



Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

Christmas should be merry, and the publishers do their best to add to the merriment by small books aimed to make you laugh. Here are those which have seemed to your reviewer the most successful in this aim.

THE ELEPHANT BOOK by Lennie Weinrib (Pocket Books \$1.00). You may think this one silly, but it is all the vogue just now with the ten-to-fourteen group. It specializes in the absurd and contains such gems as "Why do elephants paint their toe nails red? So they can hide in cherry trees."

Or is that in the book? At any rate a youngster asked me that one while leafing through it. The trouble with this one is that it does lead on to that type of creative activity.

HOW TO GROW UP IN ONE PIECE by Robert Paul Smith (Harper \$2.95). This book solemnly announces a cultural change—"Mothers are out, Fathers are in" and you kids had better behave. The author is known for his "Where Did You Go? Out" which is a sort of nostalgic recollection of his own childhood free from organized play.

This, too, seems more reminiscent of days when fathers laid down the law than any cultural change that we have personally observed. Still it cannot be that, for Father Small includes the television set in his witty statements of family problems and rapid disposal of them by paternal decree.

Sample: "You can have any kind of dry breakfast cereal you have been able to con your mother into buying. If there are premiums in the box you can eat them, too, unless they are metal. If they are metal, give them to your little brother to eat." The illustrations are equally stern.

THE DOT AND THE LINE by Norman Juster (Random House \$1.95). This "romance in lower mathematics" is dedicated to Euclid. It is a perfect miniature novel. There is the famous sex triangle. A sensible straight line falls deeply in love with a dot. Anyway he, the line, looked at her—front, side, top—the dot was just perfect.

But the frivolous dot preferred a wiggly line, a riotously unkempt squiggle. She said he was "so gay and free and uninhibited." However, true love will find a way. Under the stress of need to win her love, the straight line developed new capacities—all strictly geometrical—and finally the dot, but let's not tell all. Illustrated with diagrams in purple and black.

WILL SUCCESS SPOIL JEFF DAVIS? The Last Book about the Civil War by T. Lawrence Connelly (McGraw-Hill \$4.95). This obviously is for the Civil War buff or perhaps even more appropriately for someone who has had enough of all that. It begins with a cartoon of "The Professional Confederate" with sword and uniform, commanding a bat-

- BIRTHS -

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'CARE' Provides Food Packages For Millions Overseas

tie with tin soldiers on his study table.

The book ends with "The War Nobody Lost," reminding us of the known fact that in literature and song the Rebels have far out-distanced the Yankees. "Let minnie balls corrode, Confederate money crumble, and imitation battle flags rot. As long as there is a cannon ball to be unearthed... there will always be a Confederacy." Due attention is also given to Centennial celebrations, and the drawings by Campbell Grant are a major asset to an amusing and timely book.

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC (Yankee, Inc. 35c). For old timers, this offers a store of entertainment. To be sure, its main function is to impart information about the weather and other odd matters that may occur to the editor, but there is much in lighter vein, too—puzzles, anecdotes, riddles, verse. Of the last, one that pleased me was a juvenile effort by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that begins, "MR. PHINNEY had a turnip And it grew behind the barn And it grew there and it grew there And the turnip did no harm."

Through its Food Crusade now underway, "CARE" appeals to Americans to send 6,000,000 packages, at \$1 per package, to the needy and desolate on four continents. Foods are mainly U. S. donations of farm abundance.

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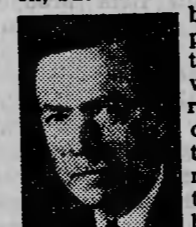


To Make Men Free

Lesson for December 22, 1963

Bible Material: Luke 2:1-20; Galatians 3
Devotional Reading: Luke 1:68-69.

A QUESTION that can be asked about every baby, but never answered, is: "Why was this baby born?"—meaning by "Why?" not the circumstances under which his parents met, his ancestors and so on, but rather: "What is going to be the main purpose in life for this infant? For what will he be remembered?" No one can answer that. The baby's mother knows, or thinks she knows; but how often mothers have been disappointed!



