

individual contributions to librarianship of the New York State and New York Public Schools whose histories have also been published previously. The story of the present school under its two administrations needs to be entirely rewritten before it can take its place justifiably in the chronology.

Not only should the Williamson and White regimes be treated at far greater length; in each present account, a statement of broad, over-all objectives in the training programs needs to be inserted. These objectives existed and must still exist in spite of national and world crises that have arisen. Too little is said in the Trautman history about the need for library schools to train for librarianship as it is now being practiced, and to produce leaders, both in the physical and philosophical sense. Thinkers, expert technical workers, executives are all called for, and the nation looks to the library schools as the best and most logical sources for such people. From a practical viewpoint the matter of whether Columbia is producing competent librarians deserves far more consideration than whether the student body is becoming local rather than national in character.

The last part of the Williamson chapter is entirely too much concerned with the enumeration of isolated, specialized courses that seem to have composed the curriculum of the school. Many of these, incidentally, were introduced during summer sessions. Such summer offerings have proved sound and logical practice at many universities, where new courses are introduced on an experimental basis.

The final chapter, which still deals with the White administration, presents too many explanations about the doctoral program. Incidentally, during the eleven years of Dr. White's deanship, candidates seem to have been only slightly more numerous than during the Williamson regime. Only one person has actually acquired the degree. Is something wrong with the school's doctoral program and the quality of the students who are attracted to it? Or is the prospect of absorption by the profession of a large number of people who might obtain the Ph.D. in library science not likely? A university is the logical place for such training; other schools at Columbia turn out substantial numbers of graduates who have earned the degree.

The role played by the alumni during the White administration is handled in relative fullness, but more attention might well have been given to this group in the Williamson chapter. This shortcoming applies to the story of the formation of the present, amalgamated association as well as to the many profitable consultations with the alumni during the 1926-43 period.

Typographical errors appear to be few in number, but Appendix I shows some omissions and an occasional mistake as to date. The three appendices form one of the most useful sections of the book, particularly because of their ready reference value.

The style throughout is uneven as to quality. At times it is dignified, in keeping with an anniversary volume; in sections where the author's bias predominates, the writing becomes clouded both as to thought and presentation of facts. Very likely the preparation of the volume as a unit in an official series has hampered the insertion of humor, the homely anecdote and the human side of the persons responsible for the school since its inception. Such material is available in abundance and should not be overlooked in the awaited, comprehensive history of this school.—*Harriet D. MacPherson, dean, Drexel Library School, and librarian of Drexel Institute of Technology.*

## Technical Services

*Technical Services in Libraries: Acquisitions, Cataloging, Classification, Binding, Photographic Reproduction, Circulation Operations.* By Maurice F. Tauber and Associates. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954. xvi, 487p. \$6.50.

We have a great number of books which describe in detail the operations in the technical services of libraries. There is no up-to-date compendium for acquisitions work and related processes, but both the beginner and the experienced professional in cataloging have at their disposal some excellent manuals. The common denominator for most of the literature in the field is that they are either textbooks designed for an elementary level or compilations of rules. There was an urgent need for a scholarly publication which would discuss on a high intellectual level the entire field in its broadest aspects. Maurice Tauber

and his associates (Ralph U. Blasingame, Jr., C. Donald Cook, Carlyle J. Frarey, Bertha M. Frick, Jane H. Hall, Richard O. Pautzsch, and Irving Verschoor) have written such a book.

*Technical Services in Libraries* is a "Lehrbuch" in the sense of the great nineteenth century university compendia. It sketches the philosophy, summarizes up-to-date findings and leads toward new and fruitful investigations. From all points of view it is a truly remarkable book.

The scope of the book is best given in the author's own words (p. ix):

The volume purposes to survey the various "technical services" and to orient the student to the range of operations and techniques associated with the procurement, recording, preservation, and handling of library materials. The specific aims are: (1) to familiarize the student with problems in the technical services and with current thought concerning the best solutions of them; (2) to familiarize him with sources of published and other information concerning the practice and administration of the technical services; (3) to indicate methods that have been used in studying the technical operations; (4) to point out those areas in which research or special study is needed or likely to prove fruitful; and (5) to furnish a background of information that may be useful in performing the technical services in libraries.

The book is divided into twenty-two chapters:

- I. Introduction.
- II. The technical services in the library program.
- III. Acquisitions: functions and organization.
- IV. Types of materials and their sources: purchases.
- V. Operations in order work.
- VI. Gifts and deposits.
- VII. Duplicates and exchanges.
- VIII. Catalogs and cataloging: development and functions.
- IX. Catalog entries and description.
- X. Subject headings.
- XI. Classification.
- XII. Pre-cataloging and post-cataloging operations.
- XIII. Reclassification and recataloging.
- XIV. The cataloging department: administrative problems.
- XV. Conservation of library materials: general organization and administration.

