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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Official Journal of the Special Libraries Association

VOLUME 40

July-August 1949

NUMBER 6



Serving Scientists in Australia
Barbara Johnston

Special Libraries in South Africa
Hazel Mews

The Library of the National Archives of India
Purnendu Basu

The Library of the Economic Information Service
G. M. Van Andel

Hospital Libraries in Belgium
Baroness Hankor

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Special Libraries

VOLUME 40 Established 1910 NUMBER 6

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Indexed in Industrial Arts Index, Public Affairs Information Service, and Library Literature

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SERVING SCIENTISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Libraries of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research¹

By BARBARA JOHNSTON

Librarian, C.S.I.R. Division of Food Preservation and Transport

ON my visit to England and America to study special libraries so many people inquired about the kind of library in which I worked in Australia, that an article on the libraries of our Council for Scientific and Industrial Research seemed most apropos, and I therefore welcomed the invitation of the Special Libraries Association to contribute to an International issue of **SPECIAL LIBRARIES**. I should like to take this opportunity, also, to send greetings to all who gave so generously of their time to show me their libraries, and made me feel so welcome.

The library system of the Australian C.S.I.R. is different from any that I saw in other parts of the world in that it consists of a network of over a dozen libraries, each specialising in a particular branch of science. The libraries of the United States Department of Agriculture form a somewhat similar system, spread as they are over a country of about the same size, 3 million square miles, but their subject range is not so wide.

LOCATION OF DIVISIONS

The Council was set up some twenty-four years ago by the Commonwealth Government to carry out research for the promotion of the primary and secondary industries of Australia. The activities of the Council have necessitated a widespread organization and its policy has been to establish divisions, each with its own staff, laboratories, equipment and library, wherever the conditions seemed best for a particular

type of research. The Council's administrative offices in East Melbourne house the Head Office Library, a general scientific collection of about 22,000 books, which is currently receiving about 1400 periodical titles, including annual reports but not serial bulletins. In Melbourne are centered the Divisions of Forest Products, Animal Health and Production, Industrial Chemistry and Tribophysics, also smaller sections working on Meteorological Physics, Building Research, Trace Elements, Dairy Research, Mineragraphic and Ore Dressing Investigation. Aeronautics, which was once a division of C.S.I.R., has now been attached to the Department of Supply and Development which controls research on defense problems. At Sydney, in the grounds of the University, is the Division of Radiophysics and the National Standards Laboratory, which houses the Divisions of Metrology, Electrotechnology and Physics; close to the University School of Veterinary Science, is the McMaster Animal Health Laboratory, which is the center for research on diseases of sheep. The Division of Food Preservation and Transport and the Division of Fisheries are in the outer suburbs of Sydney. The Fisheries Laboratory is high on the shores of lovely Port Hacking and its library has a view which few can rival. New sections on Fuel Research in Sydney and Wool Textiles Research in Geelong, Victoria, are just setting up their libraries. In the Murray-Murrumbidgee River Irrigation Area, the main laboratory is at Griffith. Originally established for research on citrus fruits, it is now concerned with every aspect of production under irrigation, including soil behaviour in irrigation areas.

¹ Since this article was written, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been reconstituted by an Act of Parliament. The official title is now "Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization."

On the slopes of Black Mountain, overlooking the beautiful Molonglo River Valley at Canberra, our rural capital, the Divisions of Plant Industry and Economic Entomology have a joint library, and at the University of Adelaide is the Division of Nutrition and General Biochemistry, where work is done mainly on nutrition of sheep.

The vague statement in my introduction that the Council has "more than a dozen libraries" results from the difficulty of deciding when a collection of books becomes a library. I have assumed that the change takes place when a professional librarian is appointed.

In addition to the main divisions mentioned above, there are groups of research workers housed by universities and technical colleges who use the facilities of these centers, instead of building up large libraries for themselves. They have small collections of their own, however, and require the assistance of C.S.I.R. librarians in tracing unusual references, and arranging interstate loans.

As the Council is a federal body, it is called upon to investigate problems arising in all states, so most divisions, particularly those dealing with biological problems, have research workers at small stations far from their headquarters. For example, the Division of Fisheries keeps officers in Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland; and the Division of Plant Industry has officers at thirteen different stations, some of which are 2000 miles as the crow flies, and much further by road and rail, from their headquarters. The provision of adequate library service for these workers is a rather difficult problem. Where workers from several divisions are close together, a regional library under the control of the Head Office Library serves the purpose. The pastoral laboratory at Armidale, N.S.W., has a library for the use of workers on parasitic diseases of sheep and on pasture plants; and at Brisbane, where

small sections are working at the University on soils, pastures, plant introduction and drug plants, at the abattoirs on meat, and at the State Animal Health Station on insect parasites, a librarian has been appointed to set up a regional library and also to visit the laboratories on alternate days to catalog their collections.

STAFF

A shortage of librarians seems to exist all over the world at present, and it is particularly acute in Australia, where the employment of professional librarians in any except public and university libraries is of recent date. There are only four library schools in the country and the number of students qualifying each year is small. In addition to the needs of departmental and company libraries, a long-overdue development of public libraries has been taking place so the demand for trained librarians far exceeds the supply. C.S.I.R. has attempted to solve the problem in a small way by arranging for the better-trained librarians to assume a certain amount of responsibility for the smaller libraries, as well as for those directly under their control. In this way small regional systems will be built up, with a union catalog in the larger library with entries for the holdings of its smaller neighbors. As an example of this system, Miss Margaret Russell, librarian of the Irrigation Research Station at Griffith, goes regularly to spend a few days in the libraries at Merbein and Deniliquin. As both these towns are over a hundred miles from Griffith, she travels by air.

Our Chief Librarian, Miss Ellinor Archer, M.Sc., was a botanist on the research staff, working on the classification of cereal varieties, in the days when the Council, or its parent, was known as the Institute of Science and Industry. When she had completed her research project, she was asked to give some attention to the library until a new project could be assigned to her. That was

twenty-six years ago and she is still in the library, having taught herself librarianship to such good effect that she is this year President of the Australian Institute of Librarians, our highest professional honor.

Before there were any library schools in Australia, all training was done in service. As far as possible, the practice adopted by Miss Archer when librarians were appointed to divisional libraries was to arrange for them to work at the Head Office for some months until they had learned at least the elements of library practice. They were then sent to their own libraries and expected to improve their knowledge of their profession in any way that they could. Close touch was kept with them by correspondence and visits and their cataloging was reviewed at the Head Office. As a band of experienced librarians in charge of the divisional libraries became available, they were able to train their own assistants who were later able to take over new libraries as they were established. As soon as the Australian Institute of Librarians began its system of examinations and certification, all C.S.I.R. librarians were encouraged to study for these examinations, and today promotion depends largely on the examination results. Recently, it has sometimes been expedient to arrange for a member of the staff to attend library school.

It is desirable that the librarians in charge of libraries should have university degrees, preferably in science, as well as library training, but there are not many available with the double qualification. When, as is often the case, it is necessary to fill a position with someone who is capable of carrying on without delay, the graduate without library background has to be rejected in favor of the non-graduate with library experience. The lack of scientific training, although regrettable, is not as serious as it sounds, since the librarian is surrounded by scientists who

are specialists in the subjects with which the library deals. If she has the personality for librarianship, she will establish a relationship with the scientists which will enable her to be guided by them where her knowledge of the subject is lacking, and the research workers will gain a wider knowledge of the library by this co-operation. The divisional librarians are under the direct control of the Chief of the Division in which they are located, but their work is under the guidance of the Chief Librarian. By this means, a degree of uniformity has been established throughout the network. Most divisional libraries have a professional staff of one or two, but the National Standards Laboratory, whose library serves four divisions, rivals the Head Office with a professional staff of nine.

METHODS

Although widely scattered geographically, the libraries are made to function as a whole by the union catalog in the Head Office Library. This is an author catalog to which each branch library, no matter how large or how small, sends entries for its accessions, using cards of a particular color. This rainbow scheme was splendid in the early days but as the number of libraries grows, it becomes more troublesome to find new colors available in card stock and the matching of cards in use is often difficult. Some new libraries are represented by smart white cards with colored stripes on the left margin. The bulk of the catalog may be the deciding factor in causing a change to one entry for each work, stamped with the names of the libraries which hold a copy of it.

Although central cataloging has been considered, it is not likely that it will be instituted as many books are purchased locally and they would reach the readers much later if sent five, six or eleven hundred miles to Melbourne for processing. Because of the varied interests of the branches, duplication in their stock is less than might be ex-

pected. Classification and subject indexing is done better in the divisional libraries where the librarians are familiar with the outlook of the readers and are experts in the literature of the subject. Catalogers are, of course, expected to use the "Joint Rules" and they have been supplied with a special set of instructions indicating our practice when the A.L.A. and the (British) Library Association rules are at variance. The cataloging staff at the Head Office are able to check on the standard of work in the divisions from the entries they receive for the union catalog. The Head Office Library transmits all overseas orders and these constitute a large proportion of the books bought. All periodical subscriptions, too, are placed by the Head Office and a file of marginal-punched cards is used to record them.

Practice varies appreciably from one library to the next, depending on the age of the library and the needs of its readers. The Head Office and Canberra libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification; the Division of Forest Products uses a special classification and all three have dictionary catalogs but file author and subject entries separately. The libraries established more recently mostly use the Universal Decimal Classification and have classified subject catalogs, as the bringing together of entries on related subjects is found more convenient than specific alphabetical entry. In the small libraries in the country centers, the abridged U.D.C. is employed for classification and filing but a dictionary catalog is used.

As in most special libraries, periodicals are the backbone of the collections, and methods of circulating them differ. In some divisions, they are displayed for a week and may then be taken out as ordinary loans; in others, every journal circulates to a long list of research workers. In most laboratories, routing is to individuals instead of lists of readers so that the whereabouts of each journal is known should it be needed for refer-

ence, and in some libraries, a second entry is kept under the borrower's name for each loan of a current journal. Officers of the divisions take frequent field trips and it is necessary, when one announces that he is leaving tomorrow on an expedition to collect grasshoppers, to be able to give him at once a list of the journals to be returned before his departure. Loose-leaf books with visible slips have been found more satisfactory in many libraries than the usual steel trays of visible cards. Loan recording systems for books and pamphlets are just as diverse, their degree of complication depending on the size of the staff using the library.

If journals form the backbone, pamphlets are the ribs of our libraries. They are filed by the decimal classification and are almost always fully cataloged.

The C.S.I.R. publishes an *Annual Report*, a series of *Bulletins*, a *Journal* and various series of extension circulars from the divisions. It also publishes the *Australian Journal of Research* and distributes it. In exchange for these, the publications of all the important research organizations overseas are received for the various division libraries. Generous loan facilities have been given by universities and other bodies in Australia whose libraries include periodicals too old to be in our collections. At present, Mr. Ernest Pitt, retired librarian of the Melbourne Public Library, is working in the Head Office Library on the new edition of his *Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in Australian Libraries*, which is nearing completion and which will assist greatly in inter-library cooperation.

