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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Official Journal of the Special Libraries Association

VOLUME 43

JULY-AUGUST 1952

NUMBER 6

Special Librarianship and Documentation

Dr. Mortimer Taube

Library Service for Production Technology

Dr. John Magnus Pearson

Effective Writing

Kermit Rolland

Technical Research Reports

Bernard M. Fry

Your SLA Headquarters

Kathleen B. Stebbins

Published by

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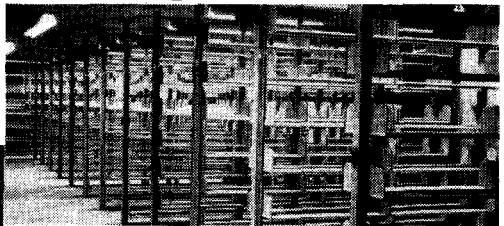
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President's Message

I HAVE noticed a tendency among our members of late to talk about "they." "Why don't 'they' do this" or "They say we must do that." This sounds as if SLA was run by a sort of hypothetical dictatorship, over and above, and completely divorced from "us."

If this is true, who are "they"? Are "they" the officers? Thanks to our elaborate set-up of Chapter, Division and Association functions which is due to the great variety of our interests, we have any number of officers. Just look at the roster! Anyone who is willing to do a job is likely to find himself an officer at any time. So "they" might refer to any one of us. And if "they," in the capacity of officer, start trying to lead our alert and vocal members by the nose, our record shows that "they" don't get very far.

Personally, I can't accept the idea that the Association is an abstract entity which "they" run. In my book, the Association is literally ourselves and our jobs and the organizations we serve. Our officers are our representatives and, actually, our servants.

A silly little phrase we used to use in our family as children keeps forcing itself into this discussion. It was "We, us and company." Perhaps that describes us even better. In any event, I do propose that we habitually say "we" instead of "they."

ELIZABETH FERGUSON, *President*

YOUR SLA HEADQUARTERS



How it works

What it can do for you

Mrs. Stebbins is executive secretary, Special Libraries Association, New York.

TO MEMBERS who have never visited the Special Libraries Association Headquarters, its functions and operations may be cloaked in mystery. In order to dispel that mystery, a large welcome mat is always outside the door of SLA Headquarters in New York and members are urged to visit it whenever they are in the vicinity of 31 East Tenth Street. A staff of eight full-time and two part-time persons is prepared to explain the operations at Headquarters and to assist you with your problems.

In an effort to acquaint members with the facilities at Headquarters, an open house was held last October prior to the SLA Executive Board and Advisory Council meetings in New York City, and again on May 24, 1952, prior to the annual convention.

This year, for the first time, the executive secretary met with chapter presidents at the annual convention in order to discuss ways of improving Headquarters' service and the best methods for handling membership records. So that new chapter secretaries or membership chairmen may become acquainted with the present method of keeping membership card records, a sheet of instructions has been mimeographed and is available to all interested members.

The same procedure was followed when Mrs. Stebbins spoke briefly at the school for incoming division officers, conducted by Thelma Hoffman at the

1952 convention. Another mimeographed sheet has been prepared for division secretaries or membership chairmen and is available from Headquarters.

Addressograph plates are made for all members and subscribers, and additional sets of plates for Association officers, for some of the smaller divisions and for periodicals to which publicity releases are sent. The executive secretary had hoped that it might be possible to secure funds for making duplicate sets of addressograph plates for members of sections. However, the Executive Board felt that the problems of multiple section affiliation and the number of SLA sections and divisions should be studied further before any additional plates were added to the ever-growing file.

A code, designating chapter, one division and type of membership, is now in use on the addressograph plates. Copies of this code may be secured on request by any member.

Division Workbook

An excellent summary of how Headquarters can help you and how you can help Headquarters has been included on page four of the *Workbook of Division Procedures* prepared by Mrs. Angelica Blomshild and the Division Relations Committee. This workbook, in loose-leaf form, will soon be available for division officers. It is suggested therein that information regarding changes of address, affiliations and resignations be sent direct to Headquarters. Any questions regarding membership will be answered promptly and changes made as requested.

It is further suggested that two copies of every report or bulletin prepared by divisions (also by chapters) be sent to Headquarters for the archives. One copy of each SLA chapter and division bulletin is sent to the School of Library Service Library, Columbia University, which is the only other depository for such material besides Headquarters.

Services

Service furnished to chapters and divisions includes weekly cards to notify secretaries or membership chairmen of new members, changes in address, etc. It includes the addressographing of envelopes for division bulletins throughout the year. Since there are now thirteen SLA divisions, some of them issuing as many as six bulletins annually, it would make for greater efficiency if such mailings could be planned in advance. If Headquarters could be notified in the summer of the number and approximate dates envelopes would be wanted, it would not be necessary to keep some divisions waiting while filling prior requests. Stationery is also furnished free of charge, as well as promotional material about SLA and the special library field. Available to members in quantity are copies of the pamphlet, *SLA, What It Is and Does*, membership blanks, SLA publication lists, recruiting literature and reprints of SLA material.

Each summer an up-to-date list of members is sent to chapters and divisions in order to provide the newly-elected secretary with a current file of members. A mimeographed list of all SLA members of the Executive Board, chapter and division officers, standing and special committee chairmen and SLA representatives, is mailed to each member of the Executive Board and Advisory Council in the fall. Minutes of the SLA Board and Council meetings held three times a year, are distributed to the officers following each meeting and are available for reference at Headquarters.

Semiannual budget checks are sent

to chapter and division treasurers in January and July as approved each year by the executive board. In 1952 the amount was based on 12 ½ per cent of paid-up chapter membership and four per cent of division membership. An extra check for additional division affiliations is sent in April when current dues have been received.

A list of divisions and sections now appears on the reverse of the membership bills in order that members may check those in which they are interested according to the provisions of their type of membership. At the business meeting of the Science-Technology Division at the 1952 convention, it was decided that the best interests of the members would be served if affiliations with only two sections were observed. This information, therefore, will now appear on the membership blanks and invoices so that those members who have chosen more than two sections of the Science-Technology Division can notify Headquarters which two they prefer. The Social Science Division, on the other hand, decided not to limit affiliation with its five sections for at least another year.

SLA Publications

Sales of all SLA publications, advertising and publicity are handled at Headquarters upon approval by the executive board in consultation with the publications committee. That SLA can produce "best-sellers" was apparent when the demand for *Technical Libraries, Their Organization and Management* became so great last winter, followed by considerable interest in *Nicknames of American Cities, Towns and Villages Past and Present* and *SLA Directory of Members 1951*, that it was necessary to engage an extra typist-clerk for three months to handle the flood of orders.

Many chapters, divisions and committees of Special Libraries Association are forwarding their archival material to Headquarters for permanent housing. It will be greatly appreciated if such

material is weeded before being sent, so that only important material will be retained. To date, the Michigan, New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh Chapters and the Museum Division have presented the Executive Offices of SLA with bound volumes of their bulletins. It would be invaluable if other chapters and divisions would assist Headquarters in collecting missing issues and have them bound.

A small loan library is now maintained at Headquarters for the use of members. In addition to library tools, such as books and pamphlets on cataloging, reference work, indexing and filing and similar material, the most useful collection is that of classification schemes and subject headings lists. Over 400 schemes are available on loan for one month, free of charge to members. A mimeographed list of the material included was prepared in 1951 and sells for \$1.50. Other unusual materials included in the loan collection are house organs, library publicity, abstract bulletins, library layouts and similar literature. Any new classification scheme or subject headings list will be gratefully received for adding to the collection.

Placement Service

One of the services desired by members from their professional organization is a placement service where members can learn about job opportunities and employers may leave job orders. SLA has maintained such a placement service for many years, first under a volunteer chairman, and for the past eleven years at Headquarters. Chapter employment chairmen in the twenty-four chapters located outside the New York and New Jersey areas cooperate by filling positions locally and notifying Headquarters of vacancies in which members elsewhere might be interested. The local chapter employment chairmen assist the executive secretary in maintaining a clearing-house for employment at the annual convention.

At the present time there are innumerable special library positions at

the beginning salary levels with very few persons interested in applying for them. Positions offering higher salaries for considerable experience generally have a number of applicants except for those requiring a major in science and knowledge of foreign languages.

In addition to requests for librarians and assistants, Mrs. Stebbins is asked frequently to quote salary scales for different industries in various geographic areas. As no Association-wide salary survey has been made since 1947, chapter employment chairmen cooperated in sending information about minimum, average and maximum library salaries by type of position. The Science-Technology Division salary survey made in 1951 has also been useful in quoting technical library salaries. It has been possible to raise salaries by several thousand dollars a year through such information provided by Headquarters upon request of employers or libraries.

Special Libraries

Situated at Headquarters also, is the editorial office of **SPECIAL LIBRARIES**. It is here that the associate editor, Dora Richman, SLA member and former chairman of the Publishing Division, devotes her time to planning, editing and preparing the journal and other SLA publications for the press. Due to increased correspondence in connection with this work, a part-time stenographer has been engaged.

This brief summation of the services now rendered by SLA Headquarters may help acquaint new members and remind former members of the facilities which are at their disposal. As the budget permits, new services will be added, since it is the aim to give members all of the assistance they need from their professional organization.

Recommendations will be welcomed by the new president, Elizabeth Ferguson, and by the SLA Executive Offices, for ways in which to improve the services now rendered by SLA Headquarters and to make it a model for association headquarters anywhere.

Effective Writing^{*}

Mr. Rolland is in the Public Relations Department, New York Life Insurance Company, New York City.

RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN a great deal of nonsense written and taught about communication. We hear of experts who have devised yardsticks to measure the readability of what we write. We hear of experts who have designed little plastic gadgets to help us make ourselves more intelligible. Experts have set down long lists of rules which we must follow if we will write understandably. What a waste of time most of these methods are! And what a lot of money earnest, well-intentioned business firms and institutions have put out for the services of experts!

Communication. There is scarcely a business speech made nowadays in which the term is not used. Before the war the expression was not in general use except as a term for a system of communication such as the telephone or telegraph. Now we use communication in its basic dictionary sense: the interchange of thoughts or opinions.

But the term "communication" is perhaps too general; it does not describe quite accurately what we are trying to do. When we say "communication" what we generally mean is "written communication." And when we say "written communication" we are doing nothing more than giving a streamlined, progressive name to our old friends composition and rhetoric.

The Royal Bank of Canada *Monthly*

* Paper presented at a meeting of SLA Division chairmen, 43rd Annual Convention, SLA, New York City, May 26, 1952.

Letter said recently: "The man who can explain himself in writing may command what he wants; he who cannot convey his desires in an understandable way is left to his own personal resources. The persuasive pen or typewriter is therefore among the primary assets which an individual and a business must have in order to attain any real success. A letter, for example, seems a simple thing. It has a beginning, a middle and an end. But between the beginning and the end lie many traps and deadfalls."

Characteristics

We know that writing is a very complicated business. It is impossible to reduce it to any simple formula or set of tricks devised by "communication experts." In addition, the ingredients of effective prose are so numerous and so abstract that they elude definition or even identification. But in spite of these obstacles there is one approach to an understanding of the craft which we may use. It is this:

We can select a few of the main characteristics which we customarily associate with effective prose and examine them in the light of our particular purpose. If we do this we will discover that effective writing—all effective writing—has two important qualities in common. *It is clear. It has force.*

Now, a piece of effective writing may have other characteristics—warmth, for example, or splendor, or compassion. But these are qualities which do not concern us primarily in our efforts to make ourselves understood. These are qualities which lie deep within the personality of the individual writer.

Clear writing is easy to understand. There is no doubt in the reader's mind of the precise shade of meaning intended by the writer. In clear writing a sentence should read, in the words of Thoreau, "as if its author, had he held a plow instead of a pen, could have drawn a furrow deep and straight to the end." If we will write clearly we will write simply and concisely.

What is the secret of simple writing? It is this: put only one idea in each sentence. When you come to the end of an idea resist the ever-present temptation to link it to the next idea by means of a conjunction, even though it may mean starting the next sentence with a conjunction. Too many conjunctions make daisy chains of our ideas and bewilder our readers.

Conciseness as a way to simplicity in writing does not necessarily mean brevity or curtness. Conciseness means getting down to essentials—saying what we have to say in the fewest possible words.

Business English

To achieve conciseness in writing, forget, first of all, that there ever existed a thing called "business English." The implication of the term "business English" is that the affairs of business are conducted in a special language known only to the initiate. This idea has been responsible for more bad letters in the last hundred years than anything else. "Business English" is a place of confusion and a lodging for the winds. Let those who insist on using "business English" (whatever it may be) write to each other exclusively—for eventually no one else will understand them.

The language of our written communications is, or should be, the everyday speech of the United States. It is the language we use when we talk with one another. And there is a very important reason for using this language: it is the language which our readers best understand. It is a direct, familiar, straight-forward and colorful language. If we make use of it we will write more concisely, and thereby with greater sim-

plicity, and with greater clarity.

They tell a story about P. T. Barnum and his use of language. When the great showman was running his famous museum in New York City he was presented with the problem of getting people out of his place once they had seen the exhibits and the demonstrations. He met the situation in a typical Barnum fashion. He removed the exit sign from over the rear door and hung in its place a large sign which said "This Way to the Egress." Assuming that the "egress" was another of Barnum's fabulous oddities, customers elbowed their way through the door—to find themselves out on the street.

Many of the letters we write are "egress" letters. They lead people right out the door when we would prefer that they stayed with us awhile.

If we will write clearly, then, we will use the colloquial language of the United States and we will lodge each of our ideas in its own simple sentence.

Force

The other ingredient which all effective prose shares is force. Force gives movement and strength to our writing. Force in writing persuades people to do things. **JOIN THE ARMY. BUY BONDS.** Forceful writing. Why? The answer lies in the construction of the sentence.

Force in writing is obtained through the use of active verbs. In the active voice the subject performs the action which the verb describes. In the passive voice the action is performed upon the subject. An example. "Susie kissed me." Active voice; Susie is performing the action. "I was kissed by Susie." Passive voice, the subject is being performed upon. Grammar is not necessarily dull.

If we write clearly, if we write forcefully, we will write with greater effect, and we will communicate with greater success.

The natural and desirable consequence of good communication is better understanding. And when we understand one another, as individuals, as business organizations, as institutions, as nations, we build truly and permanently.

Library Service

For Production Technology*

Dr. Pearson is director of the Physical Division, Research and Development Department, Sun Oil Company, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY finds applications for a very diverse assortment of arts, especially in its efforts to find and produce crude oil. The relative emphasis given to the use of each art varies from one company or individual to another, but the use of the library is common to every program.

The primary use of any library in applications of science is to bring to hand all the available past experience in a given field at the lowest cost. This does not imply that the experience recorded in writing is available just for the reading, since each individual's background determines his real appreciation of what he reads. It does imply, however, that a reader who is skilled in his field can place what he reads in such relation to the problems before him that much time and cost may be saved in attempting to advance the art. The cost of the literature search is a small part of the whole cost of a technical development. Therefore:

The first objective in the use of a library is to make sure that all the arts available to the problem are set forth for proper evaluation and use in the development to be undertaken.

Basic Concepts

The next most important function of the library is to provide the philosophical background of the arts. By "arts" I

mean strictly the know-how. By "philosophy" of the arts I mean the basic concepts and principles which serve to simplify our thinking about them. In other words, we need to learn the theory of our arts in order to facilitate our thinking.

It is characteristic that an art usually precedes its theory so that the creation of an art whole cloth from general theory is rather a rare occurrence. It is much more common that a clear understanding of the basic theory of an art leads to useful advances because the clear perception uncovers a combination of principles not yet tried. Therefore:

The second objective in the use of a library is to set forth the basic concepts and principles useful in understanding an art. To define the gaps in understanding is essential in pointing to needed research.

Any invention, including the "flash of genius" prescribed by our Supreme Court, involves the fitting together of several heretofore disunited means to accomplish a new and useful end; in other words, the creation of a new art. The making of inventions is becoming more complex as the arts multiply. The problem of finding the inventive combination often involves many arts and several people. The essential steps become, first, a recognition of the basic elements of the problem; second, a determination of arts that can be applied; and, finally, the development of an optimum combination that will answer the problem. The role of the library in promoting invention includes the first two objectives mentioned, and, in addition, it includes an assignment of greater subtlety. This job is to locate infor-

* Taken from a paper presented at a meeting of the Petroleum Section at the 43rd Annual Convention of SLA, New York City, May 27, 1952.

mation pertinent to the problem at hand, independent of the classification of that information according to other sciences or intended use. For instance, how can we be sure an electronics expert will hear about an especially stable amplifier for low frequencies if it is described in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* as part of an electrocardiograph? Therefore:

The third objective in the use of a library is to locate information that has application to current problems, regardless of how that information is currently classified and filed. This also includes information in issued patents and in prior arts concerning patent applications.

Finally, a library service is of value in keeping abreast of current developments in any of the sciences applied to production technology. This may be done in a variety of ways, but the result should be to get fresh news of developments to the attention of each technologist who might use the information. Therefore:

The fourth objective in the use of a library is to keep the working technologist in touch with current developments that apply to those problems on which he is working.

Summary

To summarize, the objectives in the use of library services for production technology are:

1. To learn of past experience in the useful arts.
2. To maximize our understanding of that experience.
3. To find useful information regardless of how filed or classified.
4. To keep in touch with current developments.

This is a formidable assignment in the general terms presented. Even when the task is circumscribed to include only the projects undertaken by one company, the work is considerable. It is essential that the most effective methods be employed to meet each of these objectives.

Post-Convention Lines

INTO EVERY GENERATION, every ten years, or every other year, comes a group of people who are unaware that librarians are no longer mere custodians of books. In truth, the special librarian, long aware of "documentation," has selected, analyzed and stored a vast amount of paper with a view to making it available via index or abstract. He has anticipated the needs of the novice in the field. He knows that history has a way of repeating itself. He has chained books and company reports only when necessary, and even then, with combination locks only. He is aware that those whose need is great will come upon his storehouse eventually.

Memory of Man

Before one of the greatest of these institutions for keeping documents fresh sit two majestic lions. They have changed not a whit since the day when they were molded and made guardians of the entrance to that edifice. Some say that they smile. Others have heard their conversation. One must be in the mood to interpret this fantasy. But inside these walls, for many years, research has gone on through WPA, NRA, before both, and up through other alphabetic combinations of government and industry. If our lions smile, it is at the memory of man. If they speak beyond idle conversation, may it not be that behind them lies experience and learning and before them walk, all unseeing, the seekers-after-knowledge.

Special Librarians

Must the librarian start anew? Must the lions roar to reach those who are burdened with too much paper? Isn't it enough to remember that special librarians came together in 1909, founding our Association because of a deluge of printed matter that needed special handling and care? Then it was brochures and ephemeral literature. Today it is scientific reports and documents.

M. M. K.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

HAIL TO THE PRESIDENT! We are proud of our new leader, Elizabeth Ferguson.

