

New Books For Younger Readers



Illustration by Carol Barker for "Achilles and Diana"

and sidelong humor that is disconcerting. Talking animals, yes; flirtatious animals, no. Flights of flamingos to grace their mating, charming; a wedding breakfast with the human family, all wrong. Babies thereafter, delightful; that the farmer's children are surprised, ridiculous. City children know their pets will have young and country children are well aware that the animals they help tend will have offspring.

Carol Barker's illustrations are also a mixture. The color is warm but the farmer, his wife and their children (unnamed) are stiff; only the animals and birds are gay, graceful and individual. It is a great pity that a simple story with a fine background of Greek peasant life and the gathering of the grape harvest should add up to something so unharmonious.

AILEEN PIPPETT.

ACHILLES AND DIANA. By H. E. Bates. Illustrated by Carol Barker. Unpaged. New York: Franklin Watts. \$3.95.

For Ages 6 to 9.

H. E. BATES writes amusing adult novels about an earthy English family named Larkin, but when he writes for children he is oddly coy. The earlier "Achilles the Donkey" told how the engaging creature came to work for a Greek farmer. In this sequel he is joined by a she-ass, Diana; they mate and have twins.

This natural theme is handled with a mixture of fantasy