All libraries issue lists of their accessions. The amount of indexing of current journal articles differs according to how well the need is filled by published services, but most branches index only articles of particular interest, selected by the research workers. Few large bibliographic searches are done by the library staff. Research workers usually

do this type of work for themselves or it is done by the Information Service, a section at the Head Office, whose function is to answer enquiries from manufacturers, the general public, other government departments and our own staff. Research officers and technical secretaries of various divisions also do much of this enquiry work. Information Service controls a section which translates

on request from the staff, scientific articles in European languages.

We are proud of our library service and hope that in the next few years we may be able to arrange exchanges to allow members of our staff to gain experience overseas, and at the same time provide us with the pleasure of working with librarians whose outlook is different from the Australian point of view.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

By HAZEL MEWS, M.A., F.L.A.

Officer-in-Charge, Library and Information Division, South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; Hon. Editor, *South African Libraries*

DURING my brief but happy visit to the United States last year, almost every American librarian I met remarked what a long way I was from home. In terms of actual distance they were perhaps right, but even that means little when it is remembered that the aircraft took less than 50 hours flying time between La Guardia Airport and Johannesburg. But they were certainly wrong if they thought I felt like a stranger in a strange land. I felt completely at home talking to people who had been trained basically in the same way, who had the same attitude toward their work and who had, closest bond of all, to deal with many of the same problems. For me it was a heartening experience.

The following notes on the special library world of South Africa have been prepared in the belief that a picture of this kind would be of interest to special librarians in the United States; certain specific points have been emphasized because I found last year evidence of particular interest in them.

Some of the problems facing South Africa may perhaps be better appreciated since the publication of *Cry the Beloved Country*, which I discovered every American librarian had read. Of these problems I do not propose to

speak. Some of the geographic and historical background of South African libraries has been excellently sketched recently by the librarian of the South African Public Library.¹ I do not propose, therefore, to cover the same ground as Mr. Varley, but to assume that librarians interested in a larger view will turn to his article. An idea of the background of racial, geographic and economic problems is not so essential to the understanding of South Africa's special libraries as it is to the understanding of her public libraries and their functions.

LOCATION OF MAIN COLLECTIONS

The main collections of serious works in South Africa are in the South African Public Library in Cape Town, the State Library in Pretoria, the Johannesburg Public Library, the nine university libraries of the country and the growing number of special libraries in government departments, research institutions, etc. All these libraries are linked together in an inter-library loan scheme which is centralised in the State Library in Pretoria, the administrative capital of the Union. Distances are not great by American standards, but they are

¹ Varley, D. H. "Library Work in South Africa." *The Library Association Record*, December 1948; vol. 50, no.12, pp.324-331.

still appreciable; Pretoria in the north is 1000 miles from Cape Town in the South and it takes some 38 hours to make the journey by train. These distances are important factors in the difficulties with which South African librarians contend; the actual holdings of scientific journals in the Union, for instance, is small and the demand for inter-library loans is great and increasing, so that the time taken for a book to travel is more important than in a country with the enviable holdings listed in *Gregory*. Equipment for photographic reproduction is also not so widespread as in Europe and America.

Types of special libraries in the Union are very much the same as in the longer established countries, although there are as yet far fewer industrial libraries. There are, however, South African specialties—several excellent collections of Africana both in public and private hands. The special libraries have come very much to the fore since the war years. The United States Information Libraries in Cape Town and Johannesburg, closed down for a while but, now happily reopening, played their part in stimulating the "special library movement".

It was, naturally, the scientific and technical special library that grew fastest during and after the war years. Cut off from many of her usual overseas sources of supply, South Africa was called upon to satisfy many of her own needs, and also to supply some of those of the allied armies, from the products of her factories. A great stimulus was given to the Union's secondary industries. The technical difficulties encountered focussed attention on the need for technical library facilities on the spot, and it was a case of all hands on deck for the libraries with collections of technical books and journals.

Even yet, however, the number of special libraries in this country is not large. A directory of the Union's scientific, technical and medical libraries,

which is almost ready for publication, shows a total of 69 special libraries in these fields. Thirty-nine of these are mainly scientific; 17, mainly technical, 5, equally scientific and technical, and 8, medical. These libraries belong to government departments, mining houses, industrial firms and medical schools. The largest special library in the government is that of the Department of Agriculture, which also acts as a central library on agriculture for South African farmers. Each division of the Department (e.g., Botany, Veterinary Services) has, in addition, a special library of its own covering its own field. The library of the Union Education Department also fulfills a wide function. The Library of the Geological Survey is of special importance in a country whose mineral resources form such a large part of its wealth. The Library of the Meteorological Office is growing in importance, as are those of the Departments of Health and External Affairs. The South African government has recently appointed a Chief Government Service Librarian, and one of his first tasks has been to prepare the plans for a union catalog of government libraries. Nearly all government libraries are in Pretoria, although the House of Assembly in Cape Town has a large library for the use of members of Parliament and includes the Mendelssohn collection of Africana. Johannesburg is the home of most of the mining houses' libraries and a number of growing industrial libraries are scattered through the industrial areas of the Reef (Witwatersrand). The expansion of the industrial areas of the Cape Province (the Cape Peninsula, Port Elizabeth and East London) and of Natal has also led to some firms setting up their own very small libraries.

The Library of the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was recently born into this South African special library world and has an interesting rôle to play in it. The

Council was set up by an act of the South African Parliament in 1945 and its functions correspond in general with those of the British and New Zealand Departments for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It is not, however, a government department. The Library and Information Division of the Council came into being in 1946. It is building up what will probably be the largest scientific and technical library in the country, buying first in the fields covered by its own laboratories (the National Physical Laboratory, the National Chemical Research Laboratory, the National Building Research Institute, and the National Institute for Personnel Research). In addition, it purchases books and journals with the needs of South African industry in mind; it receives for example, several copies of the C.I.O.S., B.I.O.S. and F.I.A.T. reports. The monthly accessions list goes out to nearly a thousand scientists, industrialists and government departments all over the sub-continent and most of the material is available on postal loan. The Library receives over 700 current periodicals and to supplement these it has a service for obtaining microfilm copies of articles in journals not available in South Africa. These microfilms are usually obtained through the Council's Scientific Liaison offices in London and Washington; it is an airmail service and the microfilms usually arrive in small aluminum containers that weigh very little. A leaflet, *Microfilm for the South African Scientist*, giving particulars of the service and the location of microfilm readers in the Union, was prepared in the Division. A technical information service is also part of the work of the Division and this is growing in volume as South Africans become more information-minded. The Division has also compiled a panel of translators along the lines of that organized by Aslib. In 1948, the C.S.I.R. Library or-

ganized an experimental one-day school for industrial librarians which met with encouraging success. The school was repeated in February of this year. The idea behind the school was to give a bird's-eye view of what modern special librarianship involves and to stimulate the students to study further. The school also gave them the opportunity of meeting others engaged in the same kind of work; this was important because most of the students were not members of the South African Library Association and so had not had the stimulating experience of meeting many fellow-workers. The Division hopes to cooperate with the University of Cape Town Library School in providing a similar short course for special librarians in the Cape later this year.

I have mentioned the work of the C.S.I.R. Library at some length, believing it may be of special interest to Americans, especially as it has an international function to perform, acting in many ways as a clearing house for scientific information coming into and going out of South Africa. This function it performs either by direct contacts with overseas institutions or through the two liaison offices in London and Washington.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT

Another recent development in the South African library world has been the setting up of the South African National Committee on Documentation by the South African Bureau of Standards. This Committee deals locally with questions concerning the Universal Decimal Classification and the International Federation of Documentation; it has considered expansions for U.D.C. tables referring to African languages and geographic subdivisions, a standard code for the alphabetization of Afrikaans and Bantu names, etc. It includes representatives of individual libraries, the South African Library Association and other cultural bodies in the Union.

The Southern Transvaal Branch of

the South African Library Association has recently formed a Special Libraries Section, the first of its kind in the country, and to whose activities a section in *South African Libraries*¹, the official organ of the South African Library Association, is definitely allotted.

In 1945, the South African Library Association, the senior local examining

¹ South Africa being a bilingual country, this journal appears alternately under the English and Afrikaans form of its title, i.e., *South African Libraries* alternating with *Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteke*. The Special Libraries section of the journal is currently printing a series describing individual special libraries in South Africa.

body for library qualifications, modified its syllabus to include alternative papers in specialised book stock (e.g., science, medicine, economics, etc.) and in the administration of university and special libraries.

The special libraries of South Africa draw ideas from Europe as well as America: the classified catalog is not such a rarity as in the States and the use of the Universal Decimal Classification is spreading. We hope that we have borrowed from the Old World and the New whatever is best suited to our needs in this "dark" continent—whose main climatic characteristic is abundant sunshine.

The Library of the National Archives of India: Its Aims and Problems

By PURNENDU BASU

New Delhi, India

IN the following paragraphs, I have attempted to give in a few words the history of the library attached to the National Archives of India, analyze its aims and objects, its future plans and its problems. This account may perhaps rightfully claim a space in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, considering that a library attached to an archival institution is somewhat different from the general run of libraries. It has perhaps certain advantages over the latter, while its problems are different, calling for a different approach for solution.

The institution now known as the National Archives of India was created in 1891 under the name "Imperial Record Office," later changed to "Imperial Record Department," which name it bore until 1947. At the same time there was started the Imperial Library as a part of the Imperial Record Office, both presided over by the same officer. The holdings of the Imperial Library consisted mostly of official publications and books needed for reference by officials

of the Government of India. There was no library at that time attached to the Central Government Secretariat as there is today. In 1901, the Imperial Library was separated from the Imperial Record Department and all books held by it were removed by the new independent organization, leaving behind in the parent organization only duplicates and such books as were considered of peculiar use to the Imperial Record Department. The library portion of the latter was named in 1902, the "Spare Copy Room." This name was abolished in 1920 when there was organized a separate Central Secretariat Library at Simla. Since then the "Spare Copy Room" became a special library attached to the Imperial Record Department, but without any special money appropriation until 1944. In fact, it was in a more or less moribund state until 1939 when, for the first time, efforts were made to organize it as a useful arm of the Imperial Record Department. Until that year also the British Museum clas-

sification scheme had been followed in this library, which was replaced in 1939 by the Dewey decimal classification.

Before I take up our problems and plans, I should like to refer to a not uncommon error. I have sometimes noticed some confusion between an archival institution and the library attached to it. Often they are identified with each other and reference is loosely made to a National Archives Library as meaning the entire holdings of the National Archives, records as well as other materials, all together constituting a single reference library. I could cite many instances where such an assumption has been made, sometimes with consequences more serious than merely evoking a superior kind of smile among the initiated. We, however, insist on regarding the library of the National Archives of India as a separate entity, distinct from the Archives itself. The archival holdings constitute only the records created by the different agencies of the government and transferred by the creating agencies to the Archives for the purpose of indefinite retention for future reference. There is little scope for an archivist to select what records he is going to keep in the archives. The archivist cannot order, for example, a set of records created by Mahatma Gandhi, nor can he refuse to take in records created by someone entirely unknown, if the creating agency regards them as being of administrative value. Selection, however, can be made, and is made, when acquiring materials for the archives library. The records are the *raison d'être* of the archival institution; without them, the institution could not come into being. The library, on the other hand, is an appendage, a facilitating arm which might not have been there without affecting the archives *per se*.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY

The need for selection raises our first problem, as in all libraries: what to keep? After thoughtful consideration,

the general principle has been laid down that we should bring together in our library all source materials, other than archives, of Indian history, beginning from the year 1600. Neither the principle nor the date has been laid down arbitrarily. It has been recognized that archives are one of the principal tools of historical research, and we regard the National Archives of India as much an institution for historical research as for rendering reference service to the government's administrative agencies. In the National Archives of India, there is a steady stream of scholars, fortunately not too many at a time so as to become unmanageable, who sit in the research room at tables allocated to them, doing research among the records in our custody. We feel that the work of these scholars would be greatly facilitated if they could have ready at hand all the published works and manuscript sources, or as much of them as possible, which they might want to consult in addition to the records. This fact has inspired the principle mentioned above. The date 1600 has been fixed because only students of the British period of Indian history count among our non-official clientèle, the records in our custody being only those of the East India Company and the British Indian Government which succeeded it. The Company received its charter on December 31, 1600, and this determines the cut-off date for us. However, this principle is not too rigidly followed and generally speaking we make an attempt to collect all published material on Indian history, the emphasis being on the history of the 17th and subsequent centuries.

