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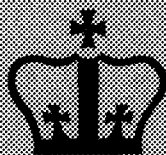
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# Biological Sciences Division

## A Short History

**T**HE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Division, or Group as it was then called, was organized during the 1934 SLA Convention in New York with Frank Place, of the New York Academy of Medicine, as its first chairman.

In 1938-1939, under the chairmanship of Irene M. Strieby, librarian, Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis, Indiana, the Group's bulletin, *The Grouplighter*, came into being. Also during Mrs. Strieby's term a concerted effort was made to gain member participation in all fields of interest represented by the Group. Under Estelle Brodman, who followed Mrs. Strieby in office, the project of the compilation of special collections and services in biological sciences libraries was completed.

In the fall of 1942, the project completed the year before was published as the *Directory of Biological Sciences Libraries*. The next large project sponsored by the Group, that of a supplement to an index of *Abbreviations by Initial Letters*, was under the leadership of Marion Kappes, librarian of Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital. Other chairmen who have served were James F. Ballard, Helen Bayne, Anna Holt, Grace Van Nostrand Raschke, V. N. Rimsky-Korsakoff, Elizabeth Weissinger and Alice Purington.

During the years of the Group's existence, and especially from 1947-1950,

there had been much debating among its members as to whether or not it should continue to function as a separate unit or become part of the Science-Technology Group. Prior to the 1950 Atlantic City Convention, the SLA Convention chairman asked Marie Murphy, librarian, Rutgers College of Pharmacy, Newark, N. J., to serve as temporary Group chairman and to query its members regarding a program at the convention. Miss Murphy sent out approximately 255 questionnaires to Group members to ascertain their views as to the future status of the Group. Although the replies showed an almost 50-50 division of opinion, there was considerable renewed interest at the business meeting among the members to continue as a separate Group. At this meeting Mrs. Florence Cooksley, Medical Writing, Washington, D. C., was elected chairman and a general policy for programs decided upon for future Group activities. This issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, devoted to the Biological Sciences Division, is an outgrowth of this renewed interest.

The work of the Division this year is confined to reactivation of the membership and planning for a Biological Sciences session at the June convention.

(Abridged from a history of the Division, prepared, documented and read by a Biological Sciences member at the Atlantic City Convention in June 1950)



# The Library of the New York Academy of Medicine

*Dr. Rosen is Associate Medical Director, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, and Lecturer in Health Education, School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York.*

**T**HE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE is an independent association of physicians which was founded on January 6, 1847. The founders agreed that among the offices of the Academy would be a librarian, charged with the task of keeping "all books, pamphlets, manuscripts, anatomical or pathological specimens, apparatus, instruments, medals, coins or scientific property of whatever kind." Furthermore, a copy of "every oration, memoir, or medical paper read before the Academy" was to be kept by the librarian. Every article in his keeping would be designated with the name of the donor, and a catalog of these holdings would be maintained. To the librarian was left the problem of finding space for the library. At the meeting of January 13, 1847, the Library of the Academy was officially inaugurated with the presentation by Dr. Isaac Wood of a set of Paine's *Commentaries* in three volumes.

From this beginning the library has grown in little more than a century to become one of the largest American medical collections. Its shelves contain most of the important literature of medicine and much of the allied sciences, in all, some 272,500 volumes. In addition to the usual medical textbooks and monographs, there are complete runs of the standard medical journals in English and in foreign languages. The library has good files on public health reports, data on vital statistics, hospital reports, government publica-

tions and medical school announcements. It is particularly strong in foreign monographs, textbooks, systems and encyclopedias; medical history, biography, medical Americana and medical iconography, especially portraits of physicians. Finally, the library has excellent collections in fields related to medicine. Among these are dentistry, psychology, foods and cookery, as well as nursing, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, zoology, botany, chemistry and physics.

This description of the services and resources of the Library of the Academy of Medicine is offered from a consumer's point of view. It is based upon the writer's own experience in using all departments of the library over a period of years. While the library is open to all responsible adults as a research collection, its resources and services are primarily for the use of those engaged in serious investigations. These include medical students and students of the allied professions, as well as graduate students in all fields. Undergraduate college students may use the volumes on the open shelves, but may not call for books from the stacks except when presenting a letter from their school librarian.

## **Reference and Circulation Department**

Readers coming to the library are given aid in finding their material. In the Main Reading Room the volumes on the shelves may be consulted without filling out call-slips. These volumes consist of the most frequently used journals, usually from 1940 to date, although in a few cases they go back to earlier years. The journals are arranged in a single alphabet according to the important words of the title, re-

ardless of language or subject and ignoring articles, prepositions and conjunctions. A list of the titles is available for consultation. At one end of the Reading Room are kept encyclopedias and systems of medicine in most frequent use.

The Reference Lobby, just outside the Main Reading Room contains the library's card catalog, and above and below the catalog are a few general reference works. Sets of the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, of the *Current List of Medical Literature*, of the *Index-Catalogue* of the Army Medical Library, and a selection of dictionaries, directories and abstract journals are available here. The card catalog contains entries for the monographs, text books, periodical titles, documents, reports, pamphlets and theses in the possession of the library. As a rule, it does not contain entries for journal articles. The catalog is divided into two parts: subject and name-and-title.

The subject catalog contains entries that are needed to show the contents of monographs, textbooks and so forth, in the library. Entries on white cards give the actual references. Entries on blue cards are cross-references, which lead one from a heading not used to one under which the information will be found, or to related headings where additional material may be located.

The name-and-title catalog is primarily for authors' names, but also contains entries for journals, series, institutions, organizations, firms and in a few instances, title entries for books. Here, too, blue cards are used for cross-references. The works of a single author, whether an individual, an association or a group, are entered on white cards. If this author has edited or translated books, has some connection with a publication, or is the subject of a biography, blue cards for these entries follow the white "author" cards. For some authors a yellow card precedes these entries; on it are noted a few biographical references. This is the "author-authority

card," and is used where there is a special reason for showing the identity of the person concerned. This is particularly pertinent where two authors have the same name.

Something should also be said about analytical entries, as well as those for periodicals. Analytical entries are made for part of a book or journal. The cards for analytics give the item of interest as well as the main entry for which the reader must ask in order to obtain the publication. The main entry is indicated on these cards by rubber stamps or other markings stating: "Give this author, title, and date," or "Ask for" with a red line pointing to the entry to be cited. Periodical entries are given on orange cards, but if the journal is connected with an organization, for instance, the organ of a scientific society, there will also be a white card for it under the name of the organization. Entries will likewise be made in the subject catalog under the subject matter with which the periodical deals in general and under the type of organization issuing it.

#### Current Periodicals

The Current Periodicals Room contains the current issues of some 1400 journals. These are arranged in one continuous alphabet, except for Russian titles. All together, the library receives regularly 2200 periodicals. Current numbers do not circulate until after binding, when they are transferred to the Main Reading Room or to the stacks. In the Periodicals Room are found also the latest announcements of medical schools approved by the American Medical Association. Here also are shelved the various indexes to current journals, as well as publications containing abstracts which supplement the index journals. Among these are the *Current List of Medical Literature*, the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Biological Abstracts*, and *Abstracts of World Medicine*. Various helpful card lists compiled by the Periodicals Department are available

for consultation, and a selected list of English language periodicals received each day is posted regularly as soon as these have been shelved. Here also will be found books which give information about the periodicals themselves, such as the *Union List of Serials, Periodicals Directory* and others.

### **The Rare Book and History Rooms**

All of the library's holdings dealing with the historical aspect of medicine are kept in the Rare Book and History Rooms with the exception of later reprints of early texts and facsimiles, which are stored in the main stacks. Among the resources of these rooms there are books published before 1601, all books published in the British Isles before 1701, all books published in America before 1801, as well as all manuscripts, including autograph letters and documents, lecture notes and day books. Other types of materials include certificates and diplomas, original minutes of medical societies, especially local ones, some 10,000 mounted portraits of medical men and women, and many thousands of other illustrations of medical subjects, medals struck in honor of physicians or of important medical occasions, early medical instruments and apparatus, postage stamps commemorating physicians and events related to medicine.

To facilitate use of these resources, reference tools are available. These consist of histories and bibliographies of medicine and allied sciences. Thus one may deal with general history in various times and places, or with the history of special subjects, institutions or groups of individuals. In addition, there is available a general card catalog of materials in the Rare Book Room, as well as a number of supplementary card indexes, which provide keys to special aspects of the historical materials, such as an index of illustrations, a chronological list, and others. Assistance is given by the staff in the use of these lists and indexes for tracing references to early descriptions of particular diseases, in-

struments and so forth.

The rare books themselves do not circulate, but books on the open shelves may generally be taken out by qualified borrowers.

### **Additional Services**

In addition to the services rendered by the departments described above, the library provides a number of other very important services:

#### *Photoduplication Facilities*

Facilities are available for reproduction of the library's materials in photostat, microfilms, photographs and lantern slides. As a rule, material not belonging to the library will not be reproduced.

