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# SPECIAL LIBRARIES

MAY - JUNE, 1957, VOL. 48, No. 5

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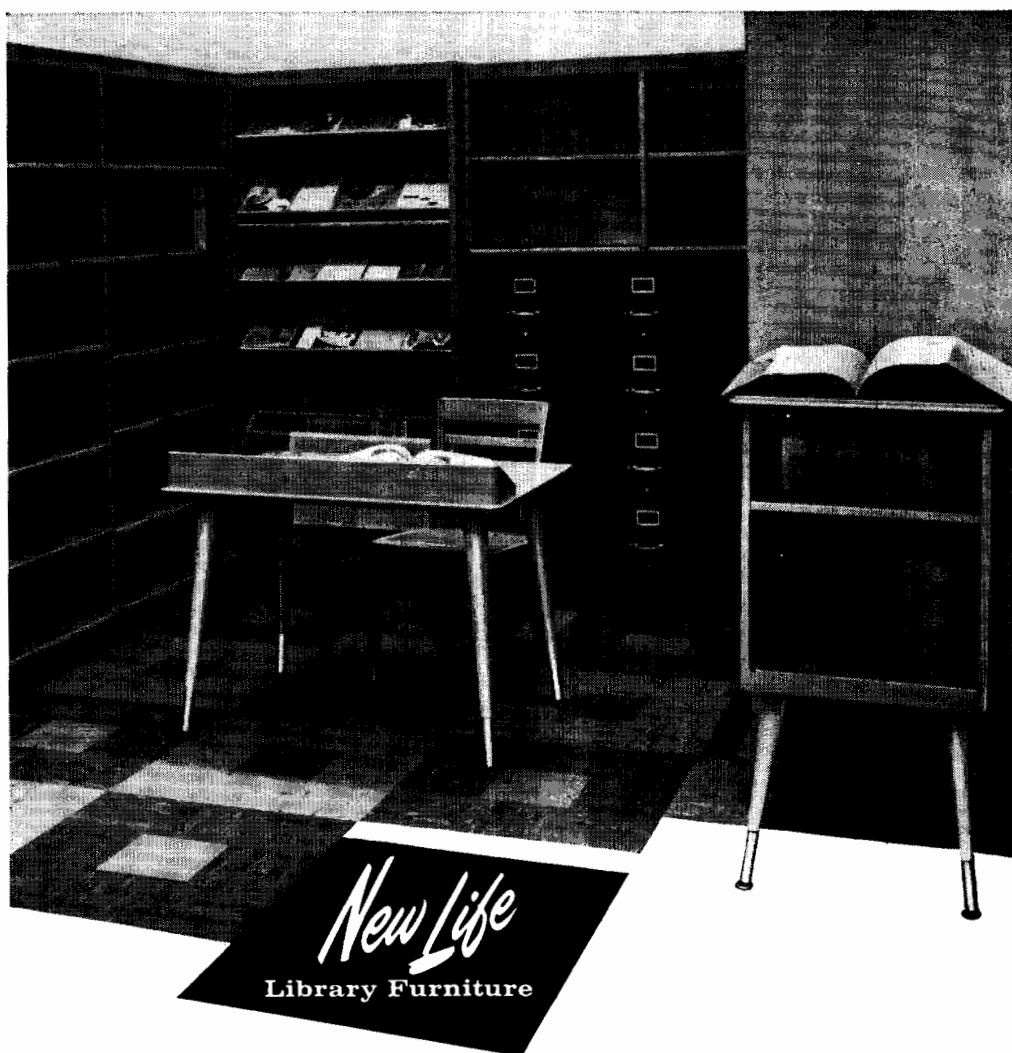
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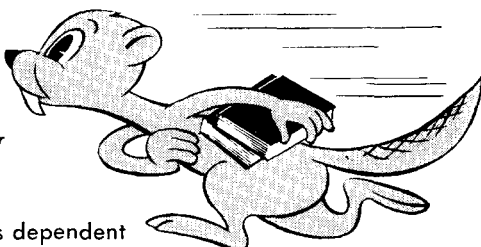


