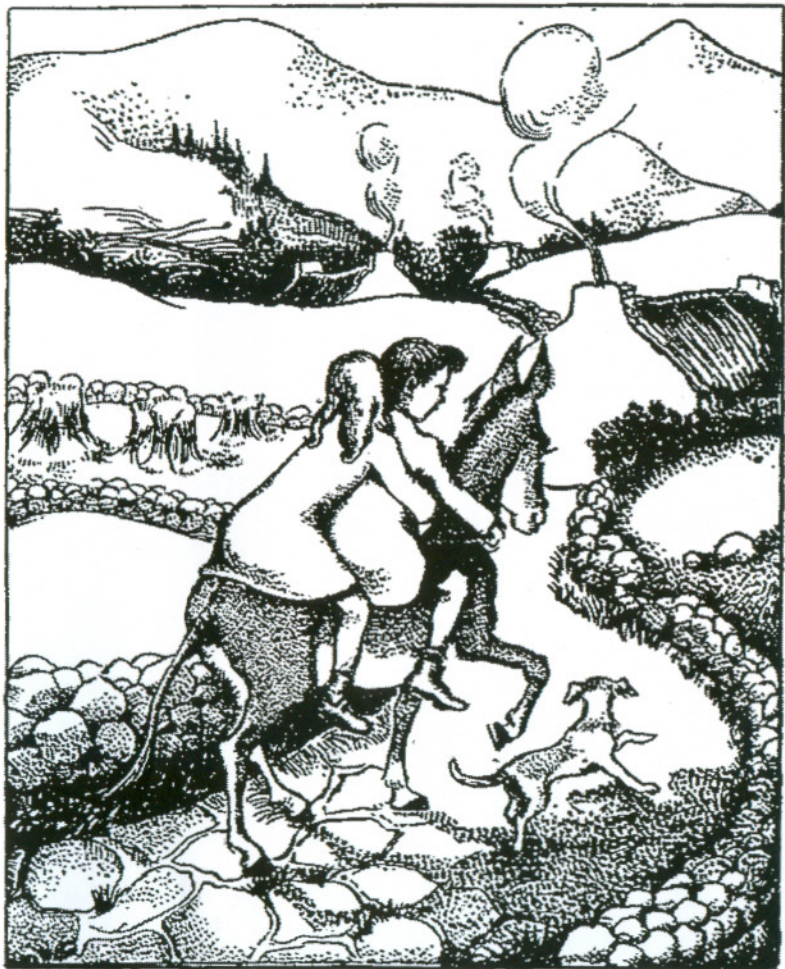


The New Books for Younger Readers



The Illustrations Are From Drawings by Hilda van Stockum for "The Cottage at Bantry Bay."

By ANNE T. EATON

THE COTTAGE AT BANTRY BAY. Written and illustrated by Hilda van Stockum. 252 pp. New York: The Viking Press. \$2.

THE jacket picture of Hilda van Stockum's latest book—a white-washed cottage with its nest pile by the

inexhaustible ingenuity for getting themselves into difficulties. They were as lovable as they were mischievous, however, and the droll seriousness of their undertakings made it difficult not to forgive their most devastating pranks. For the O'Sullivan's enjoyed one another, and the rela-

and birds at sea; of protective coloration, of curious nests, of courtship and mating dances, of the great flamingo city on an island north of Haiti, ending with a chapter on the dodo, the great auk and other extinct birds.

Occasionally the author's sense of the dramatic gets the better of his science, for while it is a well-known fact that a group of birds will sometimes attack one of their fellows, driving him away or killing him, to say that these are court and jury trials seems reading human customs into bird habits. Again Mr. Verrill, in his statement that birds when driving away the abnormal or freak bird, "possibly have the right idea and realize, unjust as it seems to us, that the individual must be sacrificed for the good of the community," apparently assumes that birds reason like human beings.

In spite of some inaccuracies, however, the book is full of interesting material and should be provocative reading for the 9 to 12 year old. There are three plates in full color and many black and white drawings.

Dan Beard

UNCLE DAN. THE LIFESTORY OF DAN BEARD. By Cyril Clemens and Carroll Sibley. With introduction by Hamlin Garland and foreword by Theodore Roosevelt. 235 pp. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. \$2.

