

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH.  
ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF BOOKS  
USED IN THE HOME LIBRARIES AND  
READING CLUBS CONDUCTED BY THE  
CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.**

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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Annotated Catalogue of Books Used in the Home Libraries and Reading Clubs Conducted by the Children's Department. by Anonymous

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**Children's Department**

**A Subject Arrangement with  
Author and Title Index**

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**  
1905

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### Contents

	Page
Explanation .....	5
Books for Younger Children.....	7
Books for Boys.....	23
Books for Girls.....	61
Author and Title Index.....	80

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### Explanation

For seven years the Library has conducted a number of home libraries and reading clubs among children in the city who live at too great distance from the Library buildings to make use easily of their children's rooms. Many of these children are of foreign parentage, the parents of some speaking no English, and a great variety of nationality and race is represented—English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, Hungarian, Italian, Bohemian, German, Swedish, French, Dutch, Hebrew (German, Russian, Polish), Slav and Negro.

A home library consists of a small case of books placed in a child's home. At a stated time each week ten or twelve children of the neighborhood meet about the bookcase, and a visitor from the Library gives out the books, reads aloud or tells stories, and in various ways makes the "library hour" pass pleasantly with profit to the children. The home library groups consist chiefly of younger children and girls, but the reading clubs, which do not meet in homes but in school rooms or special club rooms, are composed principally of older boys. A member of the library staff has the general direction of the work, but most of the visitors who have charge of the groups and clubs are not members of the library staff, but give their services to it for this work. It is to meet the special needs of these volunteer visitors, who have little time to read the children's books, that this catalogue has been compiled.

The books in this collection have been selected carefully for the special work and not with the idea of making an ideal selection of children's books for general use. Most of the children who become members of the home library groups and reading clubs have read little and therefore are not able to comprehend and enjoy many of the best books for children. Experience has taught us that if we wish these children to read at all, we must begin by giving them the classic myths and folklore retold in a simple way or popular modern books full of action and adventure, and then lead them gradually to more solid reading. Therefore, the greater number of the books listed in this catalogue are popular in character,

and the entries are grouped under headings of interest to boys and girls. Since so many of the children are of foreign parentage, there is a preponderance of books on American history and stories of American life. The popular lists are supplemented by special lists of "classic and standard stories," which include mythology, folklore, etc. as well as fiction. The books in these lists are not generally popular with the children in the home library groups and reading clubs, and therefore few duplicate copies are purchased, though the popular books are duplicated freely, especially those for the younger children. Careful choice is made of editions, as we believe in the elevating influence of a book that is beautiful in binding, illustrations and general appearance.

There is in preparation as a supplement to this catalogue a "visitors' handbook," containing suggestions for organizing and conducting home libraries and reading clubs. It will also contain lists of stories to tell, lists of books and chapters of books to read aloud, and lists of books for the use of mothers and home library visitors.

15 May 1905.

## **Books for Younger Children**