

always come with years to institutions any more than it does to men. Yet the value of his essay is great and he has performed a

useful service to the institutions themselves and to historians of our cultural life.—*Julian P. Boyd.*

The New Medical Classification for the Library of Congress and the Army Medical Library— A Progress Report

At the meeting of the Army Medical Library consultants in October 1944, Mary Louise Marshall reported (in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 33: 180-82, 1945) the initial steps which had been taken toward producing a system of classification suitable for the Army Medical Library. Working under the auspices of a committee representing this library, the Library of Congress, and the Army Medical Library Survey Committee, and with the counsel of physicians concerned with the various specialties of medicine, she had made the preliminary studies for new alternative schedules for Medicine, Class R, and for the preclinical sciences in Class Q for the Library of Congress system.

Since that time Miss Marshall has been hard at work putting the results of this study into effect. The schedule for each subject division has been drawn up and submitted for advice and correction to medical specialists and to members of the committee on classification. As may be imagined, this has proved a long process. The first draft of the whole is finished, and the Army Medical Library has begun to classify its collection by it. In the actual application of the schedules, it is expected that alterations, additions, and subtractions will be found necessary. Consequently, until such trial has been thoroughly made, it is judged wise not to make the

provisional first draft of the classification available for general distribution. The process of classifying the Army Medical Library collection should result in establishing the system in permanent form. It will then be possible to publish it as an integral part of the Library of Congress classification schedules.

It should be noted that the notation for these new schedules has been planned so that it will not conflict with the use of those in the original Library of Congress scheme for Class Q and Class R. The material from these classes has been assigned to hitherto unused portions of the alphabet, the new Q divisions occupying QS to QZ, while Medicine proper (the former R sections) utilizes the wholly vacant letter W. This will make it possible for libraries already using the present Library of Congress classification for medicine and related sciences to continue to do so or, if they prefer, to apply the new system, leaving their previous collections as they are. The Library of Congress will announce its policy with respect to use of the new schedules before they are published.

KEYES D. METCALF, *Chairman
Committee on a New Medical
Classification for the Library of
Congress and the Army Medical
Library*