

Humpty Dumpty is associated with the world egg which appears in the work of Aristophanes and in the Kalevala.

Comparative Studies in Nursery Rhymes is most valuable as a bibliographic tool and guide to the early appearances of nursery rhymes in print, but even here it must give way to a modern and authoritative work, The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes (Oxford, 1958). Relative to such early classics as Robert Chambers's Popular Rhymes of Scotland (enlarged edition, 1870) and James Halliwell's The Nursery Rhymes of England (enlarged and annotated edition, 1846), Eckenstein's work is a minor, somewhat redundant contribution, which merits attention only after the great classics have been reprinted.

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IN BRIEF

Recently republished by Gale Research Company (Detroit), Elizabeth Mary Wright's Rustic Speech and Folklore (342 pp.; \$12.50) contains an amazing potpourri of information on dialect speech and such folkloristic topics as superstition, folk medicine and divination. Her approach to her subject matter is personal and often entertaining. At times she sounds quite modern, as when she rejects the concept that dialect speech patterns do not conform to syntactical structure. She correctly states that dialects have their own patterns of syntactical and phonological structure. Unfortunately, her comments tend to be speculative and non-cohesive rather than part of a structured hypothesis. Her folklore items similarly tend to be personal recollections rather than the result of scientific fieldwork, but they are nonetheless entertaining and interesting for all of that. --- James Durham

A recent reprint of Thomas Frederick Crane's Italian Popular Tales (Gale Research Company, Detroit, 1968; 389 pp.; \$12.50) as one of Gale's usual fine but expensive editions represents a limited attempt of the author to establish a classification system employing the methods of comparative folklore. His tales---nursery tales (fables), fairy tales (Märchen) and jests---are for the most part genuine texts taken from earlier Italian collections, arranged and translated by Crane. Although his notes are copious and his attempt at classification fascinating, Crane's concern was to present an overview of popular tales in Italy rather than to present pristine texts; therefore his work will be useful to the modern folklorist as an interesting historical sidelight. --- Yvonne Milspaw

Correction: the correct price in American dollars for Bela Bartok's Rumanian Folk Music is \$47.50, not \$42.50 as stated in the FORUM, II, 2, p. 57.