- XVI. Conservation of library materials: finance, personnel, and other aspects.
- XVII. Conservation of library materials: the bindery within the library and the handling of special materials.
- XVIII. Circulation operations: registration.
- XIX. Circulation operations: loans.
- XX. Circulation: other operations and records.
- XXI. Photographic service in libraries.
- XXII. Machines, operations, and modern libraries.

The footnotes are, unfortunately, at the end. An elaborate index of twenty-three pages closes the book.

After this general description a few comments on specific points will be appropriate. There is a slight inconsistency in the use of the terminology, "technical services." On the title page and generally throughout the book it is meant in a very broad sense, including also some operations in readers' services, "which are susceptible to codification"; however, in chapter II it is confined to the traditional narrow sense of acquisitions and cataloging. I doubt very much whether one can still say, "Among the most important [of the agents for book purchases] is the local bookdealer, who is used as a rule . . ." (p. 44). Most scholarly libraries and a steadily increasing number of smaller institutions use the big metropolitan jobbers. Firms like Baker and Taylor and the American News Company are in a heavy and successful competition with the local store. I would also suggest that the description of the searching operations as performed by second-hand book dealers (p. 47) be taken with a heavy grain of salt. Theoretically every book dealer would like to go through all these steps, but, facing the grim reality of a chaotic second-hand book market, he just can't afford it. The new acquisitions technique, the standing order for the purchase of the entire output of a publisher, is not discussed, and not enough attention is given to the bookkeeping responsibilities of the acquisitions department. The question of encumbrances, the handling of funds, the administration of financial records pose a great number of important problems which are by no means completely settled. It is realized, of course, that business records vary considerably in different kinds of libraries.

Among the marks of ownership employed

by libraries, one could add the use of a special endpaper (Newberry Library and Cornell University) (p.244). Xerography, which may well be in the near future one of the most widely used methods for card reproduction, deserves more space (p.247, 392). Tauber has slightly revised an earlier estimate of the cost of recataloging. I fully agree that the expenses of recataloging are slightly higher than new cataloging because of the many added activities. His figure of approximately one dollar per volume is on the conservative side. I am more accustomed to think in terms of titles recataloged; here I would suggest a figure of from two to two-and-a-half dollars per title. Although Tauber has undoubtedly the greatest experience in recataloging, I question his unconditional advice of starting a new catalog during the process (p.279). The best I could say about a new catalog is to call it a necessary evil. An important item in the administration of the catalog department, about which I would like to get more advice, is the question of statistics and reports. The short paragraph which the book devotes to this aspect could be expanded in a later edition.

Special attention should be paid by all of us to the chapter on binding. The relation of binding to the over-all program of book conservation and the advisability of recognizing the importance of this work by giving it full departmental status is clearly brought out. The final chapter on machine operations carefully weighs the two sides of the question. It boldly points out the fact that few studies in library service give cold facts; we all are much too often satisfied with opinions and guesses. On the other hand, we cannot just borrow studies of scientific management in industrial organization and apply them to libraries.

None of the above critical remarks are fundamental; the laudatory remarks could fill the entire issue of this journal. I therefore would like to summarize the gist of my opinion on the book under review in one short sentence: No librarian can afford *not* to read *Technical Services in Libraries*.—*Felix Reichmann, Cornell University Libraries.*

## Challenges to Librarianship

*Challenges to Librarianship*, edited by Louis Shores. Tallahassee, Florida State University 1953. 156p. \$2.00; paper \$1.00 (Florida State University Studies, No. 12).

This volume presents separate papers on eight "challenges to librarianship," representing a series of lectures in 1952-53 given to students of the Library School at Florida State University. The central theme of these challenges, in the eyes of the editor, was to be the library as a critical force in the current world conflict. The lectures begin with two papers that fit the theme rather closely: Dan Lacy's "The Challenge of International Understanding" and Luther Evans' "The Challenge of Censorship." Lacy lucidly summarizes the sociological-political situation which demands far better international understanding than we have. He then proceeds to indicate the obstacles to the flow of information, especially in relation to Asia and the Near East—and the obstacles are exceedingly formidable. Finally, he summarizes in broad terms the efforts made thus far toward promoting international understanding. Mr. Lacy makes it abundantly clear that, while much has been accomplished, far more remains to be done. Dr. Evans' paper deals with the risks to a democracy of overt and, especially, hidden censorship, and the obligation of libraries to provide the materials through which the public may ". . . learn . . . what is to be said for and against all of the proposals made on the great public issues of the day. . . ."

The six remaining lectures are not quite so obviously related to the general theme of the series: Fremont Rider on "The Challenge of Microphotography," Charles H. Brown on "Librarianship and the Sciences," Edgar Dale on "The Challenge of Audio-Visual Media," Frances Henne on "The Challenge of School Librarianship," Louis Round Wilson on "The Challenge of Library Literature to Education for Librarianship," and Wayne Shirley on "An American Librarian's Heritage." Though the relation of some of these papers to international understanding seems somewhat remote, they present in an interesting way important problems in a number of areas of librarianship.

The extent to which the papers represent