The name Dan Beard, or "Uncle Dan," has been a household word for over thirty years. Early in the century Dan Beard founded The Boy Pioneers, absorbed after five years into The Boy Scouts of America. While he was National Scout Commissioner he established and directed the Summer Woodcraft School at Culver, Ind. His books, "Jack of

thur's Court," it was the beginning of a friendship between the two men that lasted until Mark Twain's death almost a quarter of a century later.

There are accounts of the organization called "The Sons of Daniel Boone" and of the beginnings of the Boy Scout movement. The book ends with a description of Dan Beard today, 87 years old, presiding over his country place at Suffern, N. Y., surrounded by his books and drawings and the wild life that he loves.

Trailer Pictures

THE TRAILER BOOK. A PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURE BOOK. With a story by William Clayton Pryor and Helen Sloman Pryor. 98 pp. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$1.

This is the latest of a long series of photographic picture books by these authors, dealing with trains, fire engines, planes and steamships, and also with the making of glass, steel, paper, cotton cloth and rubber.

There is a slight thread of story about Ted and Barbara, who go traveling with their father and mother in a trailer, enjoying the cosy housekeeping, the camping out and the sights they see along the road. The book is less successful than its predecessors, however, for it supplies little information, and the story is not sufficiently interesting to hold children's attention. The photographs also, while pleasing, have less to tell than those in the train, airplane and steamship books. For children 6 to 7.

Making Dolls

DOLLS TO MAKE FOR FUN

and gypsy and doll-house dolls, with a chapter on character and costume dolls.

The directions are simple, and Mrs. Ackley's own enthusiasm is contagious, though on the whole this book seems likely to prove less useful than the one on marionettes. Most children prefer an enterprise which lends itself to greater freedom and more opportunity to carry out their own ideas. Any little girl, however, who loves to sew will find in "Dolls to Make for Fun and Profit" careful, detailed instructions, and it may be that some mothers will find Mrs. Ackley's book an inspiration to try their hand at reproducing the rag doll, found more often a generation ago than now. The diagrams are clear and the drawings of the dolls attractive.

Making Puppets

THE BEGINNER'S PUPPET BOOK. By Alice M. Hoben. 150 pp. New York: Noble & Noble. \$2.

The author of "The Beginner's Puppet Book" is a teacher, and since her book is an outgrowth of her own successful experience, it is not surprising to find that it is clear, practical and inspiring.

In nine brief chapters she tells how to make string and hand puppets, how to dress and manipulate them, how to build a simple stage, how to set and light it. Three plays for marionettes are included, "The Enchanted Horse" from the Arabian Nights, "John Baird's Triumph," based on the first television broadcast, and one using the story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith, and also two fairy-tale plays for hand puppets. There is a purpose in this choice of material, for Miss

THE jacket picture of Hilda van Stockum's latest book—a white-washed cottage with its peat pile by the wall, purple hills in the distance, children, dog and geese—unmistakably suggests Ireland; and from cover to cover, both in the text and in the vigorous, sensitive drawings, the author-artist creates and maintains the atmosphere of a country which she knows as well as she knew the Holland of "A Day on Skates." For though Hilda van Stockum had a Dutch father and was born in Rotterdam, her mother was Irish; she herself spent many Summers in Ireland as a child and when she was 16 went there to live. Because she is writing of a country she knew and loved as a child, she makes the reader aware of its quality and spirit, until he, too, has a deep sense of familiarity with the blue mountains, the thatched white-washed cottages, the green and rocky islands of Glengarriff Harbour where brown weeds trail down into silver water, of the smell of burning turf and hay-scented fields that make up one of the loveliest sections of Ireland.

In the same effortless fashion the author sets in motion before our eyes the O'Sullivan family, a kindly, understanding father and mother, and four lively children, giving them such thorough characterization and individuality that when we close the book we feel that we are reluctantly ending a friendly visit.

There are adventures in plenty, the kind that resourceful children are always meeting and making. Sometimes they were truly breathtaking, for Mr. Sheehy's bull nearly caused Michael's and Brigid's berry picking to end in serious disaster, and the twins, Francie and Liam, possessed an

undertakings made it difficult not to forgive their most devastating pranks. For the O'Sullivans enjoyed one another, and the relationship between all the members of the family was one of genuine affection and understanding.

