

To attempt to give a list of desirable books for children would be hardly necessary, but we might mention a few which always prove interesting to children and very often to the grown folks as well. Some of Mrs. Burnett's, as "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "Two Little Pilgrims' Progress," "Editha's Burglar" and best of all "Sarah Crewe." Though I read it many times I never failed to enjoy the surprise which Sarah received on reaching her little attic bedroom on that never-to-be forgotten evening. The cozy fire, dainty supper, comfortable gown and slippers, the precious books and poor little Sarah standing with her back against the door in speechless astonishment, form a picture the little reader never forgets. The most imaginative child could think of nothing to improve that scene.

In the writings of Mrs. Ewing are some of the best loved and brightest stories in the English language. Mrs. Ewing seems especially dear to Canadians, having spent two years in Fredericton where her husband, Major Ewing, was stationed in 1867. Some of her most interesting sketches are those of animals, in which she shows her deep interest in their welfare and insight into their habits. This marvellous charm of her writing is seen in the story of 'Kerguelen's Land,' where there is a charming description of the mysterious albatross, and the fascinating conversation about the castaway man, carried on between Father and Mother Albatross over their nest of little ones, is most delightful.

Her great fondness for flowers is seen all through her writings. And in her walks about the little town, she found many new flower friends. The trillium which she first saw here, inspired her to write the beautiful legend of the Trinity Flower in which she immortalizes this pure blossom of our wilds—thus describing its beauty—"Every part was three-fold. The leaves were three, the petals three, the sepals three. The flower was snow-white but on each of the three parts it was shaded with crimson stripes, like white garments dyed in blood."

But in her love for children is manifested her greatest gift,—that of story-telling. And the stories were so wonderful, and told in her own sweet manner so irresistible, that a group of grown folks usually crowded about the door of the room where the eager little listeners were gathered. It is not hard to understand the deep hold she obtained on the hearts of her Canadian friends, in the all too short years she spent on this continent.

Some of Mrs. Molesworth's books, as, "Carrots," "The Cuckoo Clock," "The Children of the Castle" and "A Christmas Child," are always favourites with the children, while time would fail to mention those little gems of Laura E. Richards, as "Captain January," "Melodie," "Snow White" and many others. Ethel Turner, author of "The Family at Misrule," "Seven Little Australians" and "Little Mother Meg,"

has proved such an acceptable writer for children, that she has been called a second Miss Alcott.

Whenever there are lists made of books for young readers, "The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of the York Mariner, Robinson Crusoe" is sure to be among the most popular. The book appeared in 1719, and was read with delight by persons of all ages.

Then just think of the almost inexhaustible supply of animal stories and those of plant life—not to mention the old standards, as "Lamb's Tales," "Short Stories from Dickens" and the "Child Classics." Some would contend that the classics lose something of their charm when presented in editions prepared for young readers. One recognizes the force of this suggestion and agrees it would be best for all reasons, if children knew nothing of many classic works, until they could be read just as the authors wrote them. But unfortunately it too often happens that as boys and girls grow up and assume the burdens of maturity, they do not find time to read widely; they read for amusement, and feeling that there is no leisure to cover the field of literature at all completely, they make no attempt to test the better books. So it happens that unless the knowledge that the best books are also the most interesting is gained in childhood, the busier grown-up years allow no time to make this discovery.

This is also seen in the poor quarters of most of the large cities. It has been found that children are the most numerous patrons of the library, since the adults, not having acquired the habit of reading when young, now take little personal interest in books. That is, whoever does not learn to love books when young loses the power to gain in later life the pleasure and profit coming from the habit of reading.

But young readers are often afraid of the very best books. They think there must be something forbidding in writings that have been looked up to for so many years, and decide to wait until they are wiser before reading the great author. A great author will say some things which children may not understand but he will tell them a great many more truths which they can share with him. Let us try to impress upon our pupils the fact, that in reading nothing is too good for them. Fortunately the best reading is really the most fun; only poor books are truly dull.

A good pronouncing game for Friday afternoons is to send the class out of the room, write on the board a dozen words commonly used and commonly mispronounced, call in the class one at a time and let each one in turn pronounce the list. The teacher may announce in each case how many were correctly pronounced. Here is a good list to begin with: Peremptory, often, patron, sinew, jugular, extol, docile, illustrate, breeches, inquiry, address, sacrifice, consummate, finance, area, ally, exquisite, suggestive, magazine, abdomen, revolt.—*Selected*