Now, what do the published materials constitute? There are books including published records, tracts, pamphlets. Then there are the reports of the legislature, executive agencies and independent organizations. Finally there are historical journals, newspapers and articles of historical interest published in a

variety of journals. It is obviously our intention to make the fullest possible collection of books, tracts and pamphlets, and of all possible reports and historical journals. Indeed, for the last few years this work of collection has been going on. There are many volumes in the above-mentioned categories which now count among "rare books," although, perhaps only a single copy is known to be in existence, we are assiduously collecting information about them and when it is not possible to buy the volume, either because the present owner will not sell or because the price asked is beyond our resources, we try to secure a copy either photographic or even typewritten. Current publications, either of books or of journals, do not present any major difficulty provided, of course, sufficient money is forthcoming. I am glad to report that money for the purchase of books and journals is being made available to the National Archives of India in larger amounts down the years. Some journals are received in exchange for our own quarterly publication, *The Indian Archives*, as are also the technical publications of a number of institutions all over the world. Copies of all Central Indian Government reports are regularly received in the National Archives of India Library and provincial and states governments, too, are obliging enough to send copies of those reports for which we ask. Reports of private organizations are also not difficult to obtain. Thus our library finds little difficulty in securing this particular item. Newspapers, however, are another matter and we have hardly made a start in this direction. The National Archives of India Library, however, hopes to develop this side of its collection and even though we may not have as a result anything resembling the collection at Colindale in London, I should be happy to see something comparable to the very creditable collection made at Hartford, Connecticut, by the archives department of

that State.

As to articles published in various journals, it is our intention to maintain a classified card index, so that even if a particular journal were not available from us, we would be able to supply the information to the searcher.

Since the principle described above was first enunciated, it has been realized more and more keenly that "source materials of Indian history" would contain much more than straight "history". For necessary reference purposes, many of the allied sciences of history should also be represented in our library and, as a consequence, materials on anthropology, archaeology, architecture, biography, numismatics, palaeography, sigillography, economics, geography, military science, archives administration, world history, history of other countries, etc., have either found their way or are gradually finding their way to our collection. As a matter of fact, if our monetary resources were not limited, I sometimes wonder where we would stop!

So much about the subjects covered in the National Archives of India Library and procurement of printed materials. We have also just started a manuscript section, not yet open for public consultation, mainly consisting of materials collected by several semi-official regional records survey committees and manuscript survey committees working all over the country. Besides these irregular accessions, the library also proposes to buy wherever possible the originals or secure copies of manuscripts relating to Indian history spread all over the world in different libraries or in private possession. We also hope to build up a union catalogue of manuscripts relating to Indian history wherever they may be located.

A section of the National Archives of India Library will naturally have to be a microfilm library since many of the copies, either of rare books or of manuscripts, will be on microfilm. We have

two microfilm readers which can be made available to research workers, and more will be acquired as the need for them grows.

The programme sketched above presents a number of problems—those of space, location, compilation of information and funds. We are aware that these

problems are stupendous ones and also of the fact that others have tried similar experiments and given up. But we believe that if we succeed in keeping our definitions within somewhat orthodox limits it may not be impossible to gain our objective.

THE LIBRARY OF THE ECONOMIC INFORMATION SERVICE

By G. M. VAN ANDEL

Economische Voorlichtingsdienst, The Hague, Netherlands

THE official organization of economic information in the Netherlands dates from 1907, when the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce instituted a small information service, together with a library and reading room, for the purpose of furnishing information to business men.

Commercial and industrial concerns subsequently urged the Government to extend and improve this information service. In 1936, a radical reorganization led to the establishment of the Economic Information Service, (*Economische Voorlichtingsdienst*), which is now a section of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. At the same time, the scope of the Library was extended to cover economics more generally.

In the period following the second World War, the importance of the Library has increased rapidly and its acquisition policy has been changed. Before 1945, attention had been directed mainly to theoretical economics. It was anticipated, however, that after the war, users of the Library would be more interested in the economic situation in foreign countries, market analysis problems, consumer markets and technical-economic literature. The necessary changes were made to adapt the Library to this expected shift in readers' interest.

Experience has demonstrated the

soundness of the new policy. Today our Library has the best collection of documentation on foreign countries in the Netherlands. Much literature on topical subjects, such as nationalization, planning, reconstruction, international commerce and finance, has also been added to the Library during the last few years.

The Library in its present, highly efficient form, is the realization of a project long advocated by the Director of the Economic Information Service.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY

The Library not only subscribes to about 1600 periodicals and newspapers, but also possesses about 800 commercial directories (foreign and domestic), numerous reference works, manufacturers' catalogs and statistical summaries, together with 45,000 books, pamphlets, etc., all relating to economic, social and commercial subjects. Its collection of publications has an international character and is kept up to date with the aid of the Netherlands diplomatic and consular service.

SUBJECT-INDEXING AND CLASSIFYING

The Library's success is determined by its ability in assisting readers to obtain accurate, satisfactory answers to their questions. It is important not only to serve these persons interested in existing conditions, but also to aid others attempting to forecast future developments. Consequently, the classification

of periodicals is so important that the Library classifies the economic information contained in newly received material as quickly as possible. Careful compilation, indexing and filing is deemed necessary to make sure that the documentation is always up to date and easily accessible to the public.

As noted above, the Library regularly receives about 1600 periodicals, 80 per cent of which come from foreign countries. It was not easy to solve the problem of classifying and indexing periodical material in such a way that visitors could find at any moment the latest information relating to their field of activity in conveniently arranged form.

Mere mention of the titles of important articles was hopelessly inadequate. It was decided to prepare a brief abstract of each article and employ an approved classification system (the Universal Decimal Classification) as the basis for indicating various subjects and aspects of the articles. The Universal Decimal Classification is so arranged that it can be used quite conveniently to indicate that a given article is concerned with several subjects. In other words, this approach permitted us to indicate in a predetermined orderly manner, the subjects of interest involved in each article for which we provide documentation. Physical realization of our documentation is accomplished with the aid of a recently developed photoprinting process as described below.

METHOD OF DOCUMENTING AND PUBLISHING ABSTRACTS

Our present working method might be summarized as follows:

A draft card or "master" is made of each article of importance to the Library. The master contains the following items: Author, title, date, number of pages, a short abstract and the code numbers corresponding with the subjects treated.

A "file mark", consisting of an abbreviation of three letters corresponding with the title of the periodical which is

followed by the number of the periodical, the date and the page, is placed on each card. On the back of the master an explanation of the abbreviation is given as well as an indication (by the use of letters or letter-groups) of how many copies of the master are to be made. The periodicals are filed on the shelves in the order of their abbreviation.

The items on the draft masters are typed onto transparent masters by a typewriter with space-saving type. Subject headings are omitted both from the draft masters and also from the transparent masters.

These transparent masters go to the Reproduction Service and are reproduced by the "Ondoprint system",¹ which might be characterized as a new, positive, photoprinting system² based on light-sensitive diazo compounds. For making our intermediate transparent prints and final paper copies of the documentation elements, this new reproduction method has proved to have outstanding advantages.

As already mentioned, the various subjects with which the original publication deals are indicated on the original master by code-numbers. The upper part of the master is, however, left blank. The next step consists of making use of these masters and their code numbers to prepare for filing individual cards (or "fiches") each bearing a single subject heading. To this end, so-called subject heading masters are prepared, each of which bears a single subject heading together with the corresponding code number. Aside from this heading, these subject heading masters are entirely blank. By superimposing a subject heading master on an original master, and allowing light to pass through them both onto photosensitive, trans-

¹ M. E. Schippers. "Federative Documentary Organization with the Aid of New Technical Means." *International Federation Documentation, XIV Conference 1918.*

² Our photoprinting system was manufactured by Chemische Fabriek L. van der Grinten, Venlo (Limburg), Netherlands.

parent paper, a copy of the original master with a suitable subject heading is obtained. The process is repeated using each of the different subject heading masters which the documentalist has found to be necessary to characterize the information in the original publication. In this way each original publication comes to be represented by a series of transparent "cards" each of which bears a different subject heading but all of which are otherwise identical with respect to abstract, identification of original publication, etc.

From the transparent "cards" so produced, diazo photoprinting (Retocee process) is used to prepare a plurality of copies on non-transparent paper. For convenience, these latter copies are folded to form "cards" (or "fiches") of standard 3" x 5" size. Production of "cards" is effected with the aid of automatic, continuous Retocee exposure and development equipment. One set of equipment can produce about 1000 folded fiches per hour, every index set of fiches being arranged in the correct order for filing.

This system of documentation and photoprinting saves money and at the same time makes it possible to invest these savings in improved information service.

USE OF DOCUMENTATION

Due to the use of these photoprinting methods, our documentation is available not only in our Library in the Hague, but is also made available on a subscription basis to anyone interested in it. This is a matter of considerable importance, due to the fact that each week approximately 500 items (periodicals, books, etc.) are documented. This results in the addition each week of about 1500 new titles to the catalog. Persons who wish to keep posted concerning new developments within a given field of interest can subscribe to any individual subject, or group of subjects, mentioned in a catalog issued by our Library. Such subscribers receive copies

of the paper prints. The original literature can be borrowed free of charge or a photocopy can be obtained at cost price. The price of a single card (or "fiche") is 12½ cents, (Dutch), or about 5 cents (U.S.A.) For subscribers who pay more than 25 guilders (Dutch), or approximately \$10 (U.S.A.), a month, the price is reduced to 9 cents (Dutch), or about 3.5 cents (U.S.A.) Subscribers to the complete classification pay 6 cents, (Dutch), or approximately 2.5 cents (U.S.A.) per fiche.

We, of course, maintain a cumulated file of fiches arranged by the subject headings of the Universal Decimal Classification system. This file is open to public use. Guide cards with projecting tabs simplify our filing operations and also serve as visual signals of the different subject headings.

As a supplement to these services, a bibliography of the most important newly received articles is published once each week in our daily paper, *Economische Voorlichting*. We also publish monthly a list of newly acquired books, directories, reports, reference books and statistical summaries. A comprehensive, cumulated catalog of books and periodicals will appear next year.