I like to remember her first appearance in our midst. She came to New York knowing nothing about our city. She advanced upon SLA knowing nothing about our Association. She entered the insurance world innocent of its intricacies and specializations. So, embracing the largest city she could find, adopting the most controversial branch of the profession she could discover, wedging her way into the insurance business, what do we find? A woman with amazing capacity who has developed in these eight years as the product of our profession we most admire: a small-town girl who has made good!

Background

Her Ohio life, Cleveland and Lima, has a Vermont background which accounts for her great fondness for experimenting and pioneering, attributes quite necessary in our world of special libraries. She also had the good fortune to work under Georgie G. McAfee who gave her the best that public libraries of the last quarter century could give. Back of this was another valuable experience, a bookshop at Halle Brothers in Cleveland. It was a natural step to the public library for six months in the children's room, and from that apprenticeship to the library school at Western Reserve.

From there Miss Ferguson went to the Lima Public Library where she seemed to sense from the first the importance of a certain group of users who came to the reference room—the business men. With her library so ready to back her up, Miss Ferguson began to experiment with methods of work and found that books had to be supplemented with other sources of information and with personal contacts; that “no” was an inadequate answer to the business man's

need for information. For thirteen years she was content with the fullness of this library assignment. But there were other experiences and places to explore. Why not New York? No city was too vast to daunt that exuberant spirit ready to try out “executive” wings, to cultivate methods or work for some new professional activity.

New York

After a visit to SLA Headquarters, an appointment was arranged for Elizabeth Ferguson to be interviewed for a position as librarian of the Institute of Life Insurance. When she discussed possible library activities with President Holgar Johnson, he must have sensed that he would find in this applicant the quality of open-mindedness and the acute interest vital to such a public relations institution. She must have said something about books and public libraries and the needs for business information. She may even have said that public libraries need advice on authoritative business books. At any rate, Mr. Johnson had faith in her ability and gave her the opportunity to develop the unique library which serves his staff of experts. She opened up an approach also to the larger problem of making books and authoritative information on life insurance available to the public. She has written for professional journals and is co-author of *Creation and Development of an Insurance Library*.

We all wish Elizabeth well. Most of all, we wish her the opportunity to apply that wholesome sense of fun and humor that may keep her on top of the complicated situations we members devise for our officers. We know that we like her professional policies. She has done well in the local scene. Now the field of action is more extensive, but we know that Elizabeth Ferguson will be equal to the task.

FLORENCE BRADLEY.

SPECIAL LIBRARIANSHIP and DOCUMENTATION

OUT OF THE GENERAL RECOGNITION that special librarianship and documentation are closely related activities and out of the confusion which is sometimes engendered by this relationship, there has risen a need for definitions of the two concepts which would exhibit both their identity and difference.

Special librarianship is concerned with the collection, identification, organization and servicing of items of recorded information (i.e., documents) for the achievement of special purposes. Whatever these "special" purposes may be, as opposed to the general education purpose of a public library, they determine the nature and scope of the activities designed to achieve them.

Documentation

Documentation as the designation of the total complex of activities involved in the communication of specialized information includes the activities which constitute special librarianship plus the prior activities of preparing and reproducing materials and the subsequent activity of distribution. In essence documentation is an amalgam of librarianship and publishing with the added responsibility of preparing or causing to be prepared the materials to be published, collected, organized, serviced and disseminated. This last element is the weak spot of our definition. There are those who would leave out the actual initial preparation of materials although it is recognized that documentation does include the preparation of bibliographical and reference material, i.e. the so-called "secondary publications." I think that to the extent that responsibility for preparing primary materials is corporate rather than individual, to the extent

that the initial preparation is guided and determined by the ultimate purpose of distribution to a special audience, preparation of the document is a part of documentation.

Unity

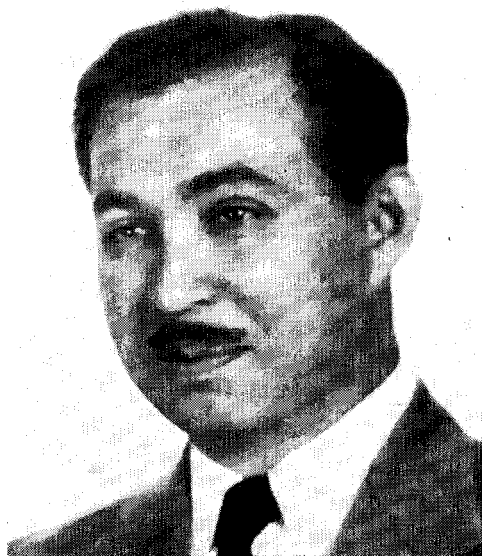
We need not stop to debate this issue. Even if we leave out the writing or preparation of the record, we must still ask whether this combination of publishing and library activities constitutes a new unity or is just a fortitudinous togetherness of wholly distinct activities.

We could win an easy victory at this point. We could say that there exist organizations like the Technical Information Service of the Atomic Energy Commission or the Armed Services Technical Information Agency of the Department of Defense which are responsible for administering documentation programs, and we could derive the unity of documentation from the unity of administration. But administrative unity may indicate, not the unity of a program, but, bad administrative organization of basically diverse or unrelated programs. In other words we must discover unity, if it exists, in the activities themselves.

The unity of any set of elements is a condition of mutual influence and dependence. A collection of pebbles is not a unity. But a biological organism with divisions of function, interaction, and interdependence among its parts is a unity. In the same sense, an economic or political organization can be a unity—one corporation or one state.

In these terms we would argue that documentation is a unity, that the common purpose of communication pervades a total complex of activities, each

RECEIVES SLA AWARD



DR. MORTIMER TAUBE, president, Documentation, Inc., formerly deputy chief, Technical Information Services, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C., received the SLA Award for 1952 at the 43rd annual convention of the Special Libraries Association at the Hotel Statler in New York. The award, a sterling silver bowl, was presented to Dr. Taube at the annual business meeting, May 29, by Mrs. Ruth H. Hooker, chairman of the 1952 Committee on Awards, in recognition

of his outstanding contributions and pioneering in the library profession.

Dr. Taube is a University of Chicago graduate. He received his Ph.D. at the University of California in 1935 and a Certificate in Librarianship the year following. His library experience has covered a wide range: circulation librarian at Mills College, cataloger at Rutgers University Library, and head of the acquisitions department at Duke University Library.

Since 1944, Dr. Taube's field of operations has been primarily in Washington, D. C., at the Library of Congress, where he has been active in various capacities: assistant chief of the General Reference and Bibliography Division, assistant director of the Acquisitions Department, head of the Library of Congress mission in Europe, acting director of the Acquisitions Department and chief of the Science and Technology Project. He is now president of the newly-formed Documentation, Inc.

Dr. Taube has developed a system of scientific documentation which has been accepted in a modified form as a standard by several government agencies. He is the new editor of *American Documentation* and has contributed widely to many scholarly and professional journals in the various fields of philosophy of science, logic, documentation and library administration.

one of which makes its contribution to this purpose and is functionally dependent on the other activities in the complex. What we publish is determined by recognized distribution needs; how we publish is determined not only by distribution needs, but by the requirements of identification and organization; how we identify and organize materials is determined by the kind of publication and the requirements of distribution,

etc., etc. The point need not be labored. Documentation is not just a new name for accustomed ways of acting. Rather it is a new dynamic synthesis which encompasses special librarianship and more.

Now sometimes it is the case that a new synthesis will revitalize the old elements which it includes. When I entered library school, I was excited about classification and other methods of or-

ganizing material, but when I entered actually on my library career, I learned pretty soon that the dictionary catalog, the Library of Congress and Dewey Classification systems, the A.L.A. and L.C. list of subject headings and the A.L.A. catalog code were pretty much fixed and final. The profession contained a few rebels—a Bliss, a Ranganathan, an Osborne, and of course the whole rebel clique of special librarians. But even this rebel clique accepted the basic library apparatus and only broke away from it in handling peripheral, ephemeral and "vertical file" material.

In essence, the material produced by documentation activities corresponds to the old vertical file material that wasn't worth the type of organization usually accorded to books and periodicals. But the growth of this documentary or report material converted a peripheral concern to a central activity. The important content of these reports seemed to justify not less, but more organization than that accorded to books and periodicals. And suddenly the fetters of traditional librarianship burst. The finished schemes of the nineteenth century

could not contain the swirling rush of new literature and new forms of literature. New systems had to be created, new methods of publication and dissemination devised, new methods of identification and organization devised. We began to hear talk of television, facsimile, electronic sorters, ultrifax, univacs, etc. We applied new logics to classification and organization. We devised and tried out new methods of identification and descriptive cataloging and thus invaded the holy of holies of sanctified library practice.

Frontier

And the end is not yet. I think the stirring that is taking place now in professional organizations has arisen out of a recognition that the dynamism of librarianship has shifted from the capital to the frontier, from the established center to the peripheral ground of experimentation and growth. If this diagnosis and prognosis is true, I can conclude by saying that it's good to feel that we belong to a vital profession and participate in a vital activity in which the total past becomes the prologue for an exciting future.

CONVENTION NOTES

The Special Libraries Association held its 43rd Annual Convention May 26-29, 1952, at the Hotel Statler in New York. It was the largest convention in SLA history, attended by approximately 1600 people representing some 700 commercial, industrial, professional, academic and governmental organizations and agencies.

More than a hundred programs and tours were scheduled by SLA's thirteen divisions, the program reflecting the wide interests represented in the Association's international membership of librarians and information experts.

The *Eastern Underwriter*, a widely-read insurance weekly, carried this headline in its May 30 issue:

LIBRARIANS' VISIT HERE A MODEL FOR ALL CONVENTIONS

"... an unusually large array of experts speaking before the different divisions of the Association . . . it is doubtful if any association coming convention-bent to New York . . . has ever seen so much of the utilitarian, business, artistic and cultural side of the city."