#### *Bibliographical and Reference Service*

Bibliographies are compiled or checked from original sources. Articles in English are not abstracted, but abstracts and complete translations are made from French, German or Spanish. For other languages the names of translators are supplied. In addition, manuscripts are edited for publication. These services as well as longer reference inquiries are all taken care of at specified rates. Short inquiries are answered as far as possible on the spot. In general, the object of these activities is to provide the inquirer with what he wants to read, not to read it for him.

#### *Special Information Circulars*

For readers making use of the library in person there are available a series of circulars, giving detailed information about the resources, services and regulations of specific departments. The following are available at present:

- No. 1. *Reference and Circulation Department*
- No. 2. *Periodicals Room*
- No. 3. *Rare Book and History Rooms*
- No. 4. *Biographical Sources*
- No. 5. *Special Information Files*

The first three circulars contain information already presented above. Circular No. 4 describes the biographical collections and resources of the library under five headings: collected biographies, individual biographies, periodical literature, histories of medicine and his-

tories of institutions, organizations and so forth. In addition, the library has issued as a supplement to Circular No. 4, *A Selected List of Published Sources for Medical Biographies of Modern Times*. This list indicates some of the most useful sources of information. It does not attempt to cover all possible channels of inquiry.

Circular No. 5 deals with the special information files available in the library. These have been compiled by the library staff and others from time to time and cover such subjects as: American medical publications by date, book plates, autographs, exhaustive subject bibliographies, literary works by physicians, literary works about medicine, medical journals published in New York State, medical journals published in the United States before 1860, second-hand book dealers in New York City and a selected list of American journals. In addition, over 1000 more or less full lists of references on a large variety of topics have been compiled by the Bibliographical Department. These are available for reference in the library.

#### *Interlibrary Loans*

The library secures materials for Fellows of the Academy and for subscribers on interlibrary loan. Transportation charges are paid by the borrower.

#### *Borrowing Privileges*

Books may be borrowed by Fellows of the Academy, library subscribers, and out-of-town non-profit libraries. Unbound material, except pamphlets and certain theses, does not circulate.

#### *Exhibits*

From time to time members of the Academy Library Committee working with members of the staff have prepared exhibits on topics of interest. Among recent exhibits may be mentioned those on "Goethe as a Scientist," on "Public Health in Pictures, New York, 19th Century" and on "Effects of Atomic Weapons."

#### *Relations With Other Libraries*

The Library of the Academy cooperates with other libraries in the exchange of materials, as well as in joint library projects such as checking its holdings for the second supplement to the second edition of the *Union List of Serials*. Another type of library cooperation is that being carried on in conjunction with other New York City libraries to achieve agreement on acquisitions in the field of psychoanalysis.

#### **Conclusion**

This description of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine has touched essentially on the service features of its operation. The value of the library to physicians, dentists and other interested persons in New York City is evidenced by the fact that it was visited in 1950 by 40,565 readers. However, to end on a more personal note, these cold figures are only a very small indication of the importance of the library and its facilities. The library is staffed by a well-trained and well-qualified group of people, whose cooperative, helpful and friendly spirit make the library the valuable institution that it is.

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# Life in a Medical Library

*Miss Henderson is Librarian, State University of New York College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**T**HE PROBLEMS of a medical library are the same as those of any specialized library having its own particular vocabulary. In a medical school library we also have the task of acquainting a large number of students with the various types of special reference tools available, and of showing them how to get the most out of these in the shortest possible time.

The Hoagland Laboratory was founded in 1887. It seems to have been the first laboratory in the United States built by private means for research in bacteriology, pathology and physiology. The original library was equipped with complete runs of journals in these fields. In its early days it was restricted to the use of those doing research in the laboratory. In 1928, it became a part of the student library of the Long Island College Hospital and Medical School. With the addition of a full-time trained librarian to keep the library open, this material became available to a more extensive reading public.

The Hoagland Library thus changed its character and broadened its scope and functions. Even more recently it has become the nucleus of the library of the State University Medical Center at New York City serving four major groups: the research staff, the administrative staff, the clinical staff and the students. Each of these groups has its own special interests and service needs from the library. On the whole, the research worker prefers to, and should, prepare his own bibliographies, but the library staff stands ready to help trace difficult and vague references or to translate an occasional paragraph. Ar-

ticles of any length are turned over to outside translators, often students in the school who have come from foreign countries.

The administrative staff of the college also needs the assistance of the library in searching the literature for lecture material or data for special meetings and conferences as well as assistance in the preparation of curriculum vitae and bibliographies of potential faculty members.

The clinical staff, which includes members in some eleven teaching hospitals, not only requires the usual interlibrary loan services but often, because of pressure of work, seeks assistance in obtaining brief bibliographies of current material on some subject in which its members are interested. The interns and residents change annually so that the library staff is on the watch for new members during the summer and fall to acquaint them with the bibliographic tools, and especially with the current literature index.

## Lectures to the Students

The students make the greatest demand on the library personnel. A principal duty of the library staff is to orient them in the use of the library and to take a personal interest in their problems. As early as 1926, Charles Frankenburg, librarian of the Medical Society County of Kings, developed a series of five lectures on the history of medical literature and medical bibliography for the students. Two years later, these lectures were supplemented by laboratory periods in the library where the students actually used all types of reference material under the librarian's guidance.

With the increase in the number of students in each class to 150, the former method of individualized instruction

was replaced by an hour and a half illustrated lecture given by the librarian. This lecture is given to the second year students just before they are assigned work in preparing for a symposium in some special field in physiology, such as cancer, or blood and its diseases.

The lecture is slanted toward the subject of the symposium, using as illustrative material examples of books, systems, specialized indexes and periodicals in the particular field of interest which will help the students find their material as quickly as possible. The librarian takes this opportunity to give them the history of the *Index Catalog*, *Index Medicus*, *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* and the *Current List of Medical Literature* as well as the special and general abstract journals with emphasis on *Chemical Abstracts* and the *Excerpta Medica*. With the aid of slides, the location of books, periodicals and reference tools is shown. The catalog and the types of cards used are explained as well as the classification system and the meaning of the Cutter numbers on the backs of books. Finally, the importance of carefully prepared, accurate bibliographies is stressed and examples of various forms are shown. Each student receives a seven page mimeographed outline of the reference material in the library including more than the information given in the lecture. This he keeps for future reference.

The symposium, itself, covers about six weeks. Three or four groups of from five to ten students each prepare their papers for each week's report. This method of presentation spreads out the demand for seating capacity and for books in the library, and enables the librarian to work closely with these small groups.

#### **A File of Current Literature**

In 1941, realizing that current data was vital not only to the students but to the clinical faculty as well, we developed our own current literature index to fill the gap between the publica-

tion of the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* and the present time. This index is kept on temporary slips prepared each night by the night assistant librarian for all journals received that day. The most specific word in the title of each article in the table of contents of each journal is selected as the subject entry without any attempt at regrouping under one subject. This saves many hours of time and the use of the dictionary by the uninitiated. More than one slip is made wherever two or more important subjects are mentioned.

At the same time these slips are being prepared, several other reference files are being kept up to date:

(1) The portrait and biographical index; (2) the catalog (supplementary subject entries on colored cards for long symposia which can be withdrawn when out of date); (3) the abstract and reprint file for journals to which we do not subscribe (to locate articles in those journals).

#### **The Library Expands**

Not only is the library limited in its seating capacity but its shelves cannot house the rapidly expanding collection. Until the new library for the medical center is built, two branch libraries have been opened at the Kings County Hospital. First, most of our psychology and psychiatry books were moved to a library in the Psychiatric Pavilion with a full-time librarian in charge. Secondly, a student library is maintained in the main building since our third and fourth year students are on clerkships at this hospital and often find it difficult to come to the main library.

During the summer of 1950 a greater part of our basement was remodeled to form extensive additional stack space for our older journals. Some 5000 volumes have been brought back from their former home a block away and installed in new quarters. The older monographs are still housed a block away.

The librarian does not believe in complete specialization for each individual

on her staff, feeling that each person should know how to take over the duties of the others. Each member of the staff, therefore, is required to spend part of her time at the circulation desk to acquaint herself with the special demands which come over the telephone and desk. In this way the cataloger is made aware of the books most in demand; the periodicals librarian becomes aware of demands for missing journals; and everyone is kept abreast of what is going on both in and out of the college.

#### **Restoring Flood-Damaged Books**

Illustrative of the problems of running a library in an outmoded building with ancient plumbing is the flood we suffered some years ago before our building was remodeled. The experience in successfully dealing with this emergency may be of some value to other librarians.

Early one morning, I received an emergency call to come to the library. On arrival, I found two men working a pressure pump with about a foot of water on the floor and the ceiling still dripping water from the laboratory above. Fortunately, the walls seemed to be dry which meant our periodicals, housed along the walls, were undamaged.