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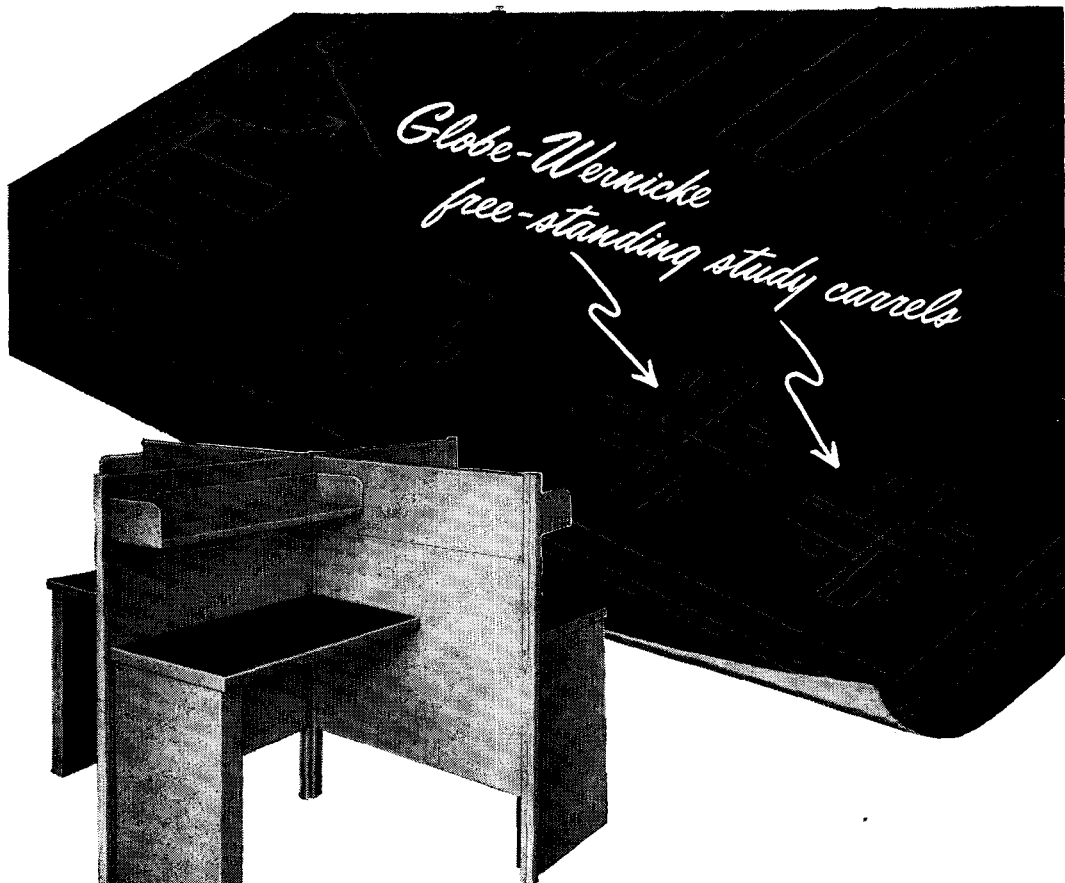


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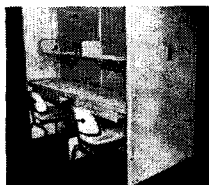


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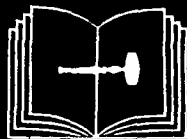


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# SPECIAL LIBRARIES

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*Special Libraries Association*