We also prepare to order lists of publications relating to any one of the subject headings used in analyzing publications received by the Library. Thus, for example, a bibliography of the literature concerning economic relations between the Netherlands and South America was compiled and published some years ago.

ACTIVITY OF THE LIBRARY

The scope of the activity of the Library is evident from the following data:

In 1946, the Library added 4,942 volumes to its collection of books, of which 400 were foreign business directories.

In 1946, there were 60,384 readers as compared to 20,728 in 1940. The Library is used by more people than any other special library in Holland, the

average number of readers of special libraries (including university libraries) being about 50,000.

The reading room was visited by 15,099 persons, some of whom came only to consult the reference department and information desk. However, a growing interest in the literature catalog indicates a significant trend.

The number of abstracts made from periodical articles totalled 18,564, which means an addition of about 65,000 new cards of the catalog. About 1500 book lists were compiled; 13,870 letters and

19,094 parcels were forwarded. A staff of forty-two members is necessary to do this work.

Within the limitations of available space it has been possible to give only a bare outline of the work and the importance of our Library. Librarians interested in our documentation, or wishing to subscribe to our documentation cards, are invited to address their inquiries to The Library, Economische Voorlichtingsdienst, Bezuidenhoutseweg 95, the Hague, Netherlands.

HOSPITAL LIBRARIES IN BELGIUM

By BARONESS HANKOR

President, Belgium Red Cross, Brussels

THE National Council of Hospital Libraries C.N.B.H. was formed by the Belgium Red Cross in 1936 for the purpose of providing library service for patients in hospitals and sanatoriums throughout the country. Since 1937, when the first hospital library was established at the Hôpital Universitaire Saint-Pierre in Brussels, forty-two such libraries have come into existence with the aid of subsidies granted by the Red Cross and the Ministry of Public Instruction.

The aggregate number of books contained in these forty-three libraries was 45,079 at the last inventory. In 1948, 296,027 books were loaned, 17 per cent of which were non-fiction. Fourteen of the forty-three libraries form a special section of sanatorium libraries.

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF THE C.N.B.H.

All hospital libraries are under the direction of the General Secretariat of the C.N.B.H. which is also responsible for the establishment and equipment of new libraries. The staff of the Secretariat is made up of professional librarians, all of whom are library school graduates.

All books are carefully selected for

their suitability for patients' use and are classified and cataloged according to the Dewey Decimal System, with the exception of novels. These, because of their great number, are arranged on the shelves alphabetically by authors. In addition to a mimeographed catalog for readers, each library maintains an accessions list and an inventory catalog on cards, a duplicate of which is housed at the General Secretariat to facilitate checking each library's holdings. The Council also receives monthly statistical reports of book loans from the various sections.

At least four books for each bed are provided when a hospital library is organized. This number is increased to ten for sanatorium libraries. In order to spare the hospital libraries the expense of purchasing books for which there is comparatively little demand, and at the same time to supply the needs of a select few, the C.N.B.H. has set up within its central secretariat a library consisting of novels of high caliber, scientific works and books dealing with art. This material is available to the hospital libraries on loan.

The sanatorium libraries function in

a somewhat different manner. In addition to the individual libraries in each institution, a large circulating library is maintained to send quantities of reading material regularly to the various institutions and to supply any particular requests of readers.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Two hundred trained volunteer workers regularly service the hospitals with book carts. Without this large volunteer personnel, it would not be possible in our country to provide library service for the sick. Experience has shown the necessity for special qualifications in these workers; they must possess, in addition to special literary and technical knowledge, emotional and intellectual maturity, qualities of tact, intelligence and discipline.

Each year the Red Cross conducts training classes for volunteer librarians and awards certificates of aptitude which qualify the workers for hospital service, much in the same manner that the Ministry of Public Instruction awards certificates for public library service. The training consists of two parts: a theoretical course of 30 hours dealing with library science (classification, cataloging, hospital library techniques, etc.), psychology of the sick, elements of French and foreign literature, history of printing and book selection. This theoretical instruction is augmented by a practical course consisting of work periods in various hospital libraries, visits to book binding shops, university libraries, nurseries, etc. For the most part, the professors assigned by the Red Cross to conduct these classes are the same as those who give courses for the Ministry of Public Instruction.

SELECTION OF BOOKS

The purpose of the C.N.B.H. libraries is to provide diversion for the patients, to develop a taste for reading and to broaden the individual cultural outlook. The selection of books, therefore, is of the greatest importance. While

book reviews offer some assistance in choosing books, they are not always completely dependable as the reading needs of the sick differ somewhat from those of well persons. Extreme care must be taken not to select books which deal too realistically with the various forms of illness, which are morbid or likely to undermine the patients' confidence in the doctors.

READING COMMITTEES

The C.N.B.H. requires all books to be read before being circulated in the hospitals and reading committees have been established for this purpose. Each book under consideration is read and discussed by two committee members always from the point of view of the hospital reader. A card is made for each book giving a critical resumé and indicating the type of reader for whom the book is suitable, i.e., those of average culture, the highly intellectual reader, children, adolescents or adults. The cards are marked with colored pencils to indicate the various categories of readers, thus making it possible for the worker not yet familiar with all the books she handles to make proper recommendations.

The complete documentation of the reading committees, totaling some 5000 critical resumé cards, is on file at the central secretariat where it is available for consultation by all C.N.B.H. workers.

A critical bibliography of novels recommended for the basic collections in hospital and sanatorium libraries is now available in the form of a booklet. A second catalog containing a selection of non-fiction is in preparation and will supplement the first one.

CONCLUSION

As the activities of the C.N.B.H. become more widely known and appreciated, the demand for extension of its services increases. Continued financial support, in the form of subsidies, is being given by the public authorities, while the public, in turn, responds generously to the appeal for books con-

ducted each year in the large residential sections. While much has been accomplished, a tremendous amount of work remains to be done. The field of mental institutions, for instance, has been un-

touched as yet. It is the hope of the C.N.B.H. that libraries for the sick will eventually be considered an indispensable service in each hospital throughout the country.

UNESCO-LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

THE Third Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which was held in Beirut in November 1948, renewed the resolution passed by the 1947 session in Mexico City authorizing a joint survey of bibliographic services with the Library of Congress "as a basis for the co-ordination of bibliographical activities." In 1948, the joint survey produced, as a preliminary case study, an inquiry into the bibliographical services available in the field of fundamental education. This has been published under the title, *Sources of Information for Fundamental Education with Special Reference to Education for Literacy*, and was prepared by Kathrine Oliver Murra of the Library of Congress staff.

In accordance with a recommendation which is contained in Mrs. Murra's report and which has been presented from other sources, the Libraries Division of UNESCO is planning an international bibliographic conference for 1950. The exact time, place and nature of the conference have yet to be determined. The Library of Congress has accepted the responsibility of preparing a working paper for "meetings and conferences to be held in 1950" which by formal agreement with UNESCO, signed April 15, 1949, will include, "as far as circumstances allow" the following:

- "(i) A factual statement on the present state of bibliographical services:
 - (a) according to types of services,
 - (b) according to subject fields.
- "(ii) Objective analysis of the facts recorded in (i), pointing out the significant problems.

"(iii) A review of current opinion as expressed by leading authorities or which reflect national or regional experience in so far as it will throw light on the possibility of gaining support for particular development plans.

"(iv) Action directives based on interpretation of the state of current opinion and the analysis of the factual situation.

"(v) The formulation of specific proposals for action."

The agreement further states "That special attention shall be paid to regional needs for improved bibliographical services and to the improvement of bibliographical services in those subject areas in which adequate services are lacking at present."

It is the opinion of Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, that the first step in providing adequate world-wide bibliographical services is to determine the philosophical and pragmatic basis for world-wide bibliographical control. He does not advocate disregarding a century of scholarly thinking and investigation of bibliographical problems. He does believe, however, that every aspect of bibliographical work must be re-examined and re-assessed, that the most careful investigation of bibliographical needs must be made, and that the needs and the available controls must be rationalized. This may require new mechanisms and new approaches. It most certainly requires expert long-range planning.

To carry out this approach to the UNESCO assignment, Dr. Evans is conducting a series of weekly panel dis-

cussions on the function, and purposes of, and the needs for bibliographical controls. It is hoped that through these group meetings and with a substantial body of research which is being carried on at the same time, the framework for improvement of bibliographical services can be built which will promote planned development. The working paper for the 1950 conference will incorporate the thinking and research of the group and of such other persons and groups as may be called upon from time to time

in this country and abroad. Preliminary chapters will probably be circulated for criticism sometime next fall. The group is presently composed of Dr. Evans; Ralph Shaw, Librarian of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Verner Clapp, Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress; Frederick Wagman, Director of Processing, Library of Congress; and Dan Lacy, Assistant Director for Acquisitions, Processing Department, Library of Congress. Mrs. Kathrine Murra is executive secretary for the group.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

FOURTEEN associations were represented at the meeting of the Council of National Library Associations held on April 29, 1949, at the Association of the Bar, 42 West 44 Street, New York, under the chairmanship of Miss Betty Joy Cole, of the Special Libraries Association.

Mr. Kenneth R. Shaffer, representing the Council's Program Planning Committee, gave a report on the Princeton Conference on Library Education, December 11 and 12, 1948. Sponsored by the CNLA and financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, this Conference dealt with certain specific topics in a larger frame of reference than other similar discussions had used: organized interest in library education, specialistic training, accreditation, classification and certification, placement and recruitment. Preliminary factual summaries of the current situation respecting each of the topics were placed in the hands of the conferees somewhat in advance of the Conference, intended to bring together sufficient information to provide a common fund of current opinion and historical fact as a starting point for the Conference discussion.

The thirty-six conferees were selected by the co-chairmen of the Confer-

ence, Mr. Robert B. Downs and Mr. Kenneth R. Shaffer. While these individuals did not officially represent any organizations, they were sufficiently representative of the various facets of library activity to furnish a good cross section of the interests concerned in the education of librarians. All of them held responsible library positions and could be expected to disseminate in their various circles the ideas introduced and the attitudes developed in the Conference.

The nine recommendations adopted by the Conference were aimed at centralizing in the A.L.A.'s Board of Education for Librarianship the official accreditation for all library educational institutions and securing adequate financial support for it; at surveying the present situation in the field of library education and at investigating the most desirable curricula, special as well as general; at providing an agency for the placement of librarians; and at providing for the continued study of library education by establishing a joint committee on education for librarianship. The full report of the Conference may be had for \$2.00 from Mr. Shaffer at the Simmons College School of Library Science, Boston. The Council was in full

sympathy with the Conference's findings and passed the following resolution:

That it was the sense of this meeting that the Council of National Library Associations and its member associations support with appropriate action the need of the Board of Education for Librarianship for adequate financial backing when and as appropriate action is recommended in this respect by the Joint Committee on Library Education.

A Joint Committee on Education for Librarianship was in the process of being formed by the Council.

Mr. Milton E. Lord, representing the American Library Association, discussed the coming International Library Congress of 1950, the first such congress to be held since the one at Madrid in 1935. One of the difficulties to be overcome was finding the means for bringing foreign delegates to this country under the present awkward financial conditions, and particularly to assure good representation of the younger librarians. Various channels were suggested and it was the consensus of opinion that all should be tried, if it was hoped to secure enough delegates from abroad to justify an international gathering. Sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations, the Congress was intended to cover topics of international concern. UNESCO was helping to further the Congress, and it was hoped that perhaps the International Federation of Documentation might hold its meeting in this country either just before or just after the Congress, so that members might be able to attend the sessions of both organizations.