Hastily donning a raincoat and galoshes, I removed the as-yet-undamaged books from the open stacks to safer quarters, toting them under the protection of my coat. As I stopped to survey the results some two hours later, feeling pleased that only 329 books had been damaged out of more than 8000, the janitor informed me that the flood had penetrated to the basement, three floors below. On reaching the basement, we found row after row of our most valuable journals wet, not with just water but with calcimine from the ceiling as well. Nine hundred volumes were carried up three flights of stairs. These, with those from the main library, 1,229 volumes in all, were taken into the bacteriological laboratory. There, we placed row after row of books on the long tables with large whirling electric fans at one

end, the books lying open in the middle and the pages allowed to blow back and forth. Every hour a block of pages was turned so that different sections of the books would be exposed.

This method was not too successful due to the excessively high humidity of the atmosphere. Those books which were only moderately wet were put into the bacteriological dry heat ovens for about ten to twenty minutes at low heat, then removed to cool. If still quite damp, they were returned for a second period of drying. Each page was then ironed to reduce the wrinkling and the books reshelfed. These books did not swell appreciably. Each day as the fans partially dried more and more of the books, they were subjected to the dry heat ovens and ironed. The longer the books remained wet and exposed to the fans, the more they swelled and rebinding became necessary.

There were about nine volumes of Virchow's *Archiv* which we were eager to save in as perfect condition as possible. For the first forty-eight hours, we ironed these volumes page by page, all day and all night. We placed a wide piece of white blotting paper under the page then ran a warm iron quickly over it. It took at least five hours to do one book, yet all had to be done as quickly as possible to prevent water stains and wrinkling of the pages. A slow and tedious process but these books were saved without a trace of having been wet.

Only seventeen volumes finally had to be discarded, principally because they had dried before the pages could be separated. Any book with glazed paper must have all its pages separated while still wet. An excellent way is to use soft white blotting paper easing it against the glued area at different angles and probing for the one weak spot which will give way. If this is done slowly, the pages usually separate with little or no damage. Once dried, the pages become permanently frozen. An-

(Continued on page 108)



# Agricultural Libraries

*Mr. Blanchard is Divisional Librarian in Science & Technology and Librarian, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska at Lincoln.*

AS IT IS TAUGHT in the colleges today, agriculture includes everything from courses in family living in the home economics department to genetic research in the agronomy and animal husbandry departments. Its branches lap over into the pure sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. When we speak of agriculture, therefore, and agricultural literature, we are not speaking strictly of soil science and horticulture, but of many things. This means that a library specializing in agriculture must not only be a science library, but must also have active collections in more general subjects. However, science is still the most important part of the agricultural library's literature and in general the biological sciences are the most important.

The United States has a more extensive research program in agriculture than has any other country in the world. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the state experiment stations and colleges of agriculture, does the major part of this work. These vast and wide-ranging activities use as their intelligence centers the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library and its numerous branches scattered throughout the country, and the various college of agriculture libraries, some of which are large and richly endowed with collections and money, others of which are rather small and inadequate. Although there are several company libraries interested in agriculture, the great majority of agricultural libraries in this country are supported

by the state or national government. On the whole, agriculture is well served by its libraries, libraries which in most cases place a strong emphasis on the biological sciences.

## Recent Developments

Several important recent developments concerning agricultural libraries are noteworthy. First is the *Bibliography of Agriculture*. This reference tool, published since 1942, and compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, is the most comprehensive index to any individual subject now in existence. Second is the cooperative library services between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and at least two colleges of agriculture instituted in recent years, namely, at the University of California and the University of Nebraska. In these instances the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library and the universities cooperate to give agricultural library service to the people in their areas. This is proving to be an excellent device to provide better library service and to save money. No doubt it will be extended to other areas. More library cooperation, such as this, is needed in all fields.

Finally, a committee was recently appointed by the Agricultural Libraries Section of the A.L.A. to help solve problems of agricultural research in the Department of Agriculture and throughout the country. This committee met recently in Washington and after a careful study of the U.S.D.A. Library and other agricultural library services in the United States, produced a report on the policies and programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library which will, it is hoped, do much to improve library service to agricultural and scientific interests. Its main provisions are quoted as follows:

1. "The Agricultural Experiment Stations and Agricultural Colleges and Extension Services, created by the states with the aid of federal funds, have become important instruments in acquiring and diffusing agricultural information. The United States Department of Agriculture has aided and supplemented the states in this work, coordinating its work closely with theirs. It therefore seems appropriate to propose that the United States Department of Agriculture Library, likewise, assist the libraries of these institutions as fully as possible in the performance of their functions.
2. "The U.S.D.A. Library should serve as a coordinating and information center for the exchange of agricultural publications. At present each state has a program, often inadequate, by which it exchanges its experiment station publications for comparable agricultural literature published elsewhere. There has been no difficulty with domestic exchange, but foreign exchange has been a complex problem and one with which the state agricultural colleges, working separately, have found it difficult to cope. A unit established in the library to coordinate the exchange of the vast body of agricultural publications issued by the states should help solve many of the problems involved in the handling of this material. The United States Department of Agriculture Library, with its contacts abroad, through the State Department Publications Procurement Office and other Government agencies, could, in many cases, obtain exchanges which the agricultural college libraries would be unable to effect. The cost of such a unit would be small, but its return would be great. An exchange unit in the United States Department of Agriculture Library could also arrange for the distribution of duplicate publications.
3. "The U.S.D.A. Library could be of valuable assistance to the agricultural college libraries in acquiring foreign materials not available on exchange. A list of foreign book and periodical dealers with whom the library does business would be useful. At present there is a microfilm exchange arrangement between several foreign agencies and the library which could well be extended to other agricultural libraries in the United States.
4. "Cooperative arrangements for buying of periodicals and books by the U.S.D.A. Library and the agricultural college libraries might result in economies for both. It is suggested that further study of this problem be made by agricultural college librarians and the library.
5. "The U.S.D.A. Library should assist agricultural college libraries in the procurement of government publications of agricultural interest. The maintenance of a want list of government publications no longer in print, but which are needed by agricultural college libraries, would be useful.
6. "It is recommended that the U.S.D.A. Library make available to other agricultural libraries its list of subject headings together with notice of changes and additions as they are made.
7. "The U.S.D.A. Library now prepares catalog cards for all its own acquisitions, covering in the process most of the materials acquired by other agricultural libraries. It is recommended that it offer to the libraries serving agricultural experiment stations a single copy of the master card for each title cataloged by it. These could be produced at small cost when its own sets are mimeographed. The work done by this library could thus be made to serve in each of the experiment station libraries that acquires the same books.
8. "The United States Department of Agriculture's publications now go automatically to agricultural libraries, many of which catalog them. Their work would be greatly reduced if they could concurrently receive copies of the cards prepared for its publications by the library of the Department of Agriculture. The ultimate goal should be the inclusion of sets of such cards with each publication sent to libraries in the initial mailing. In the meantime, it is recommended that one copy of the master catalog card for each publication of the United States Department of Agriculture (plus any analytic cards) be made available to the library serving each agricultural experiment station.
9. "It is recommended that the U.S.D.A. Library publish a list of its holdings of all serial publications. This would (a) avoid waste of time in unnecessary handling of requests for copies of unavailable material, (b) would probably result in the receipt by gift of missing issues of some publications, and (c) assist the cataloging in other libraries of many foreign serials by making appropriate author entries readily available.
10. "A list of reference works of value to agricultural interests should be compiled.

Such a list should be comprehensive in strictly agricultural subjects and should include selected titles in fields related to agriculture.