Editor Clarence Axman was impressed with the quality, the quantity and the diversity of the convention program.

Picture Research

A review of SLA convention discussion

Miss Javitz is superintendent of the picture collection, New York Public Library, New York City.

THE FIRST LIBRARY convention meeting devoted entirely to a discussion of the growing use of pictures as documents and picture research in general was a feature of the SLA convention program on May 27, 1952 at the Hotel Statler in New York.

This picture session stemmed from a meeting at the Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore) early in February, when a small group of librarians, concerned with the increase of work with pictures, met to discuss the general lack of criteria and information available in this field. From this preliminary probe into the status of work with pictures, came a decision to seek a channel for the discussion of professional problems. The opportunity was provided through the interest of Ruth Crawford, SLA convention chairman, who scheduled a meeting which was sponsored jointly by four divisions: Advertising, Museum, Newspaper and Publishing, and was attended by approximately three hundred people.

The proceedings began with a brief history of the circumstances leading up to this meeting by Elsie Phillips, head of the picture collection at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. She told of the expanding need for an exchange of experience in the picture field and the lack of publications on methods of picture organization.

Representing the moving picture industry, Harold F. Hendee, research director for RKO Radio Pictures, spoke of his long experience in film authentication. He presented typical instances

of "facts far stranger than fiction" and far more useful than fiction, on which the research skills of his staff are concentrated. He stressed the importance of pictorial proof and admitted lack of faith in texts, words or memory alone. Mr. Hendee stated that pictorial research is an indispensable, basic tool and that the resources of libraries are invaluable in the work of authentication for film production.

Mr. C. T. Thorne, librarian on leave from the Marylebone Reference Library in London, delighted the audience by divulging secrets of picture sleuthing. He had high praise for the picture collections in the American cities he had visited and believed that interest in picture research here was more developed than in Britain. He found pictures excellent documentary sources for facts hard to derive from the printed word alone. To establish exact definition of appearances he found that the painstaking search that picture seeking entails is worth the effort. "Often," said Mr. Thorne, "pictures that in themselves are useless, prove valuable as 'leads' to other sources or prove that, like red leeches, the subject does not exist except perhaps in the fiction realm of a Conan Doyle."

Speaking for the pictorial press, Natalie Kosek, assistant chief of the picture bureau at *Life Magazine*, gave an account of the beginnings of this picture research unit, tracing its growth from a modest start. Separate from the picture morgue, the bureau was established to handle picture location and selection, and gather pictorial information. She listed some of the major agencies the staff calls on for help. The staff maintains a source directory of photogra-

phers and picture agencies but Miss Kosek informed the audience that this is exclusively for the use of their own organization except when governmental agencies call for information. In addition to being familiar with the work of their staff photographers, these picture researchers check through the output of

Romana Javitz, chairman of the meeting on picture research, believes that recognition for our pictorial heritage is long overdue, that pictures should be accepted as an important part of recorded knowledge, and that the problems of organization and use must be given professional attention. She states that the pictures under discussion serve as documents and are not considered for aesthetic content.

This meeting was planned for the purpose of exploring the extent of interest in work with pictures and to discover whether this interest is great enough to warrant professional organization making it possible to bring about an exchange of ideas and information.

the major photo agencies, so that when a story breaks, they are ready with information on what is available and where it can be obtained. Miss Kosek finds the work exacting. It demands special skills in picture selection and in the appraisal of visual content and potential publication use. The picture bureau staff is responsible also for picture credits and the tracking down of copyright information on pictures selected for publication.

Consultant in Iconography at the Library of Congress and specialist in picture organization, Paul Vanderbilt opened his talk by congratulating the audience on being part of a pioneer meeting in a field that was still in a beginning stage. He commented that techniques

with pictures have not developed to the point where there are handbooks and methods sufficiently established to parallel the availability of bibliographic tools. Briefly outlining the picture resources of the Library of Congress, he stated that the bulk of the pictures represent copyright deposits: two copies each of commercial pictures printed from 1875 to 1925. In addition, there are collections that have been presented to the government, such as the Arnold Genthe and the William H. Jackson photographs and negatives. There are about 750 miscellaneous collections; some of these have been purchased by the Library as of national importance.

Mr. Vanderbilt described and compared the three basic types of existing picture collections: those that are for one specific purpose within an organization; those that "attempt the impossible in subject comprehensiveness," the all-inclusive picture collection of the public libraries; and those limited to pictorial units of national importance produced by a specific source. The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress is in the third category. Collections there have been accessioned in a numerical system, with a number given with each unit. A new method of short descriptions on cards has been adopted. Entered on standard catalog cards, these descriptions serve for the location of the subject covered by each accession number.

The question period that took place disclosed several areas demanding exploration: clarification on copyright practice in the use of illustrations and photographs; the need for a subsidized program of indexing illustrations in current publications; pooling of information on the sources of pictures; courses of instruction and preparation of manuals in picture techniques.

The meeting ended with the appointment of a Washington and a New York committee to prepare the steps towards association and organization as a picture division.

Technical Research Reports

POST-CONVENTION INSTITUTE

Mr. Fry is chief librarian, Technical Information Service, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C.

OVER SEVEN HUNDRED librarians and documentalists, representing technical libraries and documentation centers throughout the country, attended the post-convention *Institute on the Administration and Use of Technical Research Reports* held under the sponsorship of the Science-Technology Division, Special Libraries Association, in New York, on May 30-31. The large numbers, who came over a holiday week-end to hear papers and discuss technical reports problems, gave evidence by their enthusiasm and active participation of the great interest and vigor in this new frontier of special librarianship.

The new and important body of scientific and technical reports literature which has arisen in recent years presents new and highly specialized problems of library administration. At the present time, more than 150,000 unpublished reports relating to national defense alone are issued annually in this country. These reports, many of which are security-classified, are prepared by numerous industrial and university contractors and by government laboratories.

The field of technical reports administration and use is broad and deep, highly specialized and relatively unexplored. The Institute program provided a brief guide to discovery of the principal problems, with indications of possible solutions here and there. The knowledge and experience of the speakers, shared with the responsive audience, combined to produce a stimulat-

ing and informative discussion of the operational problems of the librarian in the acquisition, cataloging, indexing, reference, security control, etc., of the tremendous proliferation of technical reports.

Panel Discussions

The discussions of the Institute were arranged under five panels, which dealt comprehensively, if briefly, with *Technical Reports*, *The New Literature of Science*; *Processing and Cataloging of Reports*; *Controlled Distributions*; *Exploiting Report Literature*; *Documentation and the Special Librarian*. The twenty-two speakers who took part in the full program have been in the forefront in the development of new procedures and the application of library principles and techniques to the technical reports literature. Abstracts of the papers presented have appeared in the June 1952 issues of *Sci-Tech News* and *Technical Data Digest (Restricted)* and the papers will be published in full in the July issue of *American Documentation*. Accordingly, the scope of this account is limited to a summary of results of the Institute and to a brief review of the main points brought out in the papers.

Problems

The Institute speakers were in general agreement that the problems of library organization and administration of technical reports collections, as differentiated from standard library materials, arise in the main out of considerations of: (1) quantity of annual production, (2) lack of standardization of format and bibliographical elements, and (3) need for security safeguards for the majority of report holdings.

As background for the evaluation of

new procedures and techniques developed for reports handling by libraries and documentation centers, E. Eugene Miller, deputy director, Armed Services Technical Information Agency, in a paper on the *Genesis of Report Literature*, related the early history and growth of the reports literature since World War II. In addition, he stressed the changed conditions of scientific literature production and use with particular reference to factors of promptness, security, quality and form of technical reports.

Reports Procurement

Following this outline of the principal features of the reports literature, Eugene B. Jackson, chief, division of research information, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, speaking on *Acquisition: Sources and Techniques*, discussed the procedures and chief sources for reports procurement. This included coverage of security and need-to-know clearances as well as a review of special techniques peculiar to reports acquisition. He pointed out when an agency and its contractors are once approved and on the mailing list for AEC, NACA, DSC and TID bulletins and/or catalog cards, about 85 per cent of the total volume of technical reports is made available to them.

Selection

Additional factors involved in selection for *Building a Collection* were discussed by John H. Hewitt, documents librarian, Research Laboratory of Electronics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The need to plan a reports collection to fit the research program of the organization was stressed. On the other end of the library processing cycle, Jerrold Orne, director, Air University Library, Maxwell Air Force Base, described problems of *Maintenance and Reduction of a Collection*, with primary emphasis upon steps being taken within his own organization to keep the collection from overflowing its space. He pointed up the need for reports librarians to maintain a continu-

ous review of what materials are active, with a view towards elimination or retirement of obsolete reports through systematic weeding, use of dead storage and microfilming.

Cataloging

The fundamental differences in descriptive cataloging between reports and conventional scientific literature were brought out in the paper on *Bibliographic Identification and Organization* by I. A. Warheit, chief, reference branch, Technical Information Service, Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This is especially evident in the emphasis on the corporate author as the main entry and use of the report number as a convenient and popular means of identification. With respect to *Housing and Storage* of reports, Saul Herner, librarian, Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Maryland, stated that the interplay of the library staff, space allocations, security precautions and the reference function of the library must all be considered in planning the housing of reports.

