

The New Books for Boys and Girls

A DAY ON SKATES. The Story of a Dutch Picnic. By Hilda Van Stockum. With Illustrations by the Author. Foreword by Edna St. Vincent Millay. 40 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$2.50.

Here is as vivid and delightful a book for 7 to 10 year olds about another country as has appeared in many a day. We are not merely told of the first snow and frost of the Winter in a little Dutch village,

and of a school skating party, with all its joys and a mild catastrophe or two, but we experience them, for this story has the reality of three dimensions and the reader lives through all the adventures of that long day in the open air. He catches the exhilaration of the start, tastes the hot cocoa, the spicy "korstjes" and "snow pancakes"—there is plenty of good Dutch food in the book—and after the chill of the long afternoon on the ice he enjoys with the boys and girls the comforting warmth of the sledge that gives them a lift home and the lamplit welcome, with the dinner simmering on the stove. There is the suggestion of kindly understanding on the part of the grown-ups and friendly relationships between children and older people.

The illustrations—there are eight full-page pictures beautifully reproduced in color, and black and white drawings on nearly every page—are irresistible; lively, humorous, full

of interesting detail and clever characterization and so unmistakably genuine in atmosphere that this seems a book well calculated to make the traveling Hollander homesick. Boys and girls too young to read the text will spend a happy hour following the fortunes of the characters of the story as shown in the pictures. A book that will last.

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This Drawing and the One Opposite Are From Hilda Van Stockum's "A Day on Skates."