A report on matters of interest to librarians was given by Miss Rose Vormelker (Special Libraries Association) who had represented the Council at the Second National Conference of the United States National Commission for UNESCO.

Much discussion and interest was aroused by the report of the Council's Program Planning Committee read by

Mr. Edward N. Waters (Music Library Association) for its Chairman, Mr. Jack Dalton. At the request of the Council's Chairman, the Committee had been studying two possibilities for forming a strong federation of national library associations: first, the desirability of strengthening the CNLA, and second, the formation of a wholly new federation if that were deemed a better alternative. Two schemes bearing on federation had already been laid before the members of the library profession: that contained in the report of the A.L.A.'s Fourth Activities Committee (Ralph R. Shaw, Chairman), and that embodied in Milton E. Lord's proposal to convert A.L.A. into a federation of library associations. The Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Program Planning Committee:

1. That each member of the CNLA appoint a committee to give careful study to the possibility and desirability of strengthening the CNLA; that these committees specially consider the need of a federation of library associations in the United States and what its nature should be; that this consideration be given in view of the adoption of Part II of the ALA Fourth Activities Committee report and in view of its rejection; that consideration be given to the CNLA as the desired federation of library associations, and to the possibility of starting a federation afresh; that in considering a federation, special thought be given to its functions, structure, finances, eligibility to membership, incorporation, fields of operation, methods of committee appointments, and common and exclusive interests of library associations.

2. That the chairmen of these various committees constitute a Joint Committee of the CNLA which would be charged to render a comprehensive report direct to the CNLA itself, perhaps at the next Mid-winter meeting.

This recommendation had already been put into effect and the Joint Committee is in process of organization.

The lack of knowledge among the library profession of what the CNLA is and does was deplored and means to make it more widely known were urged. Inquiries concerning its organization and activities would be welcomed.

Officers elected for 1949-1950 are:

Chairman: Mr. Wyllis E. Wright

(College and Reference Library Association), Williams College Library, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Vice Chairman: Miss Laura C. Colvin

(ALA Catalog Division), Simmons College School of Library Science, Boston, Massachusetts.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Janet Doe
(Medical Library Association), New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd St., New York City 29, New York.

WILLIAM P. BOLLMAN, III

Secretary-Treasurer

(American Merchant Marine Library Assn., 45 Broadway, New York 6, New York)

RUTH H. HOOKER

Our New President

TO members of the Washington, D. C. Chapter, Ruth H. Hooker, our new SLA President, is a quadruplet rolled into one being. She is a devoted wife, an affectionate and understanding mother, an active and interested SLA-er, and a successful government career woman.

Probably no remark ever made by her regarding her personal and career life explains "Our Ruth" better than her response when she was asked if she would be interested in the formation of a Washington, D. C. Chapter of SLA. Her reply was "Just let me have my baby first and I'll be with you." Margaret was born December 3, 1939, and when the D. C. Chapter was organized in October 1940, Ruth Hooker became the Chapter's first treasurer—an office she held for two years. She was Membership Chairman of the Chapter, 1942-1943, and the Chapter's president for three years, 1945-1948. During this period the Chapter grew in status and its activities were directed towards coordination with those of SLA. It was a fitting climax for Ruth Hooker to be the out-going president of the Washington, D. C. Chapter and hostess for the 1948 Special Libraries Association Annual Convention.

Since the organization of the Washington, D. C. Chapter, Ruth Hooker has attended practically all annual conventions of SLA and most of the Advisory

Council meetings. With each year her interest in the Association became more and more active, culminating in the office of national president. In the interim her activities have included: *Chairman*, Committee for Classification and Indexing of the APC patents in Cooperation with the American Chemical Society; Represented President of SLA at the Washington meeting of the Council of National Library Associations, November 22, 1946; Represented President of SLA at the Conference on International Educational Reconstruction in November 1946; *Chairman*, Committee on Translations, Science-Technology Group, 1947; Member of Committee on Committees; *Second Vice-President*, 1947-48; and *First Vice-President*, 1948-49. Mrs. Hooker has been a member of SLA since 1930.

Ruth Hooker brings to the office of President a transcontinental viewpoint. She was born in the Middle-West; attended Kansas University, 1921-23; University of California, 1924-25; B.A. George Washington University, 1927; Berlitz School of Languages, (German and French), Washington, D. C., 1928-30; Library Science, George Washington University, 1927-29. At the latter institution the beloved Dr. Schmidt, dean of Library Science, had a receptive student and Ruth imbibed freely of his practical teachings.

Our new president is a subject spe-

cialist, a physicist: Instructor in Physics, Hood College, 1927; Physicist, searching technical literature, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., 1927-28; Librarian, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C. 1928-. In 1928 the staff of the library numbered but two; at present it consists of twenty-three and the librarian's activities are largely administrative.

Besides Special Libraries Association, Ruth Hooker has memberships in many other organizations: American Library Association, District of Columbia Library Association, Order of Eastern Star, American Association for Advancement of Science, American Society for Testing Materials, American Foundrymen's Association and Electro Chem-

ical Society.

For the past three or more years she has been an abstractor for the American Ceramics Society and enjoys much pleasure therefrom, about as much fun as being Chairman of the Committee for Classification and Indexing of the Alien Property Custodian Patents in cooperation with the American Chemical Society.

Ruth Hooker's main hobby is entertaining her husband's and children's friends. Bill, age 14, is a potential chemist; Margaret, age 9, is an aspirant ballet dancer. Special Libraries Association is indeed fortunate in having this versatile, qualified, beloved woman as its president.

C. M. S.

SLA CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

It is a challenge, indeed, to serve out Mrs. Owens' unexpired term of Chapter Liaison Officer and Chairman of the Chapter Relations Committee, from which her new duties as First Vice-President and President-Elect made it necessary for her to resign. Essentially, this office and committee were established to provide an adequate contact between the Association, the Executive Board and the Chapters. As such their function is to funnel information to the Chapters and members and, counter-currently, to keep the Executive Board informed of the activities, needs and problems of the Chapters, according to the directives set up in Sections D and E of the *Chapter Manual—A Guide for the Use of Chapters*, edited by Ruth S. Leonard. The Chapter Liaison Officer and the Chapter Relations Committee solicit the cooperation of the membership of the Special Libraries Association to accomplish their work this year.

LOS ANGELES CONVENTION

The 1949 Los Angeles Convention is in the past but it will take a heap of talking and doing and working to effectively interpret, evaluate and translate into action all of the extremely fine thought that was put into it. This is true not only of the excellent General and Group meetings but also in regard to matters of Association business. The Annual Business Meeting, held Friday, June 17, was presided over by Miss Rose Vormelker and although the minutes of the meeting will be distributed later, it will be of interest to all

SLA members to know that action was taken to drop delinquent members after two months. At the present time memberships are retained for six months. As of May 1949 there were 900 unpaid memberships and it is obvious that in extending privileges to these defaulting members an expense is thereby incurred by the Association.

Action was also taken that the employment policies of the Association be studied. It was brought out at the meeting that at the present time the New York and the New Jersey Chapters do not have Employment Committees.

One of the major problems facing the Association is the redesigning of the Constitution and By-Laws. Considering that the membership has reached the 5000 mark and that the Association's activities have increased manifold, it is evident that its operating policies must undergo revision to meet present day needs. Although the constitutional revisions can not be voted on before the Atlantic City Convention in June 1950, the Board has recognized the fact that the proposed changes must be studied thoroughly and that they must be approved by an informed membership. To accomplish this, copies of the proposed changes have been made available and were distributed at the Business Meeting. A series of articles on the revisions is being prepared by Miss Ruth Savord and these will appear in future issues of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. Chapters and individuals are urged to study them.

Incidentally, a San Francisco delegation rec-

ommended that the constitutional changes be made by a mail vote. According to the present Constitution, constitutional changes are voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting. "Sixty voting members in good standing constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the Association." (*Article VI—Meetings*) In recent years, average attendance at conventions has been roughly between ten and twenty percent and not everyone, alas, attends the Business Meeting! Does this, or does it not, express the point of view of the membership?

Unfortunately, the meeting scheduled for the Chapter presidents and Bulletin editors was cut short for want of a suitable place to retire for discussion after the luncheon with the Science-Technology Group at the Athenaeum, California Institute of Technology. However, we stopped for a few moments on the steps in the cool of the vine-covered building to exchange names while waiting to go back to the Biltmore. Here we way-layed our Presiding Officer, Miss Rose Vormelker, who was wearing a lei of ginger blossoms flown to her the day before from SLA members in Honolulu. After giving us all a "sniff", President Vormelker, never one to waste an opportunity, stressed the need of keeping Chapter records current and in order. She asked especially that Chapter officers notify Headquarters when members changed their positions, or better, their names. Keeping membership records up to date is a task which takes continuous watchfulness as well as repeated appeals to the membership for cooperation. The biggest factor, probably, is setting up a routine procedure to handle the situation. Reducing operations to the order of routine is a virtue which frees a maximum of time for creative work. A similar meeting of Chapter presidents and Bulletin editors will be scheduled during the fall Advisory Council meeting so all those concerned should start planning now on a trip to New York early in November.

An open meeting on Group and Chapter

relations was held on Tuesday evening, June 14, with Mrs. Elizabeth Owens presiding. Four papers were presented on projects and publications that were considered to be of such importance that plans are being completed to reproduce them for distribution to Chapter presidents and Group chairmen. The papers are: "Group and Chapter Projects in Relation to Publications" by Mildred Benton, U.S.D.A.; "Publications Sponsored by the Association", by Lura Shorb, Hercules Powder Co.; "Mechanics and Procedures of Group and Chapter Publication Projects", by Marion E. Wells, First National Bank, Chicago; "Royalties for SLA Publications", by M. J. Voigt, Librarian, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

Conventioners were kept posted on who-was-who and what-was-what by means of a Convention news-sheet. Three issues came off the press and made delightful, as well as informative, reading. (There are some copies available from the C.L.O.; if you want to see what went on at the Convention, write for a copy.) For example, No. 3, June 17, listed the registration as 475; Chapterwise, there were: Boston—5; Cincinnati—10; Cleveland—9; Connecticut—7; Illinois—27; Indiana—3; Kansas City—5; Louisiana—16; Michigan—14; Milwaukee—3; Minnesota—8; Montreal—2; New Jersey—7; Greater New York—46; Western New York—2; Philadelphia—17; Pittsburgh—10; Puget Sound—11; St. Louis—7; San Francisco Bay Region—44; Southern California—172; Toronto—2; Washington, D. C.—30.

A NEW CHAPTER IS ADDED

And best of all there are now twenty-five SLA Chapters, the last of which received recognition during the Convention. It is the TEXAS CHAPTER—where everything is done bigger and better! Congratulations and best wishes to our new Chapter.