The differences in cataloging practice between the large documentation center and the average technical library were brought out in papers by Mrs. Eleanor J. Aronson, head, cataloging section, Technical Information Division, Library of Congress, who discussed *Cataloging in a Large Reports Organization*, and by Mrs. Edith Francis, librarian, Northrop Aircraft, Inc., Hawthorne, California, and Mr. I. G. Carlson, head, document analysis section, Naval Electronic Laboratory, San Diego, California, who separately contributed papers on *Cataloging of Reports in a Library*. Although there may be variations in the cataloging approach between the documentation center and the military or industrial library, these three papers were in agreement that there are substantial differences between cataloging of reports and conventional literature which make necessary frequent and continuing compromises

with traditional cataloging rules and procedures.

Distribution

In the panel on controlled distributions, Louis Canter, supervisor, technical reports files, Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Maryland, described the *Factors Restricting Availability of Government Research Reports*, including the proper use of "channels" and mailing lists in obtaining security-classified reports. The basic *Security Problems of the Library* and their implications for the dissemination of classified reports were explained by Lt. Comdr. J. Heston Heald, documentation consultant, Office of Naval Research, Washington. Suggestions were also given for maintaining adequate security controls by libraries.

In another area of controlled distributions concerned with the *Availability of Industrial Research Reports*, Kenneth H. Fagerhaugh, librarian, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, disclosed that most of the industrial research reports simply are not available outside the originating company. Reasons for not publishing the results of their research were given, with the conclusion that more reports would be published if the companies had specialists to prepare the results. In a companion paper on *Reports Service to Industry*, Mrs. Dorothy Graf, chief, library section, Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington, outlined the functions of OTS in making government research information available to industry.

Exploiting Reports

In the fourth panel on exploiting report literature, Elma T. Evans, librarian, Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Inc., Buffalo, New York, led off with a discussion of the *Reference Use of the Collection and Its Catalogs*, referring specifically to reference work at CAL. Further guidance in the full utilization of reports was given in the paper on *Integration of Report Literature and*

Journals by John Binnington, head, research library, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. Problems of publication in journals were described, and suggestions were made for coordinating and referencing report and journal holdings.

The topic on *Ways and Means of Reaching the Consumer* was assigned to three speakers in order to reflect the experiences of the *Industry Library*, contributed by Charles K. Bauer, now assistant chief librarian, Technical Information Service, Atomic Energy Commission, and formerly head of the Reports and Documents Section, Project Hermes, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York; the *Documentation Center*, by Robert S. Bray, assistant chief, Technical Information Division, Library of Congress; and the *University Research Information Center*, by Harold E. Wilcox, field representative, Technical Information Division, Library of Congress. Mr. Wilcox also discussed the responsibility of the field representative of a documentation center.

Reports Librarian

In the final paper on technical reports handling by libraries, Mrs. Ruth H. Hooker, coordinator of Naval Libraries, Washington, discussed the *Reports Librarian: Requirements and Opportunities*. The characteristics of a good reports librarian were described in terms of the special problems he must face. Today the demand for librarians who have a good understanding of the reports literature far exceeds the supply.

In delivering the final paper of the session, Dr. Mortimer Taube, president of Documentation, Inc., formerly deputy chief, Technical Information Service, Atomic Energy Commission, pointed out that although many consider the two fields as coinciding in all respects, this is inaccurate, for documentation includes publishing and distributing activities in addition to special librarianship. He also stated that the ever-increasing volume of scientific and technical information will make mandatory this broader

approach to the problems of recording, organizing, disseminating and utilizing specialized information. The documentation approach, he believes, will provide librarians with greater opportunities for service to the consumer of information.

Papers Published

The last two papers on the program were not read owing to time limitations and in order to give ample time for audience participation and discussion. They included *New Methods of Reproduction, Publication, and the Design of Technical Reports* by G. Miles Conrad, documentation specialist, Technical Information Division, Library of Congress, and *New Developments in Distribution and Dissemination*, by Earle V. Lee, chief, document service center, Armed Services Technical Information Agency, Dayton, Ohio. These two papers will be published with the full program in *American Documentation*.

No account of the Institute proceedings would be complete without mention of the large exhibit of forms, manuals, and procedures used by various libraries in the handling and control of technical reports. Many requests have been made by libraries for loan of the exhibit and an effort will be made to add from time to time other items of significance.

Conclusion

The Institute program as a whole was the result of efforts of a great many librarians and documentalists who are interested in the continuance and increase of activity in this new field of special librarianship. The question naturally arises—whose job is this, that of the librarian or the documentalist? In the view of the writer, there need be no controversy. Each can make his own peculiar contribution. There is the danger, however, that the librarian will fail to grasp the problem as a whole. It is in the field of technical reports handling, in the application of library principles and techniques to new and highly specialized material, that the librarian most clearly and immediately faces the challenge and opportunity of documentation.

RETIREMENTS

GUY E. MARION

Guy E. Marion was honored by the staff of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on his retirement after twenty-eight years as librarian, statistician and manager of the Research Department.

Under Mr. Marion's guidance, the general public as well as the staff of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce was provided with historical, financial, technical and commercial information.

Existence of the U. S. Census Bureau tract plan giving complete informational breakdowns on Los Angeles' small neighborhoods is credited to him. He is responsible also for inaugurating "green statistical sheets," a feature of chamber of commerce service now known throughout the world.

Mr. Marion is a charter member of the Association. He served as SLA secretary, 1910-1916, and as SLA president, 1918-1919. In 1923 the Southern California Chapter elected him its president.



DEBORAH MORRIS

On June 30, 1952, Deborah Morris, first librarian of the Fine Arts Library, University of Pennsylvania, retired after many years of valued service.

She came to the School of Fine Arts in 1906 to index bound periodicals under the direction of a faculty member. In 1907 she was appointed assistant librarian and in 1910, librarian. During Dr. Warren P. Laird's deanship her contribution to the school was acknowledged by the faculty who elected her an honorary member.

The library, under Miss Morris' administration, grew from an architectural library of 2500 volumes to a collection of over 21,000 volumes. For nine years Miss Morris was the sole librarian. The staff today numbers nine people.

Miss Morris was one of the founders of SLA's Philadelphia Council. She was chairman of the Council, 1923-1925, and served on a number of committees.

ELEANOR F. WORFOLK.

"Our Rebecca"

Municipal Reference Library Head Retires



IT WAS NEW YORK's mayor, Fiorello H. La Guardia, at an SLA convention, who spoke of Rebecca B. Rankin as New York's "Rebecca." She had worked diligently for him and for a number of city officials preceding him. The Municipal Reference Library, under her capable direction, had become an essential part of government research not only for the city of New York but for other major cities throughout the world.

The Municipal Reference Library has always meant "Rebecca." It is essentially her creation and it is hard to think of it without her leadership. Since 1920 she has headed this branch of the New York Public Library, situated high in the Municipal Building. She has extended its holdings to make this collection one of the most outstanding research centers of its kind.

Biographical items on Rebecca Rankin are easily located. She is, of course, in *Who's Who in America* and in the New York newspaper files. She was born in Ohio and was educated at the University of Michigan and at Simmons. She worked in Michigan and in the state of Washington before coming to the New York Public Library.

Publicity-minded, with a ready smile and a dynamic interest in everything, she has frequently made bylines. To make the library come alive for the reporter has been no effort for her. She has given a kind of library service which, some of us believe, is altogether too scarce today. No request from her library clientele has ever been too much trouble. She has inspired her library staff and has endowed it with her ideals.

Her friends in SLA know her as one of the founders of the Association. SLA business has been her hobby and her vocation. She has served it well through

difficult times in many capacities, holding various offices and taking on innumerable committee assignments. She was president of the Association, 1922-1923. Her interest has never lagged and she continues to give us the benefit of her valuable experience.

Rebecca Rankin's career includes writing and editing. She is author of *New York Advancing* which went through three editions. The seventh edition of *Guide to Municipal Government of the City of New York* has just been published and is widely used by officials and students. In 1948, Harper's published *New York: The World's Capital* which she wrote with Cleveland Rodgers of the City Planning Commission at that time. *Municipal Reference Library Notes*, a monthly which she edits, has had wide circulation.

In addition to these activities, Rebecca Rankin is chairman of the Mayor's Municipal Archives Committee. She has given special libraries courses at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. She has participated actively in various library associations.

Rebecca Rankin does not allow material possessions to rule her life. Her home in Dobbs Ferry has a simple charm. She has always loved her garden, her camera, and driving in the open country. Her summers are spent by the sea in Nova Scotia.

Those of us who know Rebecca B. Rankin, who have worked with her and seen her in action, feel certain that her trips to Florida have included a visit to the Fountain of Youth. She is full of pep, there is a spring in her stride and a sparkle in her keen eyes.

Rebecca retire? We hear that she will, but who believes it?

M. MARGARET KEHL.

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT

THE SPRING MEETING of the Council was held in New York on May tenth. There has been considerable activity by the Council this year as the following report on the Joint Committees will show.

Joint Committee on Education for Librarianship

The sub-committee on education for special librarianship has been quite active. Librarians in seven fields were contacted for suggestions and criticisms of courses to be given for training in special work. These replies will be studied with the intention of developing courses best suited to special needs. Before such a program can be taken to the library schools, it is advisable to make a survey of personnel needs, e.g., the possible number of openings in special fields at present and five to ten years from now. Such a survey should show what type of library has the greatest need at present and give an indication of future development. With this information library schools will be in a better position to plan and conduct courses in special fields.

The committee will also study the problem of re-defining special librarianship in its relation to the profession of documentalists, information officers and archivists, and especially the requirements in training desirable as preparation for these professions.

Following a study of numerous comments sent to Dr. Maurice Tauber, chairman of the subcommittee which considered the Kavanaugh and Westcott Report, "A National examination as a basis for library certification; a survey of opinion," *Library Quarterly* 21:198-205, July 1951, the Joint Committee on Library Education went on record as being opposed to a national examination as a requirement for entering the library profession, but agreed that work

should be continued toward improving the standards and increasing the uniformity of examinations already being given at the state level for civil service examinations or any other library examinations.

