

the first of a flock of little books issued by Newbery from his shop, "The Bible and Sun", in Saint Paul's Churchyard. Newbery's books were colourfully bound in gilt and pretty flowered papers, and had special illustrations, as have the better children's books ever since. And since that day the continuity of good books for children has not been broken. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Treasure Island*, the picture books of Caldecott, Crane, Kate Greenaway, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, *Babar*—these have supplanted the "awful warning" school.

Among the better children's writers at the start of last century were two sisters, Ann and Jane Taylor, of whom the former wrote that joy to after-dinner reciters and Lord Tennyson, *My Mother*, and the latter produced *Meddlesome Matty*, and what A. H. Turnbull called "the well-known ditty, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*." Part of the excellent Library display for Children's Book Week recently included a commonplace book and four diaries of Ann Taylor.

Ann (1782-1866) and Jane (1783-1824) Taylor were both daughters of Isaac Taylor, engraver, friend of Goldsmith and Richardson, later Independent minister. Their first book was *Original Poems for Infant Minds. By Several Young Persons* (1809), with a memorable dedication, "To those parents into [whose] hands this little volume may chance to fall, it is very respectfully inscribed; and very affectionately to that interesting little race—the race of children". The Library holds Ann Taylor's own copy of this with MS. inscription and minor emendations. A shabby little volume, 5 x 3½ inches, quarter-bound in green roan with worn marbled boards, its list of contents reveals the book's character: "To a Butterfly, on giving it Liberty", "James and the Shoulder of Mutton", "Creation", "The Palace and the Cottage", "Idle Dicky and the Goat", "Washing and Dressing", "George and the Chimney-sweeper", and so on. This was followed by *Rhymes for the Nursery* (1806) and *Hymns for Infant Minds* (1810 and 1811). In the following year Ann was married to the Reverend Joseph Gilbert, a Congregational minister, and this ended the literary partnership of the sisters. Their poems have been reprinted often and, at different times collections, with Kate Greenaway's illustrations and with a preface by Edith Sitwell. Other