Besides the O'Sullivans themselves, we make the acquaintance of their friends and neighbors, Mrs. O'Flaherty and her cow, Clementine; Paddy the piper whose visits have for the children all the delicious excitement of the old tales he tells them, while the wayfarers that Michael and Brigid meet on the road as they take their long journey to sell the donkey are, in a few sentences, made real and alive.

The animals of the book deserve a word. In Ireland goats, cows, donkeys and pigs are part of the landscape; in no other place do these homely animals play so important a part in the lives of the country people. Children, whatever their personal experience, respond readily to the idea, and child readers, who, less fortunate than the O'Sullivans, have no cow or donkey or goat, who may not have the thrill of rescuing a forlorn little dog from the gypsies to become their adored and adoring companion, will read of them all in this book with delight and longing.

"The Cottage at Bantry Bay" is human and genuine and charming, a book that 8 to 12 year olds should not miss.

The Ways of Birds

STRANGE BIRDS AND THEIR STORIES. By A. Hyatt Verrill. Illustrated by the author. 203 pp. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. \$2.50.

In "Strange Birds and Their Stories" Mr. Verrill, who is the author of "Strange Reptiles and Their Stories" and other nature books for boys and girls, tells of bird ways and habits, migration

Boy Scouts of America. While he was National Scout Commissioner he established and directed the Summer Woodcraft School at Culver, Ind. His books, "Jack of All Trades," "The Outdoor Handy Book" and many more, have pleased generations of boys and are still in print. Thus readers from 12-year-olds to adults will be interested in this very readable account of the life of Daniel Carter Beard, and will enjoy learning something of his less-known early years.

Dan Beard was a boy of 10 at the time of the Civil War. Handy with brushes and paint, he was chosen to make the transparencies to be carried in Lincoln's campaign parade, and was more thrilled at the thought of participating in an important occasion than with the money he received. In 1861 the Beard family moved to Kentucky, where the boy saw fighting at close range, and where he and his friends were frequently unable to resist the temptation of "running the pickets" in order to go fishing outside the Union lines. He helped unofficially in the hospital until the authorities discovered that he was surreptitiously bringing in pears to his soldier friends, and dispensed with his assistance. He studied engineering, practiced his calling successfully and after a short time became mapmaker to the Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. However, when he found that people would buy his illustrations he resigned, explaining to his employers, that "these people will give me more money for playing than you do for working! I'm going on a vacation!" So he did, and "that vacation," he said later, "never ceased." His drawings, which appeared in many magazines, attracted Mark Twain's attention, and when he chose Dan Beard to illustrate "A Connecticut Yankee at King Ar-

Making Dolls

DOLLS TO MAKE FOR FUN AND PROFIT. By Edith Flack Ackley. Drawings by Telka Ackley. 107 pp. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. \$2.

Mrs. Ackley is not only experienced in making and using marionettes, as her book "Marionettes Easy to Make and Fun to Use" shows; she is also an enthusiastic dollmaker. She has made over a thousand dolls in her time she tells us in her foreword, dolls for the stage, caricatures of people, special dolls for special children, dolls for collectors, dolls for window displays and for advertising. All of them have been of cloth stuffed with cotton, their faces made with darning cotton and thread, and in this book Mrs. Ackley gives patterns and directions for making a large variety of cloth dolls, from the baby doll to clown and

using the story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith, and also two fairy-tale plays for hand puppets. There is a purpose in this choice of material, for Miss Hoben believes that the making and use of marionettes not only provide an excellent opportunity for cooperative group work, but a chance to correlate literature, social science and the handicrafts. The author's directions are so clear that children of 10 and over will be able to follow them; at the same time the teacher will see in the book a thoughtful presentation of the value of marionettes in education and an incentive to creative work.

Full-page photographs show children making and manipulating marionettes and fist puppets. The line drawings, charts and diagrams are admirably clear, the materials suggested are inexpensive and easily obtainable, and there is an eleven-page bibliography. A most useful book for schools and play groups.