MARGARET P. HILLIGAN

*Chapter Liaison Officer and Chairman,
Chapter Relations Committee.*

SLA GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Under the competent leadership of Miss Rose Vormelker and the capable management of the Convention Chairman, Dr. Hazel Pulling, and her corps, the Fortieth Annual Convention of the Association, attended by almost 500, came to a successful conclusion. Although the attendance was smaller than usual, it enabled everyone to become better acquainted.

Over 60 Group meetings or visits were scheduled throughout the week aided by the customary delightful California weather. Group registration at the convention was as follows:

Advertising—19; Biological Sciences—28; Business—29; Financial—32; Geography and Map—16; Hospital and Nursing—25; Insurance—16; Museum—25; Newspaper—17; Publishing—1; Science and Technology—194; Social Science—67; Transportation—10; University and College—49.

One of the most outstanding Group meetings was the Workshop Clinic arranged by the Business, Financial, and Insurance Groups. Careful planning was shown in this meeting with the result that everyone present gained

knowledge of new timesaver ideas. A similar clinic at Atlantic City next year would be a fine adjunct to the Convention program.

The Group and Chapter Relations meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, was so well attended that there were more people than chairs! The papers presented by the speakers, Miss Mildred Benton, Miss Lura Shorb, Miss Marion Wells and Mr. Melvin Voigt, were so excellent that they will be reproduced in quantity and mailed to all Chapter presidents and Group chairmen.

One item of interest was voted upon at the business meeting Friday morning. It is an amendment to *By-Law VIII, Section 5*, which in effect reads: **DUES IN ARREARS:** Members whose dues are unpaid on March 1 of each year and who shall continue such delinquency for one month after notice of the same has been sent, shall be dropped from membership.

Action was postponed regarding the "fiscal year" controversy.

"Blueprints in Action", the theme of this Convention, provides initiative for all Groups during the coming year. As a beginning, do you know that by paying an additional 50¢ to Headquarters you may belong to any Group with which you are not already affiliated? Even if you cannot be active in more than one Group, this 50¢ often will provide you with information of new publications vital to your company.

Miss Anne Nicholson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Science-Tech-

nology Group, wishes suggestions, as soon as possible, from the Group members for next year's officers. The two positions to be filled are Vice-Chairman (2 names) and Secretary-Treasurer.

At the Convention, the Publishing Group had an unusually attractive exhibit arranged by Dora Richman, Consumers Union, comprising a collection of some 200 different items including nationally known periodicals put out by leading U. S. publishers: McGraw-Hill; Curtis; McCall's; Time; Life; Fortune; Newsweek; N. Y. Times Index; and H. W. Wilson publications. The Group reports a total of 150 members with 85 per cent concentrated in the New York area.

The University and College Group with no national officer present at the Convention voted to disband as a national Group. However, according to the Constitution, *By-Law V, Section 3*, states: **DISCONTINUANCE:** The Executive Board may, in its discretion, recommend the discontinuance of a Group, when, in its opinion, the usefulness of that Group has ceased. The Board shall submit such recommendation at the next annual meeting of the Association, and if the recommendation shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting, such Group shall thereupon be dissolved.

SARA M. PRICE

Group Liaison Officer and Chairman,
Group Relations Committee.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

February 1 — June 30, 1949

Banco Central de Reserva del Peru
Mrs. Rebeca de Meneses
P.O.B. 1958
Lima, Peru

Banco Central de Venezuela
Mr. J. J. Gonzalez-Garrondona
Caracas, Venezuela

Barrow, Wade, Guthrie & Company
Mrs. Jessie Kerr Rever, Librarian (formerly
Active)
120 Broadway
New York 5, New York

Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp & Paper Mills,
Ltd.
Mr. F. P. Taaffe
Technical Service Department
Corner Brook, Newfoundland

Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation
Miss Therese M. Igce, Librarian
South Works
3426 East 89th Street
Chicago 17, Illinois

Colonial Radio Corporation
Mr. John F. Myers, Office Manager
Engineering Division
1280 Main Street
Buffalo 9, New York

Institute for the Crippled and Disabled
Miss Johanna L. Olschewsky, Librarian (for-
merly Active)
400 First Avenue
New York 10, New York

Johnson Publishing Company
Mrs. Doris Evans Smith, Librarian
1820 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago 16, Illinois

Los Angeles College of Optometry
Mrs. Grace Weiner, Librarian (formerly As-
sociate)
950 West Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles 7, California

McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Inc.
Miss Rose Boots, Librarian (also Active)
330 West 42nd Street
New York 18, New York

Magazine Advertising Bureau, Inc.
Miss Katheryn Powers, Librarian
Research Department
271 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

Meharry Medical College
Miss Nareda W. Holloway, Curator
Preventive Medicine Department
Health and Medical Care Collection
Nashville 8, Tennessee

Mr. Nathan Minkoff
19161 Stansbury Avenue
Detroit 21, Michigan

Minnesota State Library
Mrs. Josephine W. Smith, Librarian (formerly
Active)
322 Capitol Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

National Coal Board
Library, Hobart House
Grosvenor Place
London, S.W. 1
England

The New York Psychoanalytic Institute
The Abraham A. Brill Library
Miss Ise Bry, Librarian (formerly Associate)
245 East 82nd Street
New York 28, New York

Nova Scotia Research Foundation Library
Miss Evelyn M. Campbell, Librarian
Box 752
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

Oliver Iron and Steel Corporation
Mrs. Lucille F. Crofford, Librarian
South Tenth and Muriel Streets
Pittsburgh 3, Pennsylvania

Palladium Publishing Corporation
Miss Helen L. Fox, Librarian
Reference Department
15-19 North 9th Street
Richmond, Indiana

Prudential Insurance Company of America
Western Home Office, Management Library
Miss Sherry Taylor, Librarian (also Active)
Prudential Square
Los Angeles 54, California

Rand School of Social Science
Mr. Thomas L. Berger, Librarian
Meyer London Memorial Library
7 East 15th Street
New York 3, New York

Suffolk University Library
Dr. Edward G. Hartmann, Director
20 Derne Street
Boston 14, Massachusetts

Technical Documentation & Information Cen-
ter for the Netherlands
U. S. Liaison Office
Mr. Henry Polak
525 Rolling Road
Chevy Chase 15, Maryland

Tennessee Gas Transmission Company
Miss Clare Lansden, Librarian
Box 2511
Houston 1, Texas

United States Steel Corporation
Mrs. Noreen T. O'Donnell, Librarian
Research Laboratory
Lincoln Highway
Kearny, New Jersey

U. S. Veterans Administration
Mr. Foster E. Mohrhardt, Director (also Ac-
tive)
Special Services Department
Munitions Building
Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. Veterans Administration
Miss Florence Fitzgerald, Acting Chief
Chicago Regional Library 201-a
366 West Adams Street
Chicago 6, Illinois

University of California
Mrs. Helen C. Brenner, Librarian (formerly
Active)
Radiation Laboratory
Building 8, Room 3
Berkeley 4, California

University of Oslo
Mr. Knut Thalberg, Faculty Librarian

Mathematics and Science Department
Blindern pr Oslo
Norway

EVENTS and PUBLICATIONS¹

AMERICAN AGENCIES INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, compiled by Ruth Savord and published by the Council on Foreign Relations, contains pertinent data for organizations engaged in research, for action groups and for some groups working in fields which are not strictly international but which have a direct or indirect bearing on the subject. This is the third edition of this work. The second edition, issued in 1942, included many war-born organizations and indicated how the war affected the programs and policies of those well-established organizations which had been working in the field for many years. Many organizations have been dissolved and programs and policies have again been altered to meet present-day conditions. Hence the need for this new edition to provide up-to-date information. (New York, N. Y., Council on Foreign Relations, 58 East 68th Street, 1948. 174pp.)

Those interested in interlibrary loans will welcome the news of the publication of the *Union List of Medical and Biological Periodicals in Southern California Libraries*, soon to be issued by the Biological Sciences Group of SLA. The *List* will include approximately 1200 entries representing 15 libraries. Orders should be directed to Eleanor F. Hamilton, Medical Library, Los Angeles County Hospital, 1200 North State Street, Los Angeles 33, California. The cost, not yet definitely determined, will be between \$3 and \$5.

The M.I.T. LIBRARY ANNUAL is an experiment, an attempt to provide more generous coverage of activities and projects going forward in the Institute Libraries and a supplement to the necessarily brief summary with statistics that each year appears in the President's Report. As distinguished from an annual report, the ANNUAL will provide a medium for the presentation of factual information about Institute Libraries and collections not limited to the span of a single year, for the discussion of current problems and projects and for the circulation of views, opinions and comments. Library statistics and factual data

have been subordinated in favor of articles by library personnel and studies affecting library interests by the Institute staff and others. The ANNUAL is edited by Vernon Tate, Director of Libraries at M.I.T., and Margaret P. Hazen.

The revised edition of the list of Classification Schemes and Subject Headings Lists available on loan to members from Special Libraries Association Headquarters is just off the press. Four hundred and eighty-six schemes are listed under 225 different headings from Accounting to Zoology. Although the April 1949 list is 40 pages (6 pages longer than that issued previously), the price is the same: \$1.25. Send all orders to Special Libraries Association, 31 E. Tenth Street, New York 3, New York.

Special librarians will be interested in the very excellent article by Donald T. Clark which appears in the Spring 1949 issue of NOTES, offprinted from the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, pages 301-304. "Lighting a Monumental Reading Room" describes the complete relighting of the Main Reading Room of the Baker Library at Harvard's Graduate School of Business Administration in the summer of 1948. Mr. Clark, who is Associate Librarian of the Baker Library, is a former Director of SLA. (This material is available on loan from SLA Headquarters).

The appearance of the fifth edition of SUBJECT HEADINGS USED IN THE DICTIONARY CATALOGS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, just released by the Library of Congress, will be welcomed by thousands of librarians and indexers, for whom it is a basic work of reference. It includes over 150,000 entries on all the broad subjects and specific topics on which the Library of Congress has books. Because it is comprehensive in scope and contains so large a number of carefully selected headings, catalogers and indexers will use it both in adapting entries to be used in their own catalogs, and in selecting appropriate references to and from related subjects. (U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 1948. 1,204p, \$6.50)

¹Where it is possible the Editor has given prices for publication noted in this section. The omission of a price does not necessarily indicate that the publication is free.

The Boston Chapter of the Special Libraries Association has just published the Fifth Edition of the *Directory of Special Libraries in*

Boston, Vicinity and Member Libraries in New England. Previous editions of this directory have been arranged alphabetically by libraries. It was thought, however, that a classified arrangement would be of considerable advantage in this directory of more than two hundred libraries. Since broad headings were selected, a subject index indicating certain aspects of particular libraries has been added to facilitate the use of the directory. The *Directory* may be ordered from Francis W. Allen, Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass., at \$1.00 per copy.

* * *

"Prevention of Deterioration Abstracts". 2000 pages to be published per year, loose leaf style. Two binders and index guides will be furnished. Abstracts of journal articles, patents, and unpublished reports on all phases of deterioration from university, government, and industrial research groups, domestic and foreign, will be used. Yearly subscription prior to July 1, 1949, was \$37.50; after that date, \$50. The National Research Council, Prevention of Deterioration Center, Room 204, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. (*Electrical Engineering*, May 1949, p. 479.)