Volume 48, No. 5

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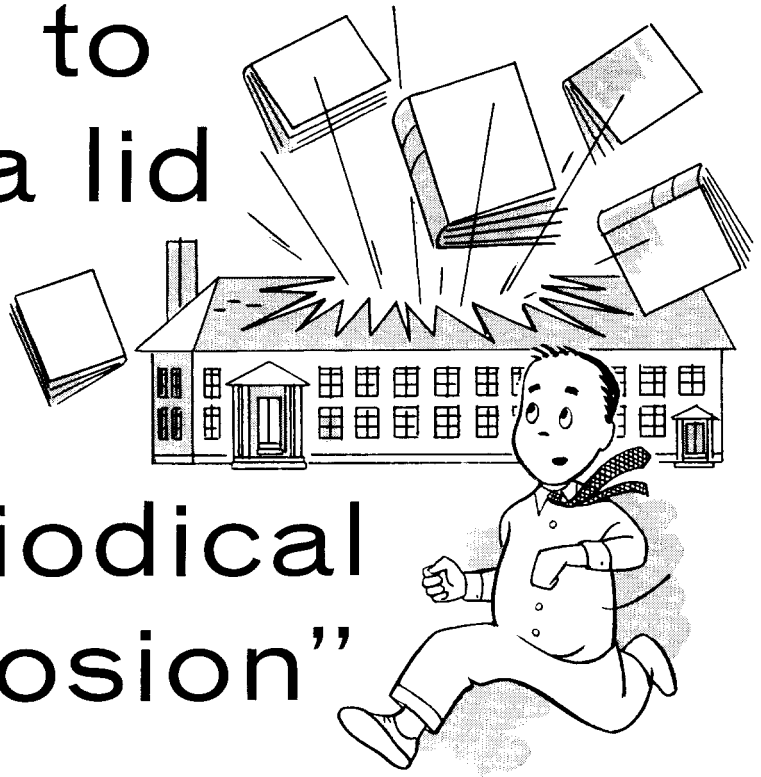
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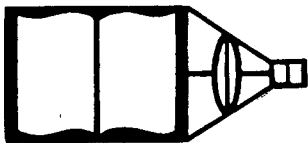
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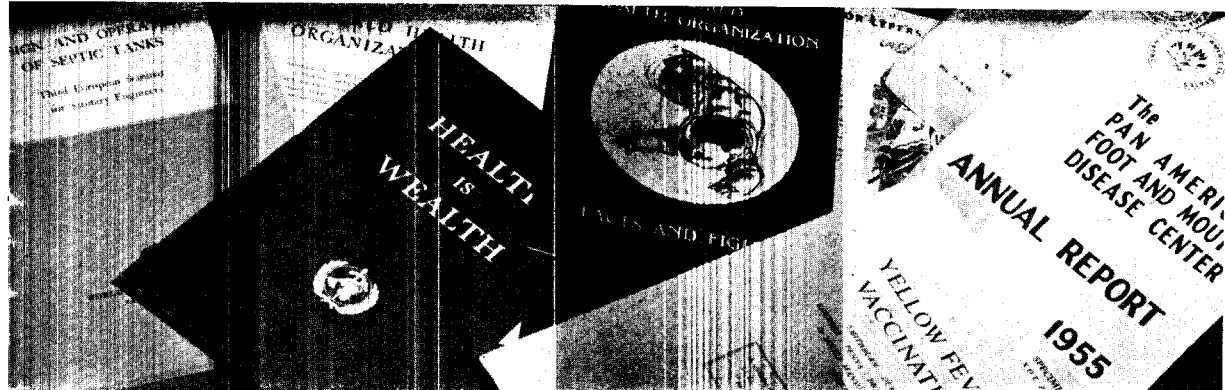
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## WHO In Print

MARY ELIZABETH BEDWELL, Documents Librarian  
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**T**HE WORLD HEALTH Organization (WHO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with health and has inherited the function of earlier international health organizations. Its Constitution was adopted in April 1948, and the permanent organization was established in September of the same year, with headquarters in Geneva. Regional offices have been established in Washington, to serve the Americas; in Geneva, for Europe; in New Delhi, for South East Asia; in Brazzaville, for Africa south of the Sahara; in Alexandria, for the Eastern Mediterranean; and in Manila, for the Western Pacific. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington, established in 1902, is the world's oldest international health organization with a half century of experience in public health work, and it has served also as the Regional Office of WHO for the Americas since 1949.

In its Constitution WHO defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." There are at present 88 member countries of WHO. The Organization is concerned with the prevention and control of disease, education and training of health workers and demonstration of

public health techniques. WHO assists member governments in public health programs such as the eradication or control of communicable diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, nursing, environmental sanitation, professional education and training and public health administration. The purposes of the Organization are further promoted by the dissemination of information in its publications, and through this medium WHO acts as a clearinghouse for international health information.