Dr. Foreman been disappointed!

The Baby Jesus had a God-given reason for being born. His mother had high hopes of him, too. She was sure he was born to be King. She was disappointed, but not so most mothers are. For instead of falling to come up to the height of her hopes, he grew far beyond them. He who—Mary sang in her heart—was to be King of Israel would be more, much more. He would be King of mankind. His very name (in Hebrew) means one who sets men free.

Free from law

The strange and wonderful thing about Jesus is that he is a person who though he died is not separated from us by his death. He can not only be remembered, He can be known. Those who do know Him, know from their own experience that He does set men free. A man begins to be a heart-Christian indeed when he goes beyond saying, Christ sets men free, to saying, Christ has set ME free. Free from what? First of all, He set us free from the law. That sounds a little strange, doesn't it? We tend to regard lawless people as dangerous. What does this mean, to be saved from the law? What law? Well, Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians on that point mostly. It's not quite exciting over it. What Paul was driving at was this: All his life he had been a Pharisee, one of those proud people who were most proud of the way they kept the law of Moses which they took to be the very laws of God. But what bothered Paul was this: He knew God would be satisfied with nothing less than perfection, and he was sadly aware, as many Pharisees were not, how far short the best of men come to wholly pleasing God. So Paul tried and tried to be good, to follow the law to the letter. But the law became a kind of terrible pursuing monster to this man, threatening him with the thousand and one times he had forgotten or not done this or that.

Free from sin

Some people have thought that "freedom" means absolute freedom to do anything at all, to be as free to do any one of a million things as any other one. That is not it (and if you think about it, you don't want yourself or anyone to be "free" like that). The freedom Christ was born to bring is freedom not only from the law as a slave-driver, but free from sin itself. Free from its power, its frightening power, free from its corruption, its weakening poison. Voices from the darkness that rime the life of man cry, "What you are, you must be; what you are and do is written in your blood. Sin you must, for time and circumstance hold you in chains." Against these dark voices comes the challenge of Christ: "The truth shall set you free."

Free from fear

Christ was born also to set men free from their worst fears. Not that Christians are reckless dare-devils, not that there is nothing fearful in this world, but free from the paralyzing dreads that haunt so many. A former Buddhist told this writer that all he could remember of his childhood was this: "There were eight hundred gods and I was afraid of them all." Simply to learn that there is one and only God, a God of love and power, who "has the whole world in his hands"—this comes as a great message of freedom to prisoners of despair. Men without fear of demons or of heathen gods are nevertheless afraid all the time of death, the "last enemy." Christ who himself conquered death sets men forever free from the fear of it.

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Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.
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East Massachusetts Ave.
Martin Caldwell, Pastor
Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sundays and Holy Days, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.)
Family Service, 9:30 a.m.
Church School, 10 a.m.
Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Young People's Service League, 4 p.m.
Holy Communion, Wednesday and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday 4 p.m. Penance.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Church of Wide Fellowship)
Cor. Bennett and New Hampshire
Carl E. Wallace, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday, 6:00 p.m., Youth Fellowship
Women's Fellowship meets 4th Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York Ave. at South Ashe St.
Maynard Mangum, Minister
Bible School, 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m., Training Union 6:30 p.m., Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.
Youth Fellowship 8:30 p.m.
Scout Troop 224, Monday 7:30 p.m.
Mid-week worship, Wednesday 7:30 p.m., choir practice Wednesday 8:15 p.m.
Missionary meeting first and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Church and family suppers, second Thursday, 7 p.m.

BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH
(Presbyterian)
Dr. Julian Lake, Minister
May St. at Ind. Ave.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m., Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. Monday following third Sunday.
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Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

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Women's Club meeting: 1st Monday, 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop No. 873, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop No. 118, Monday, 8 p.m.

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