Books of Honesty, Vision Best Fare For Children

"THE UNRELUCTANT YEARS" by LILLIAN H. SMITH
(American Library Association)
Reviewed by FRANCES LARGE

Children's reading is a subject that lately has caused a perfect of controversy. There have been extremely grim articles ding the kind of reading material available for children and of the proposed cures for this situation have themselves been treme that at the very mention of reading for children one s to shield "problem."

s a delight then to turn to k written by someone who ters children's books a us, fruitful and endlessly ding field."

ian Smith, the author, has connected with the Boys irls Division of the Toronto Libraries for many years this year she was the ress of Young Canada's Week. It is obvious that rites with authority. One say too I think, that she with a sense of dedica- but a joyous dedication. an introductory chapter in she states the case for en's literature. Lillian places the responsibility child's range of choice in his reading, firmly where it belongs — "upon his elders." As to the kind of book a child should read, she quotes Walter de la Mare:

"Only the rarest kind of best in anything can be good enough for the young."

Enlarging on this, Miss Smith states:

"We should put into their hands only the books that are worthy of them, the books of honesty, integrity and vision — the books on which they can grow."

The basic concept of Miss Smith's work is that children's literature must be judged by principles of criticism which can be applied to literature in general. The method of criticism used is a simple and effective one. The author has divided children's writing into nine fields: the fairy tale, mythology, epic and saga, poetry, picture books, stories, fantasy, historical fiction and books of knowledge. In each field Miss Smith has chosen one or more established classics and by an analysis of these classics she has worked out certain standards for judging other and newer books.

There is here no list of "recommended" books — perhaps a deliberate omission by the author in the hope that parents and teachers and "elders" will make use of her "method" themselves. For those who make the attempt she promises a reward:

"There is a key that will open (or re-open) to adults the door of the imaginative world of children's books. It is the same key that the children hold — pleasure — although it may be a different kind of pleasure from a child's, since an adult brings to his reading of a children's book his whole experience of life, his association of ideas, and his mature taste and discrimination."

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BOOK CORNER

Lusty Days of Pioneers Told For Young And Old

'WINGED CANOES AT NOOTKA'
by Pamela Stephen
(J. M. Dent and Sons (Canada) Ltd., Vancouver. $3)

For a first book, this collection of 24 stories of British Columbia history by Pamela Stephen is a praiseworthy effort.

Packed with interest from the first story of "Wing Canoes" describing Captain Cook's arrival at Vancouver Island through 23 other highlights of B.C. pioneering in "other stories of the evergreen coast," the book demonstrates the author's love of British Columbia and a desire to tell others of its wondrous development.

Mrs. Stephen was born in Ontario but came to this province as a child. A magazine and newspaper feature writer she also won acclaim for her B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation-sponsored CBC radio program "Indian Trails."

While at first the accounts of the Indian killings and roaring mining camps seem to lack the attendent robustness it must be remembered that the stories are aimed for both a juvenile and adult readership.

Prince Rupert has a chapter devoted to it as does the Skeena River in the story of Simon Gun-a-noot, the noted Indian guide who gave himself up after a 12-year manhunt.

Mrs. Stephen's stories range from Chilcotin massacres to the story of how Father Pat's church at Donald, B.C. was stolen and removed to Windemere. The gold rush days of the Fraser Valley and East Kootenays are included as well as the tales of the first Overlanders from Fort Garry to Fort Kamloops and the opening of the Yukon telegraph line.

PAMELA STEPHEN
. . . obvious love of B.C.

To anyone who knows British Columbia well, each story is similar to returning to former haunts looking for a familiar face or trying to recall a long-forgotten name.

—Dick Ayres

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Oregon Professor Writes Of Coast Salish of B.C.

Special to The Daily News

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene—A 310-page book on "The Coast Salish of British Columbia," Indians who lived four generations ago in the Vancouver, B.C. area, has just been published by the University of Oregon Press.

Dr. Homer G. Barnett, professor of anthropology at Oregon, is the author.

Dr. Barnett collected material for his book during two summers of field trips to the Vancouver territory. He talked with descendants of 12 ethnic groups and gathered as much information as he could about their environment and way of life.

Though much has been written about Indians to the north of the Salish, the people included in Dr. Barnett's work have been relatively neglected in historical studies.

The author wrote "The Coast Salish" with emphasis on a readable style, so use could be made of it by those without technical knowledge.

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—by Byrne Hope Sanders

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"Oh Boy! That Looks Good!" . . . You'll find your children *really* enjoy BREX, the whole-grain cereal with extra wheat germ added. . . . Youngsters like the delicate, nutty flavor of Brex, just as much as grown-ups! And while your family enjoys the stimulation of a hot, nourishing breakfast—*you* can have the satisfaction of knowing that they're getting the essential nutrients and precious B Vitamins that are so important in building for health . . . Brex can be served *so easily* . . . for it cooks in just *three minutes*. Look for the big blue box—and the helpful recipe ideas for using Brex in *many* ways!

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Give Aladdin's Lamps for Christmas. You know—the sort of lamp you rub, and make a wish, and your wish comes true! Lots of people do! Only in the form of a holly-decorated BANK OF MONTREAL Christmas cheque, or B of M money order in brightly coloured envelope, or B of M passbook—with a nice balance inside—enclosed in a gay Christmas passbook cover. The happy recipients of these ideal gifts can then either purchase the objects of their heart's desire, or keep the money, and add to it, in a B of M Savings Account—for something special later. It's a wonderful way of making people's wishes come true . . . and a great solution to your own gift problems. See your local B of M about it *today!*

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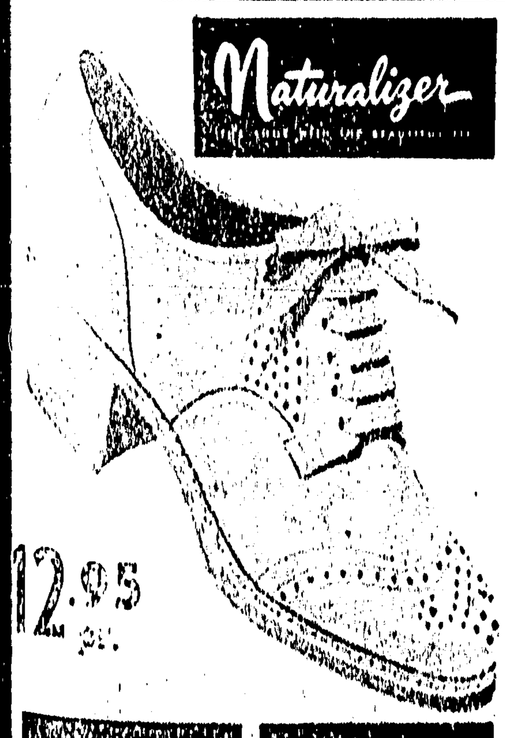

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"Twenty Pebbles and Other Stories" By Frank Webber; Parent Press Inc.

Adventure in the Canadian northwest—Indians in the title story; a trip by ski through a snowstorm in "Danger Trail;" the fear-inspiring forces of nature in "Lightning on the Horizon;" and a plane crash and rescue attempt in "Clouds over the Cariboo"—compromise the collected "Twenty Pebbles and Other Stories" by Frank M. Webber of Drayton, Alta.

The stories reflect the life of the author through many years in the northwest and have the refreshing atmosphere of familiar countryside. Hardly classics, they show imagination and a pretty sound belief in the country Webber writes about.