* * *

The latter part of 1948 the Editor received a copy of a very interesting pamphlet entitled *THE OLD STONE MILL* written by none other than Herbert Olin Brigham, a former editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. Mr. Brigham, who needs no introduction to many of us, has been librarian of the Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island, since October 2, 1938. It is in his capacity of historical librarian that he has written this charming little booklet concerning the history of "the most enigmatic and puzzling building in the United States of America," tracing its history from the early seventeenth century to the present day.

* * *

Both Microcard and Microfilm editions of *Newsweek Magazine* will be available to subscribers after June 1, 1949. This marks the first time in magazine publishing history that a national news magazine will be presented in these forms to provide a permanent, compact and authoritative history of our times for libraries, foundations, individuals and organizations. The Micro editions will include all editorial matter and advertising appearing in the regular edition.

The Microcard edition will be distributed weekly, simultaneously with the regular stand and mail editions and will reach subscribers at approximately the same time as their regular full-size copies. The edition will be printed on 3 by 5-inch index cards with symbols for filing. The Microcards will be produced through cooperation with the Micro-

card Foundation.

The Microfilm edition will be distributed semi-annually in 100-foot rolls. Each roll will contain 26 issues, plus an index. It will be available in September and March each year.

The cost of each type of Micro edition will be the same as the present cost of *Newsweek* bound volumes — \$15 per copy.

* * *

ACETYLENE CHEMISTRY (PB Report 18852-s) is the complete text translation into English of the original report as written by Dr. Julius Walter Heppe, Chief of the Research Laboratories of I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G. Heretofore, various important and pertinent parts of the text were omitted. This was due to the omission of parts of the translation as made by the original translator, thus requiring additional translation, revision and complete editing. This work is of vital importance to all chemical scientists and industries and has been recommended as a textbook for chemistry departments of colleges, universities and technical schools. In addition to the table of contents, this publication contains a complete index. (New York 17, N. Y., Charles A. Meyer, Inc., 1949. 200pp. \$10)

* * *

MAPS, THEIR CARE, REPAIR AND PRESERVATION IN LIBRARIES is the title of a new publication of the Library of Congress recently issued by its Division of Maps. The manual, prepared by Mrs. Clara Egli LeGear, discusses basic techniques for unwrapping, unrolling, filing and handling maps, and the care and treatment of old atlases, maps, globes and relief models. It includes a detailed section on "Mounting and Reconditioning Maps," and another on "Map Filing Equipment."

Mrs. LeGear's manual, the most complete study prepared to date on the technical problems facing map custodians, will meet a long-felt need for such a guide. It comprises 46 pages in multilith reproduction and is for sale by the Card Division, the Library of Congress, at 30 cents per copy.

* * *

AN INTERIM CHECKLIST OF HOLDINGS OF 168 GERMAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL PERIODICALS, 1939-1948, IN 38 LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA has been compiled by the Committee on Periodicals and Serial Publications of the Medical Library Association. Orders, accompanied by a remittance of \$1.00, should be sent to Mrs. Edith Denehl, Marquette University Medical Library, 561 North 15th St., Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.

* * *

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS for the fiscal year 1948 tells of the continued growth in the Library's Collection and of the many new demands for service being

made upon its staff and facilities. The Library's Collection grew by some 1,313,413 pieces during the year; the total contents to an estimated 24,400,061 items on June 30, 1948. (Washington, D. C., U. S. Government Printing Office, 1949. 199p.)

* * *

The July 1949 issue of the *Bulletin* of the Medical Library Association contains many interesting articles, among which are a "Bibliography by Cooperation" by Luther A. Evans; "Education for Medical Librarianship" by Estelle Brodman; "Position of the Library as a Teaching Unit in Dental Education" by G. H. Denton; "Role of the Medical Library in a Teaching Medical Service", by C. D. Gibson; and "What the Public Wants in a Medical Book", by L. C. Wallis.

* * *

BRITISH SOURCES OF REFERENCE AND INFORMATION; a GUIDE TO SOCIETIES, WORKS OF REFERENCE, AND LIBRARIES was compiled under the Direction of a Committee of Aslib and edited by Theodore Besterman.

This manual, divided into eight sections or parts, is largely a survey of the British library system as a whole, showing its functioning through the National Central Library and its regional libraries. It is also a guide to British librarians in the holdings of their libraries. Under each library is given the number of volumes, number of periodicals received, and special collections held. Subject analyses of the latter are given in the index.

This is an excellent guide to the "incomparable wealth of books in British libraries" and is deserving of high commendation. (London, Aslib, 1947. 56pp. 4p.l.)

* * *

Zaidee Brown's *THE LIBRARY KEY: AN AID IN USING BOOKS AND LIBRARIES* has been a standby for students, teachers and other users of reference materials since it was first published in 1928. It has been extensively revised in the seventh edition, just published by the H. W. Wilson Company, and its invaluable 37-page appendix, *Short Cuts to Information*, has been brought up to date. The book is intended for senior high school and college students, for teachers and for adult readers in general who wish to become familiar with reference books and library tools. (New York, N. Y., H. W. Wilson Co., 1949. 149pp. 70¢)

* * *

A revised edition of the *LIBRARY MANUAL; A STUDY-WORK MANUAL OF LESSONS ON THE USE OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES* by Marie A. Toser is now available. This manual, which first appeared in 1934, has had previous revisions in 1939 and 1944. (New York, N. Y., H. W. Wilson Co., 1949. 70¢)

BUSINESS IDEAS HANDBOOK, by the editorial staff of Prentice Hall, assembles 985 ideas on office management, accounting, advertising, sales management, credits, collections and purchasing. (New York, N. Y., Prentice Hall. Trade edition, \$7.50; text edition, \$5.65)

* * *

THE AUTHOR'S AND WRITER'S WHO'S WHO AND REFERENCE GUIDE, 1948, is the first post-war edition of this work. In addition to some 15,000 biographies of authors, editors and publishers, the volume contains directories of literary markets, authors' and artists' agents, services for the author, legal information, etc. Edited by L. G. Pina. (London, E.C. 4, Shaw Publishing Company, 180 Fleet Street, \$8)

* * *

SOCIAL WORK AS HUMAN RELATIONS, anniversary papers of the New York School of Social Work and the Community Service Society of New York. Divided into three categories of "Theory," "Training," and "Prospects," the papers in this second anniversary volume draw the broad outlines of ways and means of helping people in today's world. Consideration is given to the development of government responsibility, the unique place of voluntary welfare agencies in American culture, international horizons for health and welfare, and the scientific spirit in pursuit of human welfare. The section on training presents solid material in curricula, teaching, field work, psychiatry, the role of the humanities and the professional schools, and several chapters on general aspects of preparing for social welfare work. (New York 27, N. Y., Columbia University Press, 1949. 288pp. \$3.75)

* * *

INTRODUCTION TO REFERENCE BOOKS, by A. D. Roberts, United Nations Library, is based on lectures given by its author during the 1945-46 and 1946-47 sessions of the School of Librarianship at University College, London, (London, W.C. 1, England Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place.)

* * *

"Domestic and Foreign Periodicals in the Field of Petroleum Chemistry": a statistical analysis, by Prof. F. S. Boig and Kenneth A. Loftman, appears in the *Oil and Gas Journal* for April 21, 1949. pp. 199-201; 207-208. This paper is one of a series of research investigations dealing with the frequency and source of publication of technical articles. A similar study on paints and varnish was published by the *Official Digest, Federation of Paint and Varnish Production Clubs*; an article in the field of analytical chemistry appears in the March issue of *Chemist-Analyst*; and one on dyes and textiles chemistry will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Textile Research Journal*.

"Techniques of Editorial Research in Electrical Engineering," by Herbert B. Michaelson, a survey of the literature on research writing, describes a procedure for supplementing laboratory work with a search of engineering and scientific publications. A systematic method is suggested for locating literature sources, collecting and classifying notes, and incorporating the material into a research paper. Editorial research is shown to be of value in preventing duplication of effort in laboratory investigations. The article appears in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* for March 1949, pp. 245-253.

* * *

UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION, abridged English edition, has been published by British Standards Institution, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.L. (25 shillings)

Announcements

Important Notice

The SLA Executive Board is planning to publish in one volume the papers presented at the Los Angeles Convention provided that a sufficient number of advance orders are received to warrant the printing expense. For further information, see advertisement on page 235 of this issue.

SLA Officers, 1949-1950

The result of the General Election of officers was announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Los Angeles on June 17, 1949, as follows: *President*, Mrs. Ruth Hooker, Washington, D. C.; *First Vice-President* and *President-Elect*, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Owens, St. Louis, Mo.; *Second Vice-President*, Miss Beatrice V. Simon, Montreal, Canada; *Treasurer*, Mr. David Kessler, Detroit, Mich.; *Director* to serve for three years, Miss Estelle Brodman, Washington, D. C.; *Director* to serve for one year, Mr. Paul Gay, Philadelphia, Pa. Miss Margaret Hatch remains on the Executive Board as *Director*, as does Miss Rose Vormelker, Immediate Past-President.

SLA Nominating Committee

The members of the 1950 Nominating Committee appointed by President Hooker are as follows:

- Miss Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, New York Chapter
- Miss Mary Jane Henderson, Montreal Chapter
- Dr. Hazel A. Pulling, Southern California Chapter
- Mrs. Catherine M. Schmidt, Washington, D. C. Chapter

Miss Marion E. Wells, *Chairman*
First National Bank of Chicago
38 Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois.

Miss Wells urgently requests that all SLA members, especially Chapter presidents, send her or any member of the Nominating Committee their suggestions for the elective positions of First Vice-President (President-Elect), Second Vice-President, Treasurer and one Director. Prospective names for these offices should be mailed to the Committee as soon as possible since, in accordance with By-Law IX, the Committee must present the 1950-1951 slate to the SLA Executive Board at its Fall Meeting.

Change in SLA By-Laws

At the Annual Business Meeting of Special Libraries Association, held on June 17, 1949, in Los Angeles, California, it was voted that By-Law VII, Section 5, of the SLA Constitution and By-Laws, entitled *Dues in Arrears*, be changed to read: "The membership of any person, firm or organization whose dues shall be two months in arrears, and who shall continue such delinquency for one month after notification of the same, shall automatically cease."

Edwin T. Coman Wins First SLA Award

The first Special Libraries Association Award has been given to Edwin T. Coman, Jr., director of the library of the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University. Mr. Coman was nominated for the award by the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Association for his book, *Sources of Business Information*, published in February by Prentice-Hall and now in its second printing. The award was presented to Mr. Coman at the SLA Convention in Los Angeles in June.

This award is given for notable and outstanding contributions in the field of special librarianship.

SLA Membership Gavel Award for 1949

The Membership Gavel Award for 1949 for the largest percentage of increase in paid-up members was presented to the President of the Cincinnati Chapter, Mr. Eugene B. Jackson. The Chapter showed an increase of 22.5 percent. However, since this increase was made possible by 34 Student memberships from the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, and since these members would not be affiliated permanently with the Cincinnati Chapter, Mr. Jackson requested that the Gavel be awarded to the Southern California Chapter, which stood in second place with an increase of 21.6 percent. Miss Constance Martois, now President

of the Southern California Chapter, thereupon accepted the Gavel. The third largest percentage of increase was shown by the Indiana Chapter with an increase of 20.7 percent.