Z39

This is the ASA committee on library standards. Presently, it is concerned with layout of periodicals, statistics and abbreviations used in citations and transliterations of Cyrillic characters. The ASA through its committee Z39 is transmitting a proposed standard of periodical layout to the International Standards Organization. The work on statistics is of an exploratory nature. An attempt is being made to learn if there is a need or possibility for standardization of statistics. The abbreviations of periodicals used in citations of reference is not uniform. A good standard method is needed. Good usage versus standards should be indicated. In the field of Cyrillic transliterations, the British Standards Institute is promoting its own system. Probably there should be a compromise in which the British and the Americans develop a uniform system.

Other work in which ISO Technical Committee 46 is interested is documentary reproduction, standardizing of abstracts, layout of periodical articles and other bibliographic standards. Z39 participates in T46 and should enter into all phases affecting American projects.

U. S. Book Exchange

Even though the U. S. Book Exchange is not responsible to the Council, the Council is very much interested in the work as the USBE is the continuance of the former American Book Center, a Council project. The USBE is now on a self-supporting basis and does a great deal for both foreign and domestic libraries.

Joint Committee on Protection of Cultural and Scientific Resources

This committee which was originally known as the one on Safeguarding of Library Materials has changed its name and enlarged its membership to include agencies other than libraries. Its chief aims are the protection and preservation of our cultural heritage and scientific information. The committee, realizing the broad territory of this work, wants to stimulate local groups by the formation of local committees in many parts of the U. S. It believes that its work cannot be carried out successfully unless local interest is aroused.

Joint Advisory Committee for Library Projects

The organization meeting of this committee was held on May 9. Since one of the purposes of its formation is to advise on foundation support of library projects, it was felt that a file should be set up to provide information on foundation interests and to list names of individuals to contact when support is desired. The committee also feels that it should compile a list of projects under way or under consideration by the various library associations. Since there seems to be a tendency on the part of foundations to withdraw from the library field, it was believed that the committee should advise foundations of projects worthy of their support if and when the occasion arises. The committee will probably act in an advisory capacity and as a clearing house of information.

Joint Committee on Relations Between Libraries and the Federal Government

This, too, is a new committee, having held its organization meeting the latter part of April. At that meeting, the work seemed to fall naturally into two fields: the study of services now rendered by the federal agencies to libraries and the services which individual libraries can give to the federal agencies. Further work of this committee will be reported later.

Joint Committee of Union List of Serials

This committee held a two-day meeting in Washington, June 2 and 3. The expense and time involved in the compilation of a union list are great, so careful thought and planning are essential before the work can be started. Decisions regarding completeness of coverage, reporting of holdings of co-operating libraries, method of publication, financing and future maintenance of such a list are far from easy.

Further reports on the Council and its Joint Committee will be published in **SPECIAL LIBRARIES**, whenever it is advisable.

BETTY JOY COLE,
SLA Representative,
CNLA Joint Committee.

SLA Nominating Committee

The following members have been appointed to the 1952 Nominating Committee by Elizabeth Ferguson, SLA's president:

JO ANN AUFDENKAMP
Illinois Chapter
MILDRED BENTON
Washington, D. C. Chapter
MRS. KATHLEEN S. EDWARDS
Southern California Chapter
SARA M. PRICE
New Jersey and New York Chapters
MRS. MARIE S. GOFF, *Chairman*
Philadelphia Council

All SLA members, and especially chapter presidents, division and committee chairmen, are urgently requested to send their suggestions for the elective offices to the chairman:

MRS. MARIE S. GOFF
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
Technical Library
3152 Du Pont Building
Wilmington 98, Delaware

Prospective names, with reasons for their selection should be mailed as soon as possible since in accordance with By-Law IX of the SLA Constitution, the Nominating Committee must present the 1953-1954 slate to the SLA Executive Board by November 15, 1952.

There are two candidates for each office. These include: President-Elect (Vice-President), Second Vice-President, Elected Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors for three-year terms each.

Have you heard

SLA Authors in Print

Papers by a number of SLA members are included in a "special reprints" issue (no date) of *Hospital Topics*. Noted in this publication were:

"(The) Medical Library Attains Fresh Recognition" by L. Margueriete Prime.

"Standards for Hospital Libraries" by Lize K. Giraud.

"Standards for Nursing School Libraries" Charlotte Studer, joint author.

"Certification of Hospital, Medical and Nursing School Librarians" by Margaret G. Palmer.

"Services in the Hospital Medical Library" by Claire Hirschfield.

"Cooperation with Hospital Libraries" by Helen Yast.

"Special Training for Medical Librarianship" by Wilma Troxel.

Completing this issue are two papers on the Medical Library Association by Rosalie M. Saitta and Helen G. Field.

Of interest in other publications are the following:

"A Library for Radio and Television" by Frances Sprague, in the *Stechert-Hafner Book News*, April 1952.

"For Fingertip Information Consult the Plant Library" by Dorothy Dunham, in *Plant Engineering*, May 1952.

"National and International Pharmacopoeias: A Checklist" by Mrs. Irene M. Strieby and Marjory C. Spencer, in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, April 1952.

"A Program of Library Staff Development" by Louise C. Lage, in the January issue of the preceding publication.

"Suggestions for a Small Ornithological Reference Library" by Monica de la Salle, in *Audubon Magazine*, March-April 1952.

"Technical Library Offers Dynamic Service" by Michael Koch, in the *Journal of the U. S. Naval Supply*, Brooklyn, New York, February 13, 1952.

Skriftserie 21

Opublicerade Forskningsrapporter: Ett Bibliografiskt Problem is the title of the Swedish edition published in Stockholm (1951) of Eugene B. Jackson's *Unpublished Research Reports: A Problem in Bibliographical Control*. (Occasional Paper No. 17, University of Illinois Library School, December 1950.) This is one of a series of pamphlets published by the TLS and is known as *Tekniska Litteratursallskapets Skriftserie 21*.

SLA Members in Print

Rebecca B. Rankin was the library personality-of-the-week during the SLA Convention. Pictures and stories appeared in all of the local papers and *The New York Times* devoted an editorial to her.

A lively cartoon of Matthew Redding, librarian of the *New York World-Telegram and Sun*, appears on the cover of the March issue of the *Scripps-Howard News*. Lead article in the issue is headed "Keepers of the Morgue", an informal and informative account of the *World-Telegram and Sun's* library and its chief, Mr. Redding.

"Betty Ferguson Head of Special Libraries" is the name of a feature story on SLA's new president which appeared in *The Eastern Underwriter*, insurance weekly, May 30.

Bonnie Dewes, librarian at D'Arcy Advertising Company, St. Louis, was elected president of the St. Louis Women's Advertising Club, June 2. Miss Dewes was winner also of a television award for her work in advertising. St. Louis papers carried feature stories and photographs.

"Cartography in the International Geographical Congress" was the subject of Dr. Burton W. Adkinson's paper before the Cartography Division of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping at its twelfth annual meeting in Washington, D. C., as reported in the *Library of Congress' Information Bulletin* of June 16, 1952.

The SLA Editorial Office has received newspaper clippings covering the annual "bosses" luncheon of the SLA Minnesota Chapter. A feature story referred to forty special libraries in the Twin Cities and gave brief reviews of some of them. Among those so noted were: Frederic C. Battell's library at the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, Bernadette Becker's collection at the Minnesota State Department of Business Research and Development, Helen Nebelthau's collection of material at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the General Mills' research library, and some of the special collections at the University of Minnesota.

New Address

Kenneth H. Fagerhaugh, a member of the SLA Executive Board, formerly of the John Crerar Library in Chicago, is now librarian at Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh.

Award to Ohio Librarian

Meredith S. Wright, librarian in the research laboratories library of the National Carbon Company, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio, was the recipient of the Alpers Award for 1952 presented at the Kent State University Library Symposium on May 16.

The award of one hundred dollars is given annually by August Alpers, president of the General Bookbinding Company, to an Ohio librarian with fifteen years or less of library experience, who has made a significant contribution in the library field.

Miss Wright was graduated from Barnard College with a geology major in 1941. In 1945 she was graduated from Western Reserve University School of Library Science and took her present position where she organized and developed a special library which is considered a model of its kind.

Miss Wright lectures at WRU School of Library Science twice each year on mechanical methods in special libraries and also on subject indexing.

A prominent member in SLA's Cleveland Chapter, Miss Wright is active also in the Science-Technology Division.

Receives Prize

Jane Ross received the prize of fifty dollars for outstanding work in the special libraries course at the Drexel Library School.

The award was made by the Philadelphia Council of Special Libraries Association.

Miss Ross is a Smith College graduate and plans to do medical library work.

Wins Titania Gems

SLA members who registered for the convention, automatically participated in the drawing for the lucky winner of a pair of matched titania gems. These synthetic gems, noted for their brilliance and their beauty, were donated by the Titanium Division of the National Lead Company (Sayerville, New Jersey), in whose research laboratories the gems were developed.

The winner of the titania gems was announced following the drawing at the convention-wide luncheon on Tuesday, May 27. He was T. F. Herdegen, of the literature department, Smith, Kline, and French Laboratories, Philadelphia.

Admitted to Practice

Evelyn DeWitt, librarian at Baker, Hostetler and Patterson, a Cleveland law firm, has been admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court. Miss DeWitt is an active member of SLA's Cleveland Chapter.

SLA Exhibit in Texas

An excellent report has been received at SLA Headquarters from Mildred Hogan, booth chairman of the SLA exhibit at the Southwest Conference of the Institute of Radio Engineers, held in Houston, Texas, May 16-17.

The report gives a detailed description of the exhibit, the materials displayed, the procedures followed, instructions to booth attendants, forms used and the expenses incurred.

Samples of free literature distributed by the SLA Texas Chapter include a listing of representative special libraries in Texas, the service available from SLA's local employment chairman, Mrs. Louise T. Jackson, and a paper entitled "What Does a Special Librarian Do?", an adaptation from Agnes Hanson's article, "Information Specialists."

Included in the report are two photographs of the exhibit.

Special Japan Project

Before the new International Christian University in Japan can secure its charter it must have twenty thousand books in its library, ten thousand in English and ten thousand in Japanese. Knowing of this need, the foundation in New York City, which is sponsoring ICU, has called upon the Special Libraries Association for assistance.

At the present time a Language Institute is being conducted on the ICU campus just outside Tokyo. Therefore books are needed immediately in English grammar, speech and composition.

Since the University will open its Liberal Arts College in April 1953, there is need now for books in the following categories: HUMANITIES: philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, religion, education, history, geography, anthropology, literature and foreign languages; SOCIAL SCIENCES: political science, economics, psychology, sociology, domestic science; NATURAL SCIENCES: mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, biology and psychology.

The purpose of the new non-sectarian school is to train leaders in education, religion, government and public service for the new Japan. Joseph C. Grew, former ambassador to Japan, is chairman of the special drive for ICU here in this country.

Those having books which they would like to contribute to this worthy cause should get in touch with Dr. Stanley I. Stuber, Japan International Christian University Foundation, 44 East 23 Street, New York 10, N. Y.

New Library Publication

The University of Illinois Library School has launched a new quarterly publication for librarians. It is called *Library Trends* and its purpose is to review and evaluate current practice and thinking in librarianship and to estimate the future import of present library trends.

Harold Lancour, associate director of the library school, is managing editor. Each issue will be planned and edited by an authority on the subject featured.

Editor of the July issue, the first number of the publication, is Robert B. Downs, director of the University of Illinois Library and Library School. The issue is devoted to a discussion of "Current Trends in College and University Library Development."

The October issue will feature "Current Trends in Special Library Development" and will be edited by Herman H. Henkle, librarian of the John Crerar Library in Chicago.

Subscription is five dollars a year, single issues, two dollars.

Papers on Librarianship

A series of papers on *Aspects of Librarianship* will be issued by the Department of Library Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. Editor of this series is John M. Goudeau, associate professor of library science.

The first number in this series is a nine-page mimeographed paper on "Maps in the Library", written by George Williams. The author presents a lucid discussion on the current popular interest in maps, criteria to aid the librarian in map selection, reference books and periodicals listing map sources, the care of maps, their classification, and a useful bibliography.

Copies of this paper are available from the University free on request.

MLA Meeting

The fifty-first annual meeting of the Medical Library Association was held at the Lake Placid Club, New York, June 24-27, 1952.

There were five separate group meetings: Dental, School, Pharmacy, Medical Society, and Hospital.

Dr. Austin Smith, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, gave the opening address on "Common Publishing Problems."

Lt. Col. Frank B. Rogers, director of the Armed Forces Medical Library, reviewed the history of the Army Medical Library and its reorganization.

Estelle Brodman, former SLA Executive Board member, and editor of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, participated in a panel discussion on "Teaching of Medical Bibliography."

Geographical Literature

The Royal Geographical Society (London) is resuming the separate publication of lists of additions to its library and map room.

These classified lists give the titles of books and important articles on geography and related subjects, including the contents of geographical periodicals in a number of languages, with brief indications of their scope or references to critical reviews.

The present plan calls for issuing two parts a year. The first number in the new series is dated June 1951.

Orders for *New Geographical Literature and Maps* (New Series) should be sent to the Office of the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7. The subscription rate is \$1.25 postpaid.

Wall Street Journal on Microfilm

The Yale University Library has been authorized by Dow Jones and Company, Inc., to microfilm the Eastern edition of its publication, the *Wall Street Journal*, from its beginning in 1889 to the present and on a continuing basis.

Positive copies of the microfilm will be available beginning September 1952, at a cost of 8.4 cents per foot. The plan is to place issues for three months on one reel, four reels for each year. The cost for the year 1951, for example, will be approximately \$33.60.

Orders for positive copies of the microfilm are now being accepted and should be addressed to John H. Ottemiller, associate librarian, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut.

Enoch Pratt Free Library

"You Can't Beat Baltimore's Library" is the name of an article that appeared in the June issue of *Pageant*.

Written by Michael Bakalar, it offers a popular exposition of the unique services offered the community by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and describes its extraordinary status in Baltimore.

Micocard Reader

The microcard reader pictured in the May-June issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, Model 6A, is manufactured by the Microcard Corporation of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and is available in New York from the Technical Microcard Publishing Corporation. It sells for approximately \$223.

Next Issue

The September issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* will feature SLA convention papers covering various phases of library administration, management and personnel.

Off the Press

FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRONICS AND CONTROL. By *Milton G. Young* and *Harry S. Bueche*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1952. 525p. \$6.

The authors are faculty members of the University of Delaware, in the department of electrical engineering. They have written a basic text, designed for both electrical and non-electrical engineering students, and of practical value to practicing engineers. It provides a broad understanding of the operation of electronic tubes and equipment used in the fields of industrial control and measurement, electrical communication and power transformation.

GUIDE TO THE SLAVONIC LANGUAGES. By *R. G. A. de Bray*, London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.), 1951. 797p. \$14.

This *Guide* is designed to assist those with a knowledge of one Slavonic language to learn any of the other living Slavonic literary languages with a minimum of effort. By means of an outline of Old Slavonic (the nearest approach to a parent language) and a study of the characteristic features of each language, the student is made aware of the main differences and similarities.

Each language (Old Slavonic, Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbocroatian, Slovenian, Czech, Slovak, Polish and Lusatian) is treated in a separate section, but according to the same general plan. A brief selection of texts, printed as in native books, is included for illustration and practice.

Catalogers assigned to the Slavonic group, and others who have contact with Slavonic literature, should find this volume of vast assistance.

The author is a lecturer in comparative Slavonic philology at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London.

THE MERCK INDEX OF CHEMICALS AND DRUGS: An encyclopedia for the chemist, pharmacist, physician, and allied professions. 6th edition. Rahway, New Jersey: Merck and Company, Inc., 1952. 1167p. Regular edition, \$7.50. Thumb-indexed edition, \$8.

The first edition of *The Merck Index* appeared in 1889. The current edition is the sixth and includes the extensive scientific advances since 1940, when the previous edition was published. Twenty thousand names of chemicals and drugs are alphabetically arranged and cross-indexed.

PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF OUTSIDE SALESMEN: Making salesmen more productive. By *Charles L. Lapp*. Columbus, Ohio: The Bureau of Business Research, College of Commerce and Administration, The Ohio State University, 1951. 320p. \$4.

The findings of a comprehensive, three-year survey are summarized in this study made with the cooperation of The National Sales Executives, Inc. Present supervisory methods are investigated and discussed and recommendations are proposed for the improvement of supervisory practices. The questionnaires used and a selected bibliography are included.

SINCE STALIN: A photo history of our times. By *Boris Shub* and *Bernard Quint*. New York: Swen-Publications, 1951. 184p. \$3.95.

"Since the coming of Stalin, the world has been concerned with Communism and the Russian people." This is the basic theme of the unusual collection of eloquent and disturbing photographs and the concise and informative text in this picture history. The book is well-indexed and includes a selected bibliography. The photographic material was collected from commercial and private sources throughout the world and is extremely well presented.

STRENGTH OF MATERIALS. By *Max M. Frocht*. New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1951. 439p. \$5.50.

The outgrowth of a former volume by the author and the late Professor N. C. Riggs, this book, with the exception of one chapter, has been rewritten and rearranged.

Designed for students interested in problems relating to the strength of materials, this work is essentially a first course in the subject. Practical aspects have been stressed throughout, the primary objective being the prevention of failure. The needs of the mechanical engineer have been considered as well as those of the structural engineer.

The author is research professor of mechanics and director, Laboratory of Experimental Stress Analysis, Illinois Institute of Technology.

SURVEY OF BOYS' DEPARTMENTS AND STORES. Prepared expressly for the Boys' Apparel Buyers' Association. 1952. 47p. \$2. A review of the operations of twenty-two boys' departments and stores selected for their outstanding profit-making records. Among the subjects covered are physical characteristics, merchandising and pricing policies, inventory controls and buying practices, promotion and advertising, personal selling and personnel.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Publications received will be listed in grateful acknowledgment to publishers sending review copies. Reviews will be published as space permits.

- ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE FOR STANDARD COSTS.**
By *Cecil Gillespie*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 472p. \$7.50. Revised edition.
- ANTITRUST LAWS.**
By *Arthur T. Dietz*. New York: Bookman Associates, 1952. 84p. \$2.00. A brief analysis of the anti-trust laws and their application.
- BASIC AERONAUTICS.**
By *Merrill E. Tower*. Los Angeles, Calif.: Aero Publishers, 1952. 252p. \$3.70. Basic information on aviation.
- THE CAR OWNER'S FIX-IT GUIDE: A complete handbook to automobile operation, maintenance and repair.**
By *S. Palestrant* and *H. Schneider*. New York: Frederick Fell, 1952. 96p. \$2.00. Includes charts and diagrams.
- THE CHATTANOOGA COUNTRY, 1540-1951: From tomahawks to TVA.**
By *Gilbert E. Govan* and *James W. Livingston*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1952. 509p. \$5.00. Early history of East Tennessee region.
- COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY OF AFRICA. Nairobi, Kenya Colony, Africa:**
International Marketing Service Corp., 1950-1951. 279p. App. \$6. A classified trade directory.
- CONTRIBUTIONS OF HARRY STACK SULLIVAN: A symposium on interpersonal theory in psychiatry and social science.**
Edited by *Patrick Mullahy*. New York: Hermitage House, 1952. 238p. \$3.50.
- CONTROLLERSHIP: The work of the accounting executive.**
By *J. Brooks Heckert* and *James D. Willson*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 645p. \$7.50.
- THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS.**
By *Paul Hubert Casselman*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1952. 178p. \$3.00. The author is professor of economics at the University of Ottawa.
- ELECTROLYTIC MANGANESE AND ITS ALLOYS.**
By *Reginald S. Dean*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 257p. \$12.00. Production and development of uses since 1936.
- FOREST INVENTORY.**
By *Stephen H. Spurr*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 476p. \$8.50. A comprehensive report on current forest mensurational techniques.
- FOREST MANAGEMENT.**
By *H. Arthur Meyer*, *Arthur B. Recknagel* and *Donald D. Stevenson*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 290p. \$6.00. Planning a sustained yield.
- GAMBLING IN AMERICA.**
Edited by *Herbert L. Marx, Jr.* New York: H. W. Wilson, 1952. 222p. \$1.75. A variety of views on various aspects of gambling.
- THE GREAT JEWISH BOOKS and their influence on history.**
Edited by *Samuel Caplan* and *Harold U. Ribalow*. New York: Horizon Press, 1952. 351p. \$3.75.
- HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND HORMONES: The gland and sex dilemma.**
By *Max R. Rubinstein*, M.D. New York: Hermitage House, 1952. 223p. \$3.00.
- HEBREW CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE.**
By *Rabbi Hyman E. Goldin*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1952. 308p. \$4.75. Translation and interpretation of ancient Jewish codes of law.
- HISTORICAL PRINTS OF AMERICAN CITIES: A selection with introduction and comments.**
By *Larry Freeman*. Watkins Glen, New York: Century House, 1952. 100p. \$3.85.
- HOW TO ADD YEARS TO YOUR LIFE.**
By *Peter J. Steincrohn*, M.D. New York: Wilfred Funk, 1952. 238p. \$2.95. Preparing for old age.
- INDUSTRIAL & SAFETY PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY: By leaders in atomic research and development.**
Edited by *Morris H. Shamos* and *Sidney G. Roth*. New York: Harper, 1951. 368p. \$4.00. Lectures given at a conference conducted by New York University, Jan. 10-12, 1950.
- LEGISLATION FOR PRESS, FILM AND RADIO (UNESCO): Comparative study of the main types of regulations governing the information media.**
By *Fernand Terrou* and *Lucien Solal*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1951. 420p. \$2.00.

MATHEMATICS OF RETAIL MERCHANTISING.

By *Bernard P. Corbman*. New York: The Ronald Press, 1952. 327p. \$3.50. A text for students.

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY.

By *James Bonner* and *Arthur W. Galston*. San Francisco, Calif.: W. H. Freeman, 1952. 499p. \$5.50. An elementary text.

PUBLIC CAREER OF SIR JAMES GRAHAM.

By *Arvel B. Erickson*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Press of Western Reserve University, 1952. 433p. \$4.50. Nineteenth century administrative reformer.

REPORT FROM FORMOSA.

By *H. Maclear Bate*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1952. 290p. \$3.50. A history and discussion of current problems.

SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES IN PSYCHOTHERAPY.

Edited by *Gustav Bychowski, M.D.* and *J. Louise Despert, M.D.* New York: Basic Books, 1952. 371p. \$5.00. Reports by nineteen members of the Psychiatric Forum Group.

SURVEY OF ACCOUNTING.

By *Leonard W. Ascher*. New York: Harper, 1952. 717p. \$5.00.

TAXATION OF THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY.

By *Richard W. Lindholm*. Columbus, Ohio: Bureau of Business Research, Ohio State University, 1952. 140p. \$3.00.

TEACHER-LEARNING THEORY AND TEACHER EDUCATION, 1890 to 1950.

By *Walter S. Monroe*. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1952. 426p. \$6.50.

TOP SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL SELLING: Thought Plus Action.

By *Jack Wardlaw*. New York: Wilfred Funk, 1952. 241p. \$3.50.

TWENTY BASIC POINTS FOR TV RECEIVER SERVICE.

By *A. C. W. Saunders*. Atlanta, Georgia: Lecture Bureau Publishing Company, Inc., 1952. 44p. \$1.00. Technical data and instruction.

UNESCO: Peace in the minds of men.

By *Theodore Besterman*. New York; Frederick A. Praeger, 1951. 133p. \$2.50. A history of UNESCO, its purpose and aims. Bibliographies.

UNION SOLIDARITY: A study of attitudes of rank-and-file members of a labor union.

By *Arnold M. Rose*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 1952. 209p. \$3.00.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical Literature

In its February 1952 issue, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* contained an article entitled *The Contribution of the Army Medical Library to the Bibliographic Control of Medical Literature*.

It is not clear from the article that the *Index-Medicus* was never an official publication of the Federal Government. It was indeed an entirely private undertaking which in its third series was the property of a few shareholders. It is not clear from the article that the expenses of this private undertaking were largely absorbed by the *Index-Catalogue*, even for some years after the ownership went to the American Medical Association.

Furthermore, the article is incorrect in saying that the *Index-Medicus* is more complete as a record than the *Index-Catalogue*. Any casual comparison of references under identical subjects would refute this statement of Garrison's 1929 *Memorandum* which is quoted by the article. The material in the *Index-Medicus* is less than fifty per cent of that included in the *Index-Catalogue*.

At another point the article has a misleading implication when it states that later volumes of the third series of the *Index-Catalogue* 'omitted articles indexed in the QCIM.' The statement is inaccurate and it misrepresents the relationship between the two publications. The policy of the *Index-Catalogue* has never ceased to be one of overall analysis of the acquired medical literature, and, though in the 1926-1931 years the current cards were loaned to the QCIM, they were also subsequently incorporated in the volumes of the fourth series.

The article also errs in stating that it was an outside pressure which in the 1930's moved the Surgeon General to continue the *Index-Catalogue* into its fourth series. The evidence shows that it was done entirely at the Surgeon-General's own initiative as a note of Garrison to Harvey Cushing, dated 12 May, 1930, asserts: ". . . In regard to the *Index-Catalogue*, the Surgeon-General is now ascertaining the sentiments of the medical profession via the medical societies, medical libraries, medical periodicals, and the indications are I think that they are all in favor of continuing it" (KAGAN, S. R. Fielding H. Garrison. Boston, 1948, p.77).

The article is further inaccurate in its presentation of the current editorial technics of the *Index-Catalogue*. It also contains such ambiguous sentences as "one of the primary reasons for the discontinuance, real or proposed, of the *Index-Catalogue* was its cost,"

which might lead to the suspicion that it might have been not the cost which led to the recent discontinuation of the *Index-Catalogue*. Indeed, further statements of the article about the increased additional costs of the Reference Division tend to refute the cost consideration.

We may agree with the article when it complains of the terrible difficulties which non-medical people, armed only with the knowledge of a librarian or a clerk, will always feel about subject headings in a top-level medical library where they are daily confronted with the scientific achievements and research problems of a world and ideology not their own.

CLAUDIUS F. MAYER, M.D.,
Editor, *Index-Catalogue*.



. . . It is a patent injustice to the memory of John Shaw Billings to drag his name into every current discussion of medical bibliography. Certainly 'control' was never implied nor employed in the selection and compilation of material for the *Index-Catalogue*, and it is an anachronism to suggest that it was . . .

ISABELLE ENTRIKIN,
Index-Catalogue Division,
Army Medical Library.



Nomenclature of Disease

We have read with interest the article, "Evaluation of AMA Nomenclature of Diseases and Operations," appearing in the February 1952 issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

The author does not seem to be conversant with the history of nomenclature during the latter half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Medical men, hospitals, clinics, health organizations and insurance companies were not able to compare their knowledge, results or experience because they had no basis upon which to make comparisons. There was no uniform interpretation of diagnostic terms for diseases. Alphabetical nomenclatures had been tried. None of the systems were based on a consistent plan or scientific approach until the *Standard Nomenclature of Diseases* was printed in 1932 . . . The fourth and latest edition went on sale January 2, 1952 . . . Underlying the *Standard Nomenclature of Diseases and Operations* is the basic principle that every disease is the result of a cause acting on an organ or tissue of the body. To be expressive and accurate this scheme must be followed . . .

RICHARD J. PLUNKETT, M.D.,
Editor, *Standard Nomenclature of Diseases,*
Standard Nomenclature of Operations.

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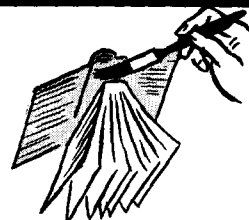
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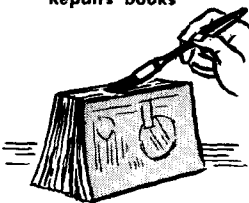
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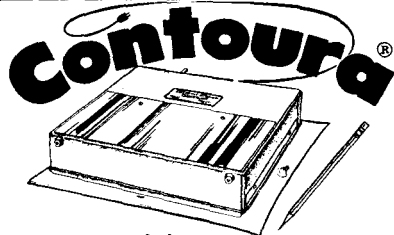


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