

A New Treasury of Names for the Baby. By Dorothy Burton. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, 1961. Pp. 187. Pa. \$1.95, Cloth, \$3.95.

“What? Another baby-name book!” Such might be a reviewer’s first reaction to this “new treasury”; but in an era of early marriages and good-sized families the book will doubtless find a welcome in many homes, where it will aid conservative parents in evaluating old names, and venturesome parents in choosing new ones.

The book opens with a useful and entertaining introduction, which deserves to be read. This is followed by about five hundred girls’ names with their meanings, enlivened with chatty references to personages who have tended to make the names famous; then about the same number of boys’ names, similarly treated. The author’s comments add interest to what might have been a mere dictionary.

Because “doctors disagree” in linguistic matters, your reviewer can find a few items which he would like to change. In a later edition of the book the author might wish to reconsider the Scotch “each and every one” interpretation of *Ilka*; and was not Barrie’s *Wendy* a little child’s version of “friendly”? Possibly parents should be warned that *Fabian* has something to do with beans. And under *Mary*, the “little lamb” poem should be credited to John Roulstone; Mrs. Hale only added some virtually forgotten moralistic lines. These, however, are small matters, and they do not measurably lessen the value of this refreshing and rational contribution to the literature of infant nomenclature.

Alexander McQueen

Chicago, Ill.