SLA Board and Council Meetings

The regular Fall Executive Board and Advisory Council meetings will be held in New York, November 3-5, 1949, at the Hotel Statler. The membership is urged to make plans to attend these important conferences.

Milton Lord to Represent A.L.A. on Round-the-World Town Meeting

Milton E. Lord, director of the Boston Public Library, will represent the American Library Association on a "Round-the-World Town Meeting" this summer, arranged by America's Town Meeting of the Air.

The plan of the "Round-the-World Town Meeting" is to originate programs in twelve world capitals, featuring two American speakers and two leading citizens of each country visited, on a subject of vital interest to both peoples. The unique program will feature American men and women from national organizations. Traveling around the world together, they will discuss common problems with leaders of other countries. The programs will be recorded and flown back to the United States for broadcast over the regular ABC network of 260 stations during July, August, and September.

The capitals to be visited are London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Ankara, Tel-Aviv, Cairo, Karachi, Delhi, Manila, and Tokyo.

Special Services Holds First All-Army Library Conference

A unique library conference, first of its kind in military history, was held recently in Washington, D. C. Directed by Library Branch, Office of the Chief of Special Services, Department of the Army, it was the first All-Army Command Librarians Conference, with command librarians attending from the six Army Headquarters and the Military District of Washington as well as from four overseas commands—Europe, the Far East, the Caribbean and Alaska.

Reports were heard from the vast chain of Army libraries stretching from New York to California, Maine to Texas, Europe to Korea totaling 1,140—296 in the United States and 844 overseas. Every aspect of postwar Army Library Service was discussed including the circulation of books, monthly book kits, bookmobile service, music appreciation hours and story hours for the children of Army personnel.

Miss Mildred Young, Chief of Special Services Library Branch, and Miss Agnes Crawford, Chief of Library Branch's Facilities Sec-

tion, planned the conference and presided at and directed the sessions.

Scholarships for Foreign Medical Librarians Sponsored by the Medical Library Association

The first Medical Library Association scholarships for 1948-49 have been assigned to three foreign medical librarians from the funds granted by the Rockefeller Foundation. The recipients are Miss Lydia Pasos Pérez, Assistant to the Director of the Library of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Havana; Miss María Alicia Izquierdo Guzman, Assistant in the Library of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile; and Mrs. María José Lessa da Fonseca, Librarian of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo.

A program planned to meet the individual interests of each Fellow has been arranged emphasizing one or more of the following specialties: cataloging, classification and subject headings for medical literature, administrative methods of medical librarians, special service problems in medical libraries and medical bibliographical sources.

Two of the Fellows had an opportunity to attend an orientation course for foreign students before beginning the library projects; one attended special courses in the Columbia University School of Library Service and the Library School of the George Peabody College for Teachers, followed by a period of field practice in a medical library; the other two have been getting practical experience by serving as observers in various types of medical libraries (hospital, society, university, national, etc.), and by visiting medical libraries in the East, South and Mid-West before the termination of the scholarship program.

Russian Scientific Literature Translations Pool Established at Brookhaven Laboratory

A central repository for translations from the Russian scientific literature has been established at the Research Library, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N. Y. Several research organizations in this country and Canada have already made translations available.

Members of SLA are invited to participate with the assurance that, if they so wish, the names of their organizations will not be identified with any translation they may contribute.

Titles of available articles will be listed periodically in Brookhaven's *Guide to Russian Scientific Periodical Literature*, a publication listing translated titles of articles from Russian scientific journals. The *Guide* is being forwarded free of charge to contributors to the repository. Libraries not contributing may receive the *Guide* at fifty cents a copy from

the Publication Section, Information and Publication Division, Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Inquiries concerning the translation collection should be addressed to Mr. John P. Binnington, Administrative Librarian, Research Library, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N. Y.

Pratt Institute Announces Evening Courses

The New York State Education Department recognizes several purposes of adult education, one of which is "vocational upgrading." Pratt Institute is offering a series of courses which are designed to provide this upgrading for members of library staffs who wish more training. The first class will meet Monday, October 3, 1949. Each course will be offered one night a week for twenty weeks, with due allowance for holidays. Students may enroll for whatever courses they wish.

The fee for each course is \$40.00 payable on registration, which may be completed at any time prior to 6:00 P. M., September 30. Fees may be paid in installments on arrangement with the Director, by incurring a deferred payment fee of \$5.00.

One of the Elective Courses in this series will be conducted by Miss Rebecca Rankin, Librarian of the New York Municipal Reference Library. Miss Rankin will teach the course on Special Libraries.

For further information write to Mr. Wayne Shirley, Dean, Pratt Institute Library School, Brooklyn 5, N. Y.

Margaret Reynolds Embarks Upon New Career

Margaret Reynolds, former SLA President, who retired from her position as librarian of the First Wisconsin National Bank, Milwaukee, on April 30 of this year, is now available as a library consultant. Miss Reynolds' first commission of her new career is the organization of the library for the Home Office of the Old Line Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee. At a recent meeting of the Wisconsin Library Association held in Milwaukee June 9-12, Miss Reynolds was cited for her outstanding service in the library field in Wisconsin and for her general contribution to the library profession as a whole.

Gandhi Memorial Wing Drive

The Hindustan Students Association of America, Berkeley Chapter, is undertaking the collection of books and other writings on or by Mahatma Gandhi with the purpose of opening a Gandhi Memorial Wing in the library of the University of California. It is believed that such an endeavor will serve the American public which has shown such an interest in the philosophy of the Mahatma,

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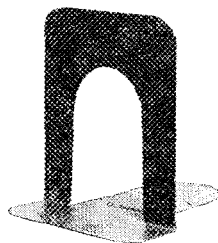
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In addition to the contributions received from India, the Association is appealing especially to those persons who have shown an unusual interest in Gandhi and his work. Contributions may be in the form of books and writings on or about Mahatma Gandhi, or in the form of money which will be used to secure "Gandhiana" which are not contributed directly. Contributions should be sent c/o Motee K. Jagtanie, Gandhi Memorial Wing Drive Committee, International House, Berkeley 4, California.

CARE Launches Program to Rebuild War-Devastated Libraries

CARE, the non-profit agency which has brought food to thousands of hungry people overseas, is now embarked upon a "food for the mind" program to rebuild the war-wrecked libraries of Europe and Asia.

Approved by the State Department's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Aid, the program aims to replenish the shelves of technical schools and libraries abroad with gifts of new American technical and scientific books, vitally needed for the education of college and professional students. Details are being carried out with the endorsement and cooperation of the U. S. Commission for UNESCO, the Library of Congress, the American Library Association, and the U. S. Book Exchange.

Libraries, universities and other educational institutions in 14 war-devastated countries are being asked by CARE to supply a list of their book needs. Through contributions from the American people, CARE will then fill those needs as closely as possible, by purchasing the best books in those fields published in the United States. Contributions can be sent to CARE headquarters, 20 Broad St., New York, or to any CARE outlet throughout the country.

Individuals or groups can contribute funds in any amount for the CARE book program. All contributions are tax-exempt. Donors of \$10 or more may designate the country, the institute, and the category (but not the title) of the book to be sent. They will receive the usual CARE receipt, signed by the recipient. Donations under \$10 will be pooled in CARE's general book relief fund, and donors will receive a CARE acknowledgment, but not a signed receipt.

Janet Saunders to Represent SLA at IFLA Meeting

The Special Libraries Association will be represented at the Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations to be held at Basel, Switzerland, in July by Miss Janet Saunders. Miss Saunders is Librarian

of the International Labour Office at Geneva, Switzerland.

The British Book Centre

Twenty-two of the leading book publishers in Britain have banded together to form an organization in the United States to increase their American sales. The British Book Centre, their first headquarters, has been opened at 122 East 55th Street, New York, N. Y. Nearly all the publishers taking part are those specializing in educational, technical and general non-fiction books.

The British Book Centre is on the premises of B. T. Batsford Ltd., the New York office of the famous 100-year-old firm of British publishers which holds a royal appointment to Queen Mary. One whole floor of the Batsford building is occupied by the new Centre.

A staff of field salesmen will work for the Centre, covering the entire United States, and eventually it is hoped to open other centers in the leading cities of America.

University of Illinois is Recipient of Rare Gift

A \$10,500 gift, a set of the famous first edition of John James Audubon's "The Birds of America," has been given the University of Illinois Library by the University of Illinois Foundation. The four large books, each 38 by 26 inches, are in perfect condition.

The volumes are a valuable addition to the ornithological collection of the University library. The Foundation provided the funds for them through its provision for gifts.

Resolution in Memory of George Winthrop Lee, 1867-1949

The report of the SLA Resolutions Committee, submitted and adopted at the Annual Business Meeting, held June 17, 1949, in Los Angeles, included the following:

"We have learned with deep sorrow of the recent death of George Winthrop Lee, a charter member of the Special Libraries Association.

"Mr. Lee was librarian of the firm of Stone and Webster for thirty years.

"He was a speaker at the first convention held in New York and served as the first chairman of the Public Utilities Committee. His brilliant conception of the objectives of the Association and his practical approach to the details of their realization have revealed him as a founding member of widespread influence in the affairs of the Association. He early established a clearing house of information in Boston. He strongly urged the preparation of library tools by joint effort and continually focused attention on the need to

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Obituary

Hollis Webster Hering

Miss Hollis Webster Hering, who retired on March 31, 1949, after thirty-one years as librarian of the Missionary Research Library, New York, died April 30 in her home in the Bronx. Miss Hering had been an Active member of the Special Libraries Association since 1942.

Raymond W. Holbrook

Mr. Raymond W. Holbrook, Director of the Russell Sage Foundation Library, died at Memorial Hospital in New York on May 2, 1949. A member of the Special Libraries Association since 1941, Mr. Holbrook was active in antiquarian circles and a collector of children's books. He became Director of the Foundation Library in 1946.

Corina A. Ruch

Miss Corina A. Ruch died April 12, 1949, at the Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. At the time of her death, Miss Ruch was librarian of the Mine Safety Appliances Company in Pittsburgh. She had been a member of the Special Libraries Association since 1938.

Laura A. Thompson

Miss Laura A. Thompson, who retired from her position as librarian of the U. S. Department of Labor in 1947, died on April 23, 1949, in Washington, D. C. Miss Thompson had been an Active member of Special Libraries Association since 1937.

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Due to the many requests by members of Special Libraries Association, the Board plans to print the papers presented at the Fortieth Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California, June 11-18, 1949. However, the publishing of these will depend upon (1) the number of papers received for publication and (2) the willingness of the members to pay \$4.00 or \$5.00 per copy for the Transactions to make them self-sustaining. No copies will be sent gratis to Institutional members.

The October issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES will be the Proceedings issue and will carry the reports of Officers, Chapter Presidents, Group and Committee Chairmen, and SLA Representatives, as formerly. If the Transactions are not printed, the papers will appear in SPECIAL LIBRARIES throughout the year as heretofore.

If you would be willing to purchase the Transactions at a cost of \$4.00 or \$5.00 (exact price will depend on printing and editorial charges), will you please fill out the attached order blank and return it to Special Libraries Association, 31 East Tenth Street, New York 3, N. Y. not later than September 30, 1949.

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