11. "The *Bibliography of Agriculture* should continue to cover all current publications in the field of agriculture and related sciences. In home economics it now includes only food and nutrition. It should be expanded to cover other important phases of this subject. It would be of value to agricultural libraries if a statement of the policy of inclusion were made from time to time in the *Bibliography of Agriculture*.
12. "The monthly author indexes of the *Bibliography of Agriculture* should be continued in the same form, and monthly subject indexes should be provided. The classified arrangement is satisfactory to the subject specialist who wishes only a current listing or rapid survey of all that has been published in his field. The librarian or research worker, who is searching for specific information, needs more frequent subject indexes to locate material quickly. Cumulative indexes similar to the decennial indexes of *Chemical Abstracts* would be of immeasurable value.
13. "A study, made in 1948 to determine how subjects included in the *Experiment Station Record* were covered by other abstracting publications, indicated that about 12 per cent of its entries were not abstracted in other services. There is at present no abstracting service which covers agricultural engineering, rural sociology, home economics and agricultural economics. It is recommended that the library provide abstracting service in these fields. This should not be incorporated in the *Bibliography of Agriculture* because any such additional service would delay its publication. It is highly desirable that the *Bibliography* continue to be issued promptly.
14. "Lists of foreign language translators would be highly useful to the agricultural libraries. Compilation of such lists is a cooperative enterprise but the leadership might well be provided by the Department of Agriculture Library. Lists might be prepared by language and by subject specialty. It is important that such lists be revised at reasonably frequent periods.
15. "We recommend that rough draft translations of material in the obscure or less frequently used languages be provided to agricultural libraries.
16. "There is now no way in which a scholar who needs a photographic copy of an article can obtain it with any degree of certainty from any single source. Frequently he has to order it in turn from several libraries, each charging a different rate and requiring a different form of payment. This slows down research. It is recommended that the Association of College and Research Libraries study the possibility of establishing a copying clearing house service of some type. Such a service would coordinate all library photocopying services so that an item requested from any one of them could be supplied to the scholar by one or another of the cooperating libraries without repeated ordering from various sources.
17. "There is an increasing need for more adequately trained librarians in the field of agriculture and its related subjects, particularly in the agricultural colleges. Because there is no library school curriculum that offers this special training, it is desirable that an arrangement be worked out whereby the library of the United States Department of Agriculture may assume this function.
18. "It is recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture Library explore ways and means of setting up some sort of training program to help develop better agricultural librarians in all phases of library work.
19. "A cooperative experiment is now being tried by the University of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture Library. The Nebraska College of Agriculture Library provides all of the services formerly provided by the field library and the United States Department of Agriculture Library makes its facilities available, in addition to providing a part of the personnel and duplicated copies of certain library materials for circulation. If this experiment proves successful, it is recommended that further study be made in an attempt to extend this type of arrangement with agricultural college libraries to other parts of the country. The whole United States might be covered on a regional or state basis. Substantial savings should result from such an arrangement, in addition to closer cooperation between agricultural college libraries. If the libraries of the agricultural colleges could perform the general services offered by the field libraries, it might be possible to eliminate some or all of the general field libraries."

# A Library University

*Miss Jacoby is Librarian, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri.*

**T**HE ANHEUSER-BUSCH, INC. Research Library is relatively young. It had its modest beginnings in 1941 with a few books on a chemist's shelf. In ten years it has increased to 5200 volumes, subscribes to 225 technical journals, maintains an active patent file of about 10,000 patents and the same number of reprints, and has a staff of four people, three of whom are technical.

Anheuser-Busch, Inc., although it is the world's largest single brewery, markets over fifty different products in the yeast, corn products and cabinet fields. It manufactures deep-freeze boxes; food products—syrups, molasses, malt, pudding mixes, frozen and dried eggs; starch for adhesives and other purposes; constituents for feeds; yeast and vitamin adjuncts for pharmaceutical firms and wholesale bakeries. To maintain the quality of these items and to search for better and new products, a research department is necessary. And, *sans doute*, a research department needs a library.

Although librarians may be interested in knowing that we publish an abstract service, circulate lists of new patents and books as they are received in the library, maintain a rather detailed card index for patents, and translate articles in Russian, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch, it is not pertinent at this time to deviate further into ramifications peculiar to our own special library. It may be stressed, however, that we subscribe to a sizeable number of foreign periodicals and own a noteworthy collection of foreign reprints and texts. Since the handling of foreign references plays such an integral part in the library, the problems of exact translations and correct filing of for-

eign publications are very real ones for both the chemist and the librarian. "My French is certainly rusty!" and "I could stand a refresher in German!" or "It would be nice to know a little Russian," was typical library talk three years ago. Since our research, beer, quality control, yeast, pilot and corn products laboratories all use the library, we have a large number of people interested in foreign languages. Several of our chemists are avid linguists. The set-up is most conducive for organizing groups for the study of foreign languages.

## Language Classes Inaugurated

In the summer of 1948 I met with two chemists who were excellent prospects as instructors and discussed the possibility of organizing language classes to be held during the noon hour in the library. They were most cooperative—and in the fall of 1948 we offered Elementary German and Beginning Russian to all interested research personnel. The response was encouraging. From our research department of 75 people, 24 students registered for German and 18 registered for Russian. The classes continued from September 1948 to June 1949, in conformity with a regular school year.

The experiment was most satisfying to all participants. Other departments heard about our language classes and expressed interest in attending our "Library University." The idea seemed to be infectious. More instructors offered their services; more prospective students offered suggestions for desired courses—and with this new gathering of impetus, we invited the entire Company to join us in our noon-hour classes. The response was even greater than we anticipated. Over 140 people registered for the school year, 1949-1950. Our

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# Student Help in a Small College of Pharmacy Library

*Miss Johnson is Librarian, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Philadelphia, Pa.*

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HELP in the library of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science has been partially solved by employing students who have showed an interest in the library and who are capable of working eight or ten hours a week in addition to their regular college schedules. One factor which has been helpful in the success of this plan is that the librarian has the responsibility of interviewing and personally selecting the students desiring work in the library. Selection is based on financial need and adaptability and also upon such qualifications as a pleasing personality, good common sense, a cooperative spirit and above all, dependability.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science is the oldest teaching institution of its kind in America. It was founded in historic Carpenters' Hall in 1821 to provide systematic instruction in the sciences for apprentices in pharmacy. From that day to this the thorough training of pharmacists for service in the several fields of pharmaceutical practice has been the major assignment and responsibility of the college—an achievement reached through repeated alterations, expansions and diversification of its educational program. Though originally incorporated as a college of pharmacy, the college later adjusted itself to the conditions of the times by providing curricula in chemistry, bacteriology and biology in order that trained personnel in these sciences would be available to the nation. At

present the college is authorized to award the Bachelor of Science degree in each of its fully accredited major schools, i.e., Pharmacy, Chemistry, Bacteriology and Biology, and the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Science in Pharmacy, Bacteriology and Biology. The college is located in West Philadelphia where it occupies a large building at the corners of Forty-third Street, Woodland and Kingsessing Avenues. It is adequately equipped and professionally staffed to accommodate nearly nine hundred students.

The library, established shortly after the founding of the college itself in 1821, is located on the second floor center of the main building and serves all departments of the institution. The various laboratories and staff offices in each department have libraries for their specific use; however, since the books are for the most part departmental property, there is no recording of them in the library catalog at present.

The collection is highly specialized to meet the requirements of the courses offered in pharmacy and the related sciences and is considered one of the finest in this country. There are now over 25,000 accessioned volumes including 12,000 bound periodicals. The collection is kept up to date by the addition of between two and three hundred new books annually. The library is currently receiving 383 periodicals and house organs of which 129 are in foreign languages. Many of these periodicals are received on an exchange basis through the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, an official publication of the college. The many students, alumni, faculty and friends of the college have generously

contributed books and funds for books to help maintain its excellent collection. New and useful equipment is purchased as needed with funds donated sometime ago by the Raser family of Reading, Pennsylvania. Recently the library added microfilming equipment and a portable copying device to its photoduplication department.

#### **Stream-lined Methods Instituted**

In order to give the maximum of service with a minimum of personnel in this library, many stream-lined methods have been instituted and numerous professional tasks have been relegated to the student assistants to release the librarian from many of the routines so that she may be available to the library users for consultation. The periodical collection has been arranged alphabetically, both current and bound volumes, and the students are allowed free access to them. Books most needed by the majority of students have been placed in a special case in the reading room where the students may help themselves. An active and useful reference collection and a special case with the newly accessioned books is always available to them.

The librarian gives formal instruction to the students in the use of the library and informal instruction as needed in the library. A friendly and helpful attitude is maintained towards everyone who comes into the library and the assistants know that the needs of the students using the library are to be considered prior to any assigned duties as staff members.

Loans are limited to established businesses and loaned through the library of the firm, but anyone is welcome to visit the library and to use the collection. Little actual reference work is done for students and faculty; instead, the staff guides them in finding needed material by suggesting many sources with which they may not be familiar.

An assistant has been trained to check in the incoming mail, letters, advertisements, miscellaneous publications

and periodicals. She charges out and checks in the books in circulation; does most of the preliminary searching on reference problems; fills interlibrary loan requests; sends out overdue notices; telephones book orders to the agent; and orders the Library of Congress catalog cards.

The library is now equipped to do microfilming and photoduplication with an Electrocopyst and a Contura copying device. A student, an amateur photographer in his own right and not a regular member of the library staff, has been engaged to handle this service.

At present four women students serve on the library staff, working a total of forty-five hours a week. A new freshman or sophomore student assistant is added each year. These students are paid on an hourly basis; the amount varies, depending on experience and ability to assume some definite responsibility. Usually the money earned is applied to the student's tuition.

Student helpers have developed such an agreeable attitude toward their fellow students that the library is a very busy place—in fact at most times there is standing room only.

Having served for the past five years with only student help, I have concluded that much of the routine work of the library may be satisfactorily handled by properly trained and carefully supervised student aids. Patience and understanding with these young people is a must, together with a sixth sense in order to know exactly what each student is doing and to be able to see that each job started reaches completion.

For others faced with the problem of whether or not to use student help when no other help is financially possible, I would say to give them a chance. It must be remembered that they are young, inexperienced and are, first of all, students. When they ask for time off to study for an exam, or when they would like to "sleep in tomorrow because of a dance tonight," that means

*(Continued on page 108)*

# From the President's Desk

IT IS WITH SINCERE REGRET that I bring you the news of the resignation of our Association treasurer, Donald Wasson. Capt. Wasson was called back into military service late in January and is stationed at present in Washington, D. C. However, it is extremely fortunate for the Association that Rose Boots has accepted the appointment as treasurer for the remainder of Mr. Wasson's term. Miss Boots, librarian of McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, needs no introduction to most SLA members, as she has been very active in Association affairs both on the local and the Association level for some time.

Recently I returned from visits to our Michigan, Illinois and Milwaukee Chapters. While in Chicago I attended some of the sessions of the A.L.A. mid-winter meeting and saw many SLA'ers there who are active in both associations. The weather that greeted me on this January trip was very cold, but the warmth and hospitality of the reception received from the Chapters counteracted the weather. Our Chapters are doing an amazing job. The Michigan Chapter has been influential in having a course in Bibliography and Book Selection taught in Detroit as part of the extension program of the

University of Michigan. Illinois was selling its splendid *Union List of Services Available in the Chicago Area* and Milwaukee, out of deference to the president's visit, postponed its planned workshop on its *Union List of Serials*.

At the A.L.A. mid-winter meeting, SLA was well represented on joint committees by Irene M. Strieby, Beatrice Simon, and Margaret Giezen-tanner. Dr. Jesse Shera was chairman of the open meeting of the Committee on Bibliography, and Mrs. Ruth Hooker, representing SLA, was one of the participating speakers. Dr. Shera and Margaret Egan prepared a study concerning the present state of bibliographic services within the United States together with proposals for improvement nationally and internationally. This excellent report was presented by Dr. Shera at the UNESCO conference held in Paris in November.

The entire A.L.A. mid-winter program was thought-provoking and there was much informal discussion of ways of eliminating duplication of effort in the various fields of librarianship. Does it not seem that a strong, functioning Council of National Library Associations might be the answer?

ELIZABETH W. OWENS, *President.*

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## Set Your Compass For St. Paul

THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER is planning the 1951 SLA Convention which will be held in St. Paul, June 18-21, to be as fine as possible. With the theme, **SHARE, LEARN, ADVANCE**, in mind, preparations are progressing at a great rate. The successful conventions of the past have given us a high mark at which to aim. Because this is the first national convention of librarians to honor us, we, Minnesota Chapter mem-

bers, will bend every effort to make it an unforgettable experience.

The focal point of the convention is the Twin Cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis, with headquarters in the capitol city of St. Paul. Both have much to offer in the way of culture, entertainment and relaxation. The history of St. Paul and Minneapolis, is rich with events, institutions and places memorable in the building of the West.



In addition to its magnificent State Capitol, Public Library, James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Women's City Club, Minnesota Historical Society and many other fine institutions, St. Paul is the home of the nation's largest law book publishers; one of the five largest publishers of farm periodicals; headquarters for one of the nation's largest manufacturers of lumber and forest products; the nation's largest manufacturers of advertising specialties, refrigerators, surface-coated abrasives and pressure-sensitive tapes; and many other industries of high rank.

Many of the larger industries have special libraries whose librarians are eagerly awaiting your visit. In St. Paul they include Brown & Bigelow, Economics Laboratory, Inc., Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, and Northwestern Refining. In Minneapolis the librarians of Archer-Daniels-Midland, General Mills, General Mills Research, International Milling, Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator, Minnesota and Ontario Paper and Pillsbury Mills, Inc. are busying themselves in preparation for the forthcoming convention. The Cargill, Inc. library on beautiful Lake Minnetonka and the George A. Hormel & Co. library in Austin are two out-of-the-city trips which you will find worthwhile.

Minneapolis has more than 140 parks, including beautiful Minnehaha Park with the famous Minnehaha Falls, immortalized by Longfellow in *The Song of Hiawatha*. The huge flour mills, symbols of the city's pre-eminence in flour production, form an unusual skyline. Sites of interest include the Foshay Tower, patterned after the Washington monument, the Rand Tower, City Hall, Public Library, Fort Snelling, the rose gardens and many lakes.

#### **Cultural and Educational Centers**

The Twin Cities are leading cultural and educational centers. St. Paul is the seat of Hamline University, Macalester College, College of St. Catherine, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul College of

Law, St. Paul Seminary, and St. Paul Diocesan Teachers College. In Minneapolis is the University of Minnesota with its 26,000 student enrollment, the second largest university in the United States. Other cultural and educational institutions include Augsburg College, Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School, Minneapolis-Minnesota College of Law, Minneapolis College of Music, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Walker Art Gallery, and Dunwoody Institute, one of the largest trade and industrial schools in the country.

The members of the Hospital and Nursing Division will be interested in knowing that the idea for the formation of their group originated in St. Paul. They and the Biological Sciences librarians will want to see the libraries of the Fairview Hospital School of Nursing, Hennepin County Medical Society, the Biological and Medical sections of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Health, Veteran's Administration Hospital, and the Ramsey County Medical Society. The two libraries of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester are outstanding in their field.

The Business and Financial Divisions will be interested in visiting the libraries of the Federal Reserve Bank, Hardware Mutual Insurance Company of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Business Research and Development, Northwestern National Life Insurance Co., the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co., and the Business Municipal Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library.

Other special libraries on your "must" list are those of the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune* and the St. Paul *Dispatch-Pioneer Press*, the Northwestern Miller, Midland Cooperative Wholesale, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota State Law Library and the departmental libraries of the University of Minnesota.

*(Continued on page 111)*

# The 25th Annual Conference of ASLIB

*Mr. Evans is a member of the Association of British Science Writers, and editor of the March of Science Annual.*

**T**HE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (Aslib) was held in the latter part of September 1950 at the university and seaport city of Bristol in the West of England, from which the Cabots set forth in the 15th century to discover Newfoundland and Labrador.

On the evening of September 22, a number of the 230 delegates were welcomed to dinner by Sir Phillip Morris, vice-chancellor of the University of Bristol, and Lady Morris. At the Saturday morning session, the president of the Association, Dr. Percy Dunsheath, introduced Leslie Wilson, the newly appointed director who succeeds Miss E. M. R. Ditmas. In February 1950, Miss Ditmas relinquished her command after seventeen years in order to be able to devote more time to study and research. The Council adopted the following resolution about her work for the Association: "Her intellectual distinction, her quick insight into new developments in documentation . . . her personal sympathy and accessibility have kept it (Aslib) in touch with the daily needs and interests of a diverse and growing body of members. Her tenacity has ensured Aslib's survival through difficult times and its progress in circumstances that have never been easy; her personality has gained for Aslib something of the respect and affection which those who have worked

with her will always feel for her personally. She has served Aslib faithfully and well through a crucial time, and has laid solid foundations for its future growth."

Leslie Wilson in his speech dealt with "The Future of Aslib," and discussed the Association's position in Britain where voluntary effort and State interests work together and support each other, a partnership which allows the British Government to finance to a considerable extent a properly working organization, without attempting to control or otherwise interfere with it.

### Progress of Industrial Research

"Our concern," he said, "is to see that industrial research is not held back through any failure of the provisioning service which Aslib can supply. But it is also to ensure, by whatever variety of means can be employed, that more and more information bureaux and special libraries are set up in industry to supply the research departments with the vital scientific and technical information on which the satisfactory prosecution of their work depends . . ."

Mr. Wilson had in mind the employment by the Association of a consultant on special library work, "whose job it will be to encourage the heads of industry in the right direction and to advise them on practical problems . . ." He discussed means for increasing the Association's 1100 membership. "The day will come," Mr. Wilson said, "when Aslib will be truly a national organization in fact as well as in intention, when all special libraries and information

bureaux will be members of it simply because they cannot afford to stay outside."

Mr. Wilson also discussed the creation of more area branches to meet the problem of over-centralization in London. He suggested the formation of professional interest groups—textiles, steel, oil and other industrial fields. He referred to the Nicholson Committee set up by Great Britain to advise on what Government policy should be towards special libraries, and pointed out that the Association would give its views to the committee, an opportunity of influencing Government policy at the highest level undreamed of ten years ago. In other words, the Association could go further than criticizing Government library services, such as the Patent Office and science libraries; it could propose concrete changes. He also pointed out the importance of maintaining the fullest possible international co-operation and collaboration.

There was still an enormous field for research in special library methods, Mr. Wilson said, particularly on the industrial side and he hoped that a research committee would be appointed in the near future.

#### **Drive for More Members**

"Everything I have said," he remarked, "boils down to this: we know what we want to do but who is going to do it?" He then discussed the impending drive for more members so that a fuller, highly qualified, better organized staff could be maintained. "Efficiency we must achieve in everything we do. Industry is not going to waste the time

of its experts in calling in the services of amateurs."

In the discussion which followed, Agard Evans advocated a panel of consultants rather than one library consultant. He emphasized the Association's importance in facilitating, encouraging and promoting rather than acting, and referred to the British Building Documentation Committee in this connection. He also advocated the development of the publication program of the Association.

During the conference, Mr. F. L. Kent, librarian, University of Bristol, gave a comprehensive paper on the "Library Resources of Bristol and the South-West" and Wilfred Ashworth, librarian and information officer for British Nylon Spinners, Limited, dealt with the problems with which a special librarian must deal at critical periods of his career in the task of tackling the re-organization of libraries. Mr. Ashworth included re-classification, re-cataloging, costs and new equipment among these problems.

Miss Ditmas gave an informative paper on "The Literature of Special Librarianship," which covered the distribution of material, directories, types of special libraries, their functions, buildings, equipment, administration and methods, handling of periodicals, document reproduction, mechanization, and the preparation of technical bulletins.

Owing to the large number of delegates and the difficulty of housing them in one place, the 1951 Conference will return to Ashorn Hill in Warwickshire, Shakespeare's country, where it has previously met.

# SLA Publications

## CUMULATIVE STATEMENT ON PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1950

Date	Name of Publication	Cost	No. Printed	Inst. Given	Copies Sold	Total Receipts To Date
1937	Social Welfare: Subject Headings List.....	\$ 293.25	1,000	.....†	483	\$ 430.50
‡ 1946 & 1947	Special Library Resources, Vols. 2-4.....	19,658.72	1,000	.....	917 (Sets) 9 extra vols.	15,440.72
1944	Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Inf. Services	2,221.47	2,000	282	1,528	4,474.82
1945	List of Subject Headings for Chemistry Libraries.....	521.08	1,500	134	923	1,467.93
1947	Union List of Technical Periodicals.....	2,807.85	1,300	616	686	4,091.40
1949	Aviation Subject Headings.....	526.95	1,000	239	240	411.53
1949	Classification Schemes and Subject Headings List.....	5.00	225	.....	177	221.25
1949	Brief for Corporation Libraries.....	700.73	1,500	395	536	935.72
1949	Creation and Development of An Insurance Library....	366.10	1,000	238	239	476.00
1949	Subject Headings for Aeronautical Engineering Librar- ies .....	1,311.73	1,000	205	251	971.00
1949	Numerical Index to the Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports, Vols. 1-10.....	3,982.06	1,000	.....	781	7,793.00
1950	Source List of Selected Labor Statistics.....	592.77	1,000	386	211	367.43
1950	Fakes and Forgeries in the Fine Arts.....	543.28	1,000	244	68	117.25
1950	Contributions Toward A Special Library Glossary.....	309.60	1,000	390	58	76.25
† No records kept.						
	‡ Special Library Resources Vol. 1 (Now out of Print).....	5,178.39	1,500	.....†	1,169	6,552.00

# SLA Chapter Highlights

SLA members who are uninformed on the proposed constitutional changes have only themselves to blame! An intensive campaign is being continued through the BALTIMORE and CLEVELAND Chapter *Bulletins* and Chapter meetings in BOSTON, CLEVELAND and PITTSBURGH.

ILLINOIS began its course for subprofessional library assistants in February, to continue for six or seven weeks.

Some interesting graduate courses have been available during the winter. Two ILLINOIS members lectured at the University of Chicago in a special course dealing with the most recent developments in the many fields of librarianship. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA members had the opportunity to attend an evening course in cataloging at the University of Southern California. SAN FRANCISCO members had first chance to enroll for a work simplification course at the University of California.

BOSTON and GREATER ST. LOUIS (through its "Guest Night") have begun membership drives.

SAN FRANCISCO held two methods meetings on "Job Relations for the Special Library." The first considered (1) Selecting and testing applicants and (2) How to get along with your boss. The second dealt with training and supervisory problems.

PHILADELPHIA'S March meeting was devoted to "Planning the Special Library of the Future." Their February speaker was Carper W. Buckley, U. S. Assistant Superintendent of Documents.

WASHINGTON, D. C. held a round table discussion on "The Relationship of Author, Publisher and Distributor to Special Library Services." At another meeting discussion centered on practical and timely matters of insurance, damage repair and labor saving devices.

Dean Disert of Wilson College addressed PITTSBURGH members on the professional woman's contribution to her chosen field of work.

PHILADELPHIA is planning a new edition of its directory. PITTSBURGH announces plans for the third edition of its *Union List of Periodicals*. NEW YORK'S duplicate exchange list is circulated to subscribers.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA has for its 1950-1951 slogan "Information plus Education Equals Service." What a good idea for all of us! Their first *Bulletin* for the year contained a well-planned questionnaire encouraging all members to make themselves known and available for Chapter activities.

Meetings of interest across the country have included the following: BALTIMORE—Visit to and description of the services of the Welch Memorial Library of Johns Hopkins Hospital; CLEVELAND—"Saves Looking for Answers," talk by a research librarian; ILLINOIS—Report on the UNESCO Conference on the Improvement of Bibliographic Services; NEW JERSEY—A bindery tour; NEW YORK—Discussion and demonstration of audio-visual materials; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—"The Importance of Librarians on the Home Front," by Leon Z. Surmelian; and SAN FRANCISCO—A visit to a law library.

Public relations engaged the attention of two Chapters. Brooks Darlington addressed SAN FRANCISCO members. Eleanor Cavanaugh spoke most ably and entertainingly to the PHILADELPHIA Chapter.

The lighter side of life was not neglected during the Christmas holidays. BALTIMORE, CLEVELAND, ILLINOIS and PITTSBURGH held social meetings and reported a good time "had by all."

HELEN MARY PYLE, *Member,*  
*Chapter Relations Committee.*

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# SLA Division Highlights

The ADVERTISING Division's main activity, *What's New*, a bibliography of new and inexpensive material in the fields of advertising, selling and marketing, has 170 regular subscribers at \$5 a year. Publication is monthly and averages 10 pages in length. Mary Evalyn Crookston, librarian at Medrum and Fewsmith, Cleveland, Ohio, is its successful editor. *What's New* offers a comprehensive look at the worthwhile publications advertising librarians find useful as part of their permanent

record files. Plans for the ADVERTISING Division convention meetings are underway.

The MUSEUM Division reports a membership of 214, as of January 21, 1951, which represents a sizeable increase over the 181 of last September. The spring *Bulletin* will list new members and changes of address since the register was circulated in the fall *Bulletin*. Lillian Doyle, Museum of the American Indian, New York, membership chairman, will be glad to contact prospective members and

enroll new ones. Members are requested to send to Anna Moore Link, chairman, news notes of interest for the spring *Bulletin*, or questions they would like discussed at the St. Paul June Convention. Watch for contributions by the MUSEUM Division members in the May-June issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

The INSURANCE Division has a membership of 120. Gil Blomshield is chairman of the nominating committee and Ruth Parks, chairman of the hospitality committee. Vernie Wolfsberg has a tentative Division convention program planned.

The April issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES will be devoted to business libraries and will carry five articles contributed by BUSINESS Division members.

The BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Division is engaged in building up its membership and making convention plans. Tentative plans call for a luncheon meeting with round table discussion of important library problems. Speakers have been chosen and Marjorie Henderson, vice-chairman, will lead the panel discussions. Other plans include a joint dinner meeting with the HOSPITAL AND NURSING Division with a speaker and entertainment, and a breakfast for business and a short program. Of top interest will be a day at the Mayo Clinic with luncheon, tour and program provided by the Clinic. Members of the HOSPITAL AND NURSING Division and executive officers have been invited to accompany the BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Division to the Clinic. Since numbers must necessarily be limited, no other non-members of the Division can be included.

Five members of the BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Division provided articles for this issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES and other members had articles printed elsewhere this year. The Washington branch has had an attendance of fifty to sixty at its meetings at which speakers discussed topics of library interest. Mrs. Florence A. Cooksley, SLA chairman, would like

to hear of members of similar groups in other cities and will be glad to assist in forming Biological Sciences groups wherever a branch of the Division is possible.

Revision of the *Sources of Investment Information* was completed in the fall by a FINANCIAL Division committee headed by Laura Marquis, librarian of the Mellon National Bank and Trust Co., Pittsburgh. A new project to revise the *Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Information Services* by Walter Hausdorfer will soon be allocated to a committee.

FINANCIAL Division convention plans are being made by Marion E. Wells, librarian of the First National Bank of Chicago, assisted by Elaine Terpstra, the Division's local representative in Minneapolis. Tentative plans include a panel discussion on the evaluation of financial and/or economic services on Monday, June 18; a problems clinic on Tuesday, June 19; followed by a dinner meeting with speaker; a business meeting, and a luncheon meeting for the Federal Reserve librarians on Wednesday, June 20. Miss Wells has asked for other suggestions, and will appreciate the Division members letting her know if the tentative program meets with their approval.

The December 1950 issue of the GEOGRAPHY AND MAP Division *Bulletin* contained a list of Division members and their addresses. The New York group is working on a project of determining the boundaries and spheres of activities of the various SLA Chapters in the United States. Nordis Felland of the American Geographical Society is chairman of the program committee for the convention.

A list of the members of the NEWSPAPER Division, with their addresses will be given in the next issue of the Division's *Bulletin*.

All Divisions seem to be working hard this year on membership, projects and bulletins, and looking forward enthusiastically to the convention in June.

AGNES HENEERY, *Member*  
*Division Relations Committee.*

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## Off the Press

The American Library Association, the *Library Journal*, the Bell telephone, and the Dewey decimal classification, all made their bow to the world in 1876. During the past seventy-five years the D.C. has undergone facelifting and rejuvenization fourteen times. The latest and fifteenth operation which it is hoped will prove the best of all was completed so recently that the patient is still under wraps, but now stoutly proclaims, "February

is the month."

Although the fourteenth edition came out in 1942, the D. C. Committee decided shortly thereafter that a revision should be undertaken for the purpose of producing a classification scheme of the utmost practicality. Mrs. Esther P. Potter was employed in 1945 to direct the office, with headquarters in the Library of Congress. One of the first principles observed was to discover what librarians and classifiers

wanted. A rather full questionnaire was widely distributed, going among others to members of the Special Library Association. The results will soon stand up for judgment. Those who have helped compile the new book, feel confident that its definitions, scope notes and its improved typography will win approval.

MILTON JAMES FERGUSON, *Editor*  
*Dewey Decimal Classification.*

\* \* \*

EVERYMAN'S UNITED NATIONS is a ready reference to the structure, functions and work of the United Nations and its related agencies. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1950. 313pp.)

## Have you heard....

**Mrs. Ruth Hooker, Former SLA President,  
Appointed Coordinator of Naval  
Libraries**

Mrs. Ruth H. Hooker, librarian of the Naval Research Laboratory of the Office of Naval Research, has been appointed to the newly created position of Coordinator of the Naval Libraries. She will have the additional duty of Navy Department librarian, succeeding Mrs. Constance D. Lathrop, who retired last October. Mildred Benton, chief, Division of Field Libraries Service of the Department

of Agriculture, will succeed Mrs. Hooker as librarian at NRL.

### Request from Directory Committee

The Membership Directory Committee requests that members carefully check material received from the Association for accuracy of address. Please send to SLA Headquarters any changes of address that should be made now. The committee wishes the Directory to be as accurate as possible in every detail to insure its maximum usefulness.

### SLA 1950 Transactions

The delay in printing the 1950 SLA *Transactions* has been due to the illness of the editorial assistant and also the fact that the final decision to publish this volume was not made by the SLA Executive Board until October of last year. All material is now in the hands of the printer and orders will be filled the early part of March.

The editor regrets the inconvenience this delay has caused SLA members.

### An Oil Well Library

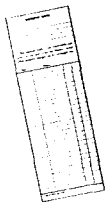
"Now there's a lending library for oil wells. An enterprising gentleman in Shawnee, Okla., has more than 22,000 well samples filed away in rows of cataloged shoe boxes. The samples are rock and earth portions through which

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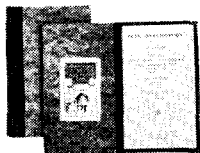
*in Gaylord's #51 Catalog...*



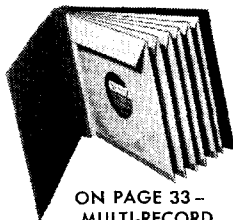
ON PAGE 16 — CATALOG  
GUIDE HEADINGS: Inexpensive printed sets for use in Tilted Tab Guides.



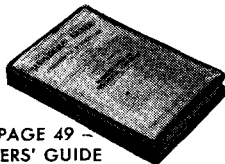
ON PAGE 30 — EXTRA  
LONG RESERVE  
BOOK CARDS AND  
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ON PAGE 43 —  
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ON PAGE 33 —  
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ON PAGE 49 —  
READERS' GUIDE  
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the drill bit has passed. By checking over the file, drillers and geologists may obtain valuable geologic information which often helps to avoid drilling failures. The library's value is estimated at \$100,000." (*Petroleum News Notes*, January-February 1951)

### **Irene M. Strieby to Speak at Meeting of ACS Division of Chemical Literature**

Irene M. Strieby, of Eli Lilly & Co. and former SLA president, and Mr. K. D. Metcalf, of Harvard University and former ALA president, will be the speakers at the forthcoming round table discussion to be held April 2, 1951, at the Boston meeting of the Division of Chemical Literature of the American Chemical Society. Topic of the discussion will be "The Relation of the Literature Chemist to the Chemistry Librarian."

### **P. F. Collier & Son Corporation Donates New Encyclopedia to SLA Headquarters**

SLA Headquarters is the recipient of an exhibit copy of the new 20-volume Collier Encyclopedia which is available to members for consultation at the office. Planned, written and edited to meet the needs of home, school, library and office, the Encyclopedia is a concise, completely understandable summary of facts and information for both layman and scholar. The Encyclopedia, remarkable for its modernity, authority and comprehensiveness, was four years in preparation at a cost of more than \$2 million. The Collier Corporation was an exhibitor at the 1950 SLA Convention in Atlantic City and is expected to be again represented at the forthcoming convention in St. Paul in June 1951.

### **Alabama Library Association's Annual Convention April 12-14, 1951**

The Alabama Library Association will hold its annual convention, April 12-14, 1951, at Montgomery, Alabama, with headquarters at the Whitley Hotel. The theme of the conference will be "Building the Peace: Can Librarians Help." Arrangements for the convention are being directed by Paul N. Postell, librarian of the Air University Library, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.

### **A Program for Voluntary Protection of Technical Information**

Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer has provided a service to help the public guard voluntarily against the harmful release of technical information, even though it is not subject to formal security restrictions.

The Office of Technical Services of the United States Department of Commerce will receive requests for advice as to whether specific technical data should be disclosed, with-

## **A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MICRONESIA**

by Huzio Utinomi

The most complete bibliography yet compiled of scientific publications concerned with Micronesia. Stresses biological sciences; includes geology, geophysics, anthropology, and ethnology. Translated from the Japanese and edited at University of Hawaii. Prepublication price \$2.00 until May 1. *Approx. 150 pp., paper, \$2.50.*

## **INSECTS OF HAWAII**

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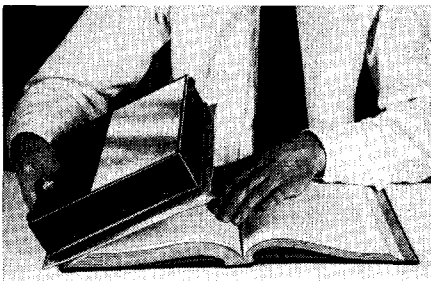
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(\* names on request)



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As an industrialist, businessman, scientist, public official, or private citizen, you are invited to use this service whenever you question whether technical information in your possession should be disclosed. It is then entirely up to you whether or not you act on the Government's advice. There is absolutely no compulsion for you to do so, since the program is entirely a voluntary one.

Requests for advice concerning the release of technical information, together with pertinent manuscripts, plans, or documents, if they are available, should be addressed to:

Office of Technical Services,  
U. S. Department of Commerce,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Your enclosures will be returned with the Government's comment as promptly as compatible with the problems of fact and judgment involved.

Before inquiries are submitted, the information in question should be considered in the light of the types of technical data and the circumstances with which the program of voluntary protection are concerned.

### Student Help in a Small College Library

(Continued from page 98)

there is no one to help with the early morning rush, but allowing them these privileges keeps oneself young, and makes them more dependable, because they know that if they have a legitimate reason they may be excused from their duties. Their work must be constantly checked and double-checked, so that many of the routines of library work remain untouched until the summer vacation time, but with this student help we are able to extend maximum of service to anyone desiring to use the library of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

### Life in a Medical Library

(Continued from page 92)

other way which we found successful in the more difficult books was to use the artist's tube attachment to an air pressure cylinder with a gauge set at low

Please Mention Special Libraries When Answering Advertisements

pressure and thus tease the pages apart.

With the books dried and back on the shelves, I now began to worry about the very probable development of mold. We searched the literature for anti-mold solutions and finally decided to try the one reported in the *United States Naval Medical Bulletin*. (44: 1244, 1945). Using this solution in the open air for not more than two hours at a time, some of us developed mild evidence of benzol poisoning. We therefore looked for a safer solution for more general use and decided on a 5 per cent copper sulphate solution.

Another stack, a block away, had been exposed inadvertently to atmospheric humidity and mold spread throughout the stack. The covers of all these books were washed with the copper sulphate solution; to date we have had no return of mold.

By this time I had become interested in the effects of mold on books especially as we came into the library each morning for weeks after the flood still smelling wet fish glue and developing mold. Our first duty each day was to go around the room sniffing, trying to locate the source and each time we would find a stray wet book along the wall shelves. Although we had believed the books on these shelves to be undamaged, an unnoticed trickle of water coming down the wall and seeping along the back of the shelf had touched an occasional book then bypassed five or six before attacking another. After about a month these books began developing mold. We went through four of the worst ones page by page and wherever we found evidence of mold on a page, we washed the spot with copper sulphate solution and noted the page. These volumes were set aside and watched for a period of three years to check on the recurrence of mold but none has so far developed.

Such is the life of a librarian to which is also added the ever present reference question which lends spice, even though

*Philosophical Library Publications*

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## THE BEGINNINGS OF DIPLOMACY

By RAGNAR NUMELIN, Ph.D.

Member, Scientific Society of Finland  
Finnish Minister to Belgium

*From the Contents*

Society, Government, Law, and Custom  
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it may keep us after hours. Such a one was received recently from a hospital about nine in the evening requesting the composition of white shoe polish. It seems the emergency ward had just admitted a patient who had attempted suicide by drinking this potion.

## A Library University

(Continued from page 96)

curriculum had increased to German I, German II, Russian I, Russian II, French I, and lectures on Biochemistry. This last course was taught by seven instructors, each of whom holds a Ph.D. degree in a special phase of chemistry. This class was so large it could not be held in the library rooms, and some of our other classes were held after five o'clock.

Now we are well on our way in the third year of our "Library University." All of our classes are taught by persons well qualified to teach in any college or university. In fact, some of them have had teaching experience. Our curriculum this year has again increased in scope. It includes Elementary Chemistry (for secretaries and technicians), Advanced German, Scientific German, Beginning Russian, Advanced Russian, Spanish, Statistics in Quality Control and Research, lectures in Biochemistry, and Composition and Painting (taught by one of our Anheuser-Busch artists). So far the enthusiasm for learning has been growing like yeast in a nourishing media. Our three library rooms are now equipped with blackboards and folding chairs. We are beginning to believe that these classes are here to stay.

Librarians like to quote: "The next best thing to knowing something is knowing where to find it." We are weighty with emphasis on the latter. I suggest more emphasis on the former. Have you struggled with foreign dictionaries trying to translate titles of articles written in a language with which you are totally unfamiliar? It isn't fun!

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### Set Your Compass for St. Paul

(Continued from page 100)

Special trips have been planned for those interested in seeing some of our industries. You are acquainted with Betty Crocker, the "First Lady" with the homemakers of America, so we have scheduled a trip to see her kitchens. At the Ford Motor Company plant you can "watch the Fords go by" and see the glass being made for the entire Ford industry. Other stops will be at the Hamm Brewing Company, one of the most modern equipped breweries in the country, and the huge Swift packing plant. Livestock and meat packing form Minnesota's number one industry.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Hotel Lowry. The majority of reservations, especially if people will share rooms, will be handled at the Lowry, with the overflow being taken care of by the St. Paul Hotel across the street. Prices for room accommodations are as follows:

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This book has over 900 pages of reading matter and about 900 photographs. Its size is 8½ by 5½ inches. It's strongly bound in dark blue simili-leather. On the outside front cover is a map outlined in gold of the North American continent, showing with gold-fleur-de-lis where French-speaking people are grouped. The printing is on fine paper in clear, legible type. The text is written in easily understandable French.

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guest speaker at the First General Session on Monday morning will be Minnesota's outstanding Governor, Luther W. Youngdahl. You have read about Governor Youngdahl's deep interest in youth conservation and state mental health programs. He is also the Minnesota chairman of the American Crusade for Freedom, and late last October he flew to Berlin with General Lucius Clay as the Midwest's representative at the dedication of the World Freedom Bell.

If you drive, you will enjoy your trip along Minnesota's super-highways through beautiful scenic routes. Coming from the Southeast, there is the lazy Mississippi with its beautiful bluffs, and the long placid Lake Pepin; from the Southwest, miles of gently hilled fields; and in the Northwest, fields of grain, flat and spacious, disappearing only with the horizon. Wherever you go, hills, lakes, valleys and streams are everywhere present to delight you. Minnesota's many historical sites are scattered throughout nearly fifty state parks, recreational areas and roadside parks.

No visitor should leave Minnesota without striking out for the rugged splendor of the North. The Superior National Forest spreads over nearly 2,000,000 primitive wilderness acres. Here the sudden appearance of a deer, moose or black bear is nothing out of the ordinary. You can drive for over 100 miles along the majestic North Shore of Lake Superior through the Indian and fur-trading country. Rushing rivers with spectacular cascades and waterfalls boiling through their rocky beds tumble down from the uplands and silently lose themselves in the shimmering blue waters of this great inland sea. Breathtaking cliffs, long stretches of cool dark forest, vistas of sparkling waters surrounded by rocky shores and virgin timber and always refreshing breezes from the lake make a sight that once seen is never forgotten.

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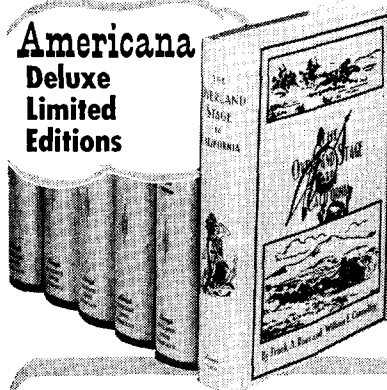
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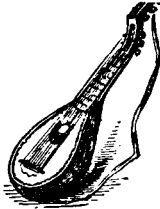
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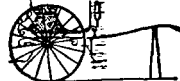


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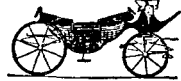


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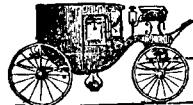
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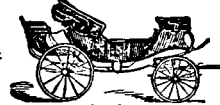
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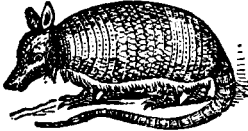
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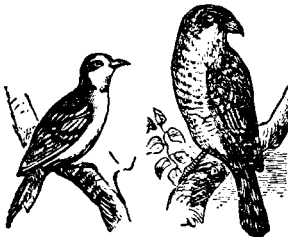


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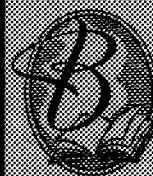
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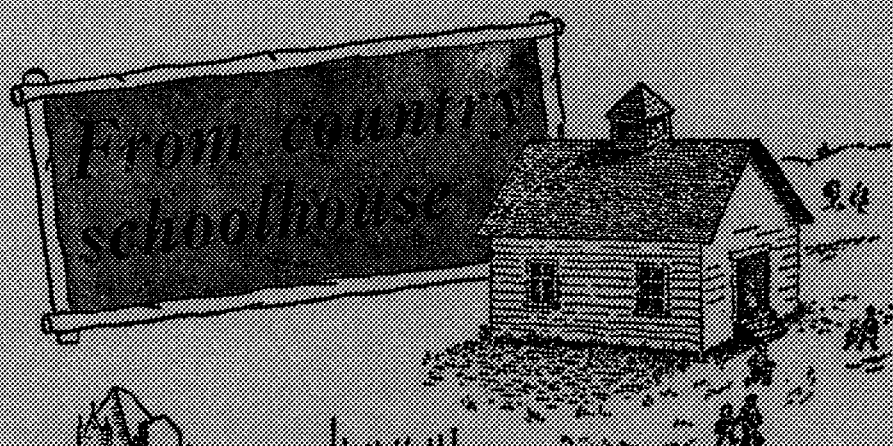
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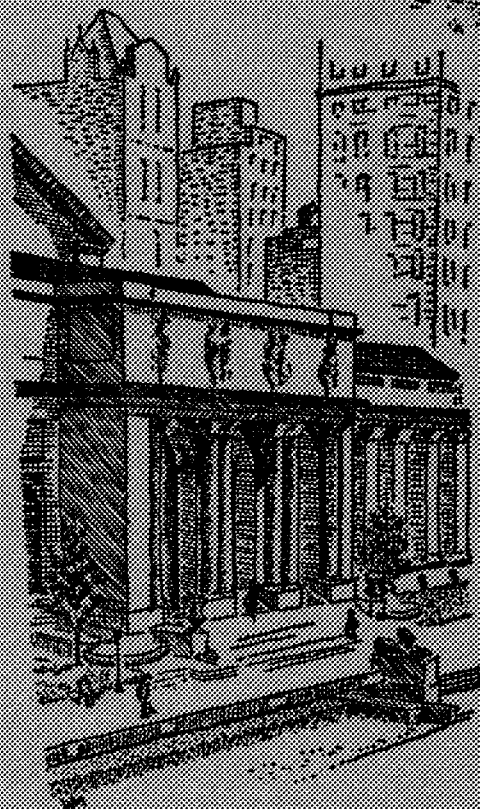
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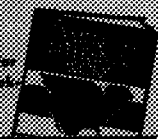
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