Scribner's Sons. A fuller selection of stories may be found in the collection edited by Frances Jenkins Olcott and published by Henry Holt and Co.
- THE JUNGLE BOOK.** By Rudyard Kipling. The Century Co. The Second Jungle Book is published as a companion volume.
- UNCLE REMUS; HIS SONGS AND HIS SAYINGS.** By Joel Chandler Harris. Illustrated by A. B. Frost. D. Appleton and Co. The age at which children enjoy "Uncle Remus" varies with their distance from the South.
- RIP VAN WINKLE.** By Washington Irving. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Doubleday, Page and Co. Children should know this story before they are asked to read it as an assignment.
- THE PETERKIN PAPERS.** By Lucretia P. Hale. Houghton Mifflin Co. The amusing adventures of a large family. We would like to add "The William Henry Letters" of Mrs. Diaz, but it is out of print.
- PINOCCHIO, THE ADVENTURES OF A MARIONETTE.** By Carlo Lorenzini. Illustrated by Charles Copeland. Ginn and Co. The best known and most popular of Italian fairy tales. The illustrations of the Italian original are fascinating to boys of all ages.
- THE ROSE AND THE RING.** By William Makepeace Thackeray, with illustrations by the author. Children who have seen Tony Sarg's marionettes made after Thackeray's drawings will read the book at an earlier age and with keen perception of its charm.
- THE WONDER BOOK.** By Nathaniel Hawthorne. Illustrated by Walter Crane. Houghton Mifflin Co. "The Wonder Book" and "Tanglewood

- "Tales" are included in the same volume in an edition illustrated by Maxfield Parrish.
- THE HEROES.** By Charles Kingsley. The Macmillan Co.
Kingsley's fine text is worthy of a new and attractive edition.
- THE ODYSSEY.** Translated by S. H. Butcher and Andrew Lang. The Macmillan Co.
The best version from which to read aloud. "The Children's Homer" by Padraic Colum combines the story of the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" in a form more attractive to children.
- PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.** By John Bunyan. Illustrated by the Brothers Rhead. The Century Co.
The pictures accompanying this text invite more children to read "Pilgrim's Progress" than those of any other edition.
- GOLDEN NUMBERS, A BOOK OF VERSE FOR YOUTH.** Compiled by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. Doubleday, Page and Co.
"The Blue Poetry Book", edited by Andrew Lang and published by Longmans, Green and Co., contains many ballads and is one of the few collections in which "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is to be found. Burton Stevenson's "Home Book of Verse for Young Folks", published by Henry Holt and Co., should also be given a place.
- ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALES.** Translated by Mrs. Edgar Lucas. E. P. Dutton and Co.
The edition illustrated by T. C. and W. Robinson is the most attractive and satisfactory. There is a fine large edition translated by H. L. Braekstad, with illustrations by Hans Tegner and an introduction by Edmund Gosse, published by The Century Co.
- IN THE DAYS OF GIANTS.** By Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton Mifflin Co.
The best introduction to Norse Myths for young readers.
- THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES OF NILS.** By Selma Lagerlöf. Illustrated in color by Mary H. Fryc. Doubleday, Page and Co.
A dream story with Sweden for a background. Written for children nine years old by Sweden's greatest living novelist, Asbjörnsen's "Fairy Tales from the Far North" is unfortunately out of print in the English edition. It is one of the most valuable of all collections of fairy tales.
- A LITTLE BOY LOST.** By W. H. Hudson. Alfred A. Knopf.
A dream story with South America for its background. The kind of story that Hudson the naturalist felt he might have liked when a child. To be read aloud.
- GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.** By Jonathan Swift. Illustrated in color by Willy Pogany. The Macmillan Co.
A preference is often expressed for the Cranford edition of Gulliver.
- ROBINSON CRUSOE.** By Daniel Defoe. Illustrated by Louis and Frederick Rhead. Harper and Bros.
No illustrated edition of "Robinson Crusoe" has yet realized the possibilities suggested by the text.
- THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON.** By Johann David Wyss. Illustrated by Louis Rhead. Harper and Bros.
There is no diminution in the popularity of the resourceful Swiss Family.
- THE STORY OF ROLAND.** By James Baldwin. Charles Scribner's Sons.
We would always read from "The Song of Roland".
- THE MERRY ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD.** By Howard Pyle. Illustrated in black and white by the author. Charles Scribner's Sons.
The best prose rendering of Robin Hood.
- THE BOY'S KING ARTHUR.** Edited by Sidney Lanier. Illustrated in color by N. C. Wyeth. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Howard Pyle's four large volumes may well be left to children over ten. The first and the last of the Pyle books are the best.
- DON QUIXOTE OF THE MANCHA.** By Miguel de Cervantes-Saavedra. Retold by Judge Parry and illustrated by Walter Crane. John Lane Co.
Many children need Spanish background for the enjoyment of "Don Quixote".
- THE BLUE FAIRY BOOK.** Edited by Andrew Lang. Longmans, Green and Co.
A favorite collection with children of all ages. The versions of Andrew Lang are not so easy to read aloud as some of the other collections.
- THE WONDER CLOCK, OR FOUR AND TWENTY MARVELOUS TALES.** Adapted by Howard Pyle. Illustrated in black and white by the author. Harper and Bros.
"Pepper and Salt" in its stories and verses, as well as by its pictures, appeals to children a little earlier than does "The Wonder Clock". Both collections should be included in a children's library.
- AT THE BACK OF THE NORTH WIND.** By George MacDonald. Illustrated by Jessie Willcox Smith. David McKay.
"The Princess and the Goblin" and "The Princess and Curdie" are usually enjoyed by younger children than those who read of "Little Diamond" and "North Wind". Josephine Daskam Bacon's tribute to George MacDonald in "On Our Hill" places these books admirably in relation to other fairy tales read to three children under ten.
- THE GOLDEN SPEARS.** By Edmund Leamy. Des Moines Fitzgerald.
This unusual collection of original Irish fairy tales is worthy of a setting more in keeping with its fine literary form.
- GRANNY'S WONDERFUL CHAIR.** By Frances Brune. Illustrated by Katharine Pyle. E. P. Dutton and Co.
The charm of these old stories told by a blind poet extends to the children of today.
- JACKANAPES.** By Juliana Horatia Ewing. Illustrated by Randolph Caldecott. Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.
No modern edition can replace the one in which Caldecott pictured Jackanapes on Lollo's back racing over Goose Green.
- TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE.** By Charles and Mary Lamb. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Some children prefer Shakespeare at first hand, but for those who do not, no rendering has approached this classic.
- BONAPARTE.** By Georges Montorgueil. Illustrated in color by Job Berthou's.
The universal interest aroused by this book and by the eight companion volumes of French history is indicative of what is needed in the presentation of history to children and young people. The books are all written by the same author, whose text has not been translated, but the striking feature of the books is their pictorial form. They are illustrated by different artists and are of the size of a small atlas with decorative colors. The books are unique in design and we suggest the purchase of at least one of them. We would add very early to a personal library for children, books illustrated by the best artists of Sweden, Russia, Holland, Japan, as well as of France. They are invaluable as a background for the folk tales, history, and geography of the countries.

ANNIE CARROLL MOORE