### Mimeographed and Printed Publications

WHO publications may be divided into two categories: mimeographed documents and printed publications. Generally speaking, the mimeographed papers are first issuances of the documents, resolutions, minutes and working papers of the annual World Health Assembly and meetings of the WHO Executive Board. These are later printed and released in an Official Records Series. Other mimeographed documents include the working papers and final reports of expert committees and research study groups. After approval by the Executive Board and at the direction of the Director-General, documents of this type are printed and issued in a

Technical Report Series. Still other documents eventually are published as bibliographies in the *Bulletin of WHO* or as articles in the *Chronicle of WHO*.

Generally speaking, the mimeographed documents are preliminary papers and as such are mainly restricted to internal distribution, although some are made available to national health administrations in the different member governments even before publication.

The printed publications, which are for sale to the public, fall into several classes. One is called official publications and consists of such archival material as the basic documents, handbooks of resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and Executive Board and the official records. The latter are subdivided into annual reports, financial reports, proceedings of the assemblies, reports of the Executive Boards, and programs and budget estimates. The most generally useful single publication is the Director-General's report which is entitled the *Work of WHO* and is a review of the work of WHO throughout the world during the preceding year.

A second category of serial publications is called the Technical Report Series. This consists of the reports issued since 1950 of WHO expert committees, subcommittees, joint committees with other specialized agencies and study and advisory groups, whose purpose is to offer technical advice to the Organization. (Reports prior to 1950 were published in the Official Records Series.) To date, 115 Technical Reports have been published on such varied subjects as tropical diseases, malaria, venereal diseases, tuberculosis, zoonoses, immunization, therapeutic and prophylactic substances, alcoholism, environmental sanitation, nutrition, food hygiene, health education, maternal and child health, mental health, nursing, school health services, prosthetics, occupational health, international sanitary regulations, vital and health statistics and professional and technical edu-

cation of medical and auxiliary personnel. All these have been issued in English and French; a selected few of the early ones and all later ones (beginning with No. 91) have been published in Spanish also.

The Monograph Series are important contributions to preventive medicine written by outstanding authorities in their fields. There are 33 monographs to date, issued in English and French, with a selected few in Spanish. The subjects are similar to those in the Technical Report Series but naturally are treated in greater detail and with a more individual approach.

#### Periodicals

In addition to the serial publications described above, WHO also issues six periodicals. The *Bulletin of WHO* is the principal scientific periodical of the Organization and contains articles of international importance on matters of public health. Originally issued in English and French editions, the *Bulletin* now appears in a single edition containing articles in the original English or French, with a summary in the other language. There are two volumes each year, with six numbers each volume.

The *Chronicle of WHO* is less technical than the *Bulletin* but gives an excellent monthly summary of the public health programs in member countries. In addition, the *Chronicle* contains a calendar of international meetings and reviews of WHO technical publications, as well as notes of staff appointments, transfers and resignations. There are separate editions in English, French, Spanish and Chinese.

*The International Digest of Health Legislation*, a quarterly, publishes health legislation of international significance. Some laws are given in full, some in extract form, some in summary and some are listed by title only. Occasionally comparative studies of legislation are published, as for example those on leprosy, malaria and midwifery. This

digest appears in English and French language editions.

Health statistics are made available to the public through two periodicals, *Epidemiological and Vital Statistics Report*, a monthly journal, and the *Weekly Epidemiological Record*. The first contains statistics on the quarantinable diseases and statistical studies on mortality and natality in different countries. The weekly periodical records notifications of quarantinable diseases and the incidence of nonquarantinable diseases. These periodicals are bilingual in English and French. In addition there have been published five volumes entitled *Annual Epidemiological and Vital Statistics*, with figures from 1939-1953.

#### Miscellaneous Publications

Besides the serial and periodical publications, WHO has issued a number of miscellaneous publications of interest to medical librarians. Sponsored by UNESCO and WHO, *World Medical Periodicals* appeared in 1953. It is a 237 page listing of some 4,000 current periodicals in the medical and biological sciences and well-known journals which ceased publication between 1900-1950. Each entry gives the title, place of publication, frequency and an abbreviation of the title based on the rules introduced by the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*. There are indexes for subject matter and country.

The 1953 edition of *World Directory of Medical Schools* is a 220 page book containing a listing of more than 500 institutions, with date of founding, academic year, admission requirements, teaching staff, students, language of instruction, degrees, number of graduates and tuition. A new and completely revised edition of this publication is now in preparation.

Seven supplements to the *Bulletin of WHO* have been published. The first was the *Manual of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death*, sixth re-

vision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death, adopted 1948. There will soon be a new edition of this publication based on the seventh revision of the International List of Diseases and Causes of Death.

The second supplement was the *Pharmacopoeia Internationalis*, in two volumes, which proposes to establish internationally recognized standards and nomenclature for pharmaceutical preparations.

Supplements 3-6 serve as addenda to the *Manual of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death*, and as instructions for physicians on the use of the International Form of Medical Certification of Cause of Death. They are available in English and French.

The last supplement, Arnstein's *Guide for National Studies of Nursing Resources*, is a 36 page pamphlet to be used as a guide for the study of nursing services and training. It is published in English and French.

#### Free and Regional Office Materials

No discussion of WHO publications would be complete without the inclusion of free materials distributed by the Office of Public Information. *World Health* is a bimonthly, 8 page news sheet prepared in English and French by the Division of Public Information in Geneva. The Spanish and Portuguese editions are distributed by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the WHO Regional Office in Washington. *World Health*, until 1957 entitled *WHO Newsletter*, carries popular information about the work of WHO and illustrations of the international staff of health workers and nationals engaged in public health programs and projects throughout the world. Glossy prints of all photographs used in illustrations are available free of charge for reproduction in publications and periodicals.

Besides *World Health*, other materials are available gratis to teachers,

speakers, librarians and the public from the Washington Office of Public Information. To mention a few, there is a folder entitled "WHO . . . What it is . . . What it does . . . How it works" and a WHO chart, which shows the organization structure of WHO. Some publications are prepared entirely by the Washington Regional Office: *Annual Report of the Director, PASB*; *The Pan American Sanitary Bureau—Half a Century of Health Activities, 1902-1954*; *The Story of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization and Yaws, Its Eradication in the Americas*.

Besides these printed materials, WHO also has a number of films which portray graphically the work of the Organization in various countries. A very limited number of these 16mm sound films may be borrowed rent free from the Washington Office.

To complete the round-up of publications, the library at headquarters in Geneva issues monthly its mimeographed "Library News," which contains a listing of the recent acquisitions and new WHO publications released during the preceding month. From time to time, there is an addendum to the list of periodicals in the Geneva library.

Each regional office also issues its own documents and publications, but only the principal publications of the Regional Office for the Americas are mentioned here. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has always put out its own publications and still issues them under its own name, while serving as Regional Office of the WHO. The *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana* is a monthly journal carrying articles on all aspects of public health, with Spanish as the main language. Health statistics of the Americas are made available in the bilingual *Informe Epidemiológico Semanal-Weekly Epidemiological Report* and in the quarterly *Estadística Sanitaria—Health Statistics*. The *Monthly Calendar of Selected International Meetings* appears in separate English and Spanish editions. The *PASB Quarterly* reports the progress of outstanding projects and health programs and gives related information on the work of PASB/WHO in this region. In addition, the Bureau has three series of publications: Official Documents, Scientific Publications and Miscellaneous Publications, all of which are issued in the four working languages of the Bureau—English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

## Education For Medical Librarianship

WILLIAM DOSITE POSTELL, Librarian  
Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans

**M**EDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP has developed along somewhat different lines from librarianship in general fields. Early medical libraries originated in the collections of physicians, which developed in many cases into the hospital and medical society libraries of today. With the expansion of these libraries, due to the tremendous growth of the literature, physicians were no longer able to care for them, and the running of the library was turned over to a sec-

retary or some library minded individual. As a result, medical librarians began to be drawn from those associated with physicians rather than from the newly developing group of professional librarians. This was the situation when the Medical Library Association was founded in 1898 by eight members, four physicians and four librarians.<sup>1</sup>

Large medical libraries need professionally trained personnel to administer them, and so, library school grad-

uates began to be recruited. The changing professional picture is evident from the fact that of the 92 librarians in medical libraries about 30 years ago, 55 per cent had no library school training. The picture is quite the reverse today when a large percentage of those entering the medical library field are library school graduates.

With the gradual acceptance of librarianship as a profession, medical librarians began to consider the adoption of standards. The usual method employed by professional groups is a training program consisting of formal education followed by a period of supervised practical experience. This training is then certified by a competent organization. The Medical Library Association considