

# BOOKS and REVIEWS

## First Poems

By Minou Drouet, 79 pp., New York, Harper & Brothers, \$3.00.  
Reviewed by JACK JACOBS

This is a book of poems and letters by an 8-year-old French girl, published two years ago in France and now translated into English. Some of the poems are very good, and some are not, but coming from a person this age, all are highly unusual. To take one of the more striking examples: And the night saw me with such delight that all down my side she slid the hand serpent of her fingers, encircling my legs like ivy leaves of ice planting near my body stakes that were alive, so alive I felt them crowd closely around me like a forest born of the night and of your fingers.

There are rare sentiments indeed for an eight-year-old.

GOOD POETRY offers more in its translation than good prose, and this is no exception. It is impossible to retain the meaning, meter, rhythm and other poetic elements with equal accuracy. The fact that Minou writes in free

2-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH) ECCENTRIC Jan. 30, 1958

em: 'On Being Eight Years Old' and 'The Sky Over Paris.' In 25 minutes Minou completed 38 lines on the latter subject, de-

## Man: His First Million Years

By Ashley Montagu, 249 pp. New York, The World Publishing Co., \$7.75.  
Reviewed by DONALD YATES

Here, on the threshold of a new era in the history of man's Earth, man is forced "en masse" to view himself as a tiny micro-organism spinning about on the crust of a world which has become a microcosm in relation to the Universe now opening up.

He requires a sense of human dignity. For the sake of his peace of mind in these distressing times, man wants the assurance that he is some sort of superior animal in the awesome structure of the Universe. And beyond, a realm he is beginning to perceive for the first time.

Perhaps among those who feel guilty for not having thought more profoundly about the nature of existence on this earth, there will be some who will feel equal concern for lacking acquaintanceship with the human past.

## Thomasina

By Paul Gallico, 288 pp. Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., \$3.95.  
Reviewed by SALLY PARSONS

Thomasina is, indeed, a most remarkable Scots cat. She voices human thoughts and emotions in her role as participant of this novel and even believes herself to be a reincarnation of the Egyptian God, Bast Ra, who at one time held absolute sway over the world of the Nile.

In addition to a ginger cat, Gallico has created three red-haired Scotsmen whose lives are profoundly altered by the feline's fancy antics.

Mary Routh, 7, is Thomasina's doting mistress, and because the little girl has lost her mother, she focuses special affection upon her cat. Trouble develops on account of Mary's father, a dour, red-bearded veterinarian, embittered because he could not become a doctor of medicine and because of the death of his wife from a disease contracted from an animal.

HE HAS LITTLE patience with nursing sick animals back to health, as his daughter unfortunately learns when she brings him her ailing cat to cure, and he un-

was aware, from the beginning, might not be that I am a very clever one as well; I rather think now I am wondering whether it so."

## An Eye For An Eye

By Leigh Brackett, 186 pp. New York, Doubleday & Company, \$2.95.  
Reviewed by JEAN L'ENESS

Miss Brackett's latest novel for the Crime Club is another suspense story of routine lives disrupted by a terrifying event.

The tale begins late in the afternoon as lawyer Ben Forbes waits for his wife, Carolyn, only to discover her mysteriously missing. A telephone call three days later changes his fear into terror.

Carolyn, he finds, is being held captive by Al Guthrie—a man evaded by his divorce, holding Ben completely responsible for the disaster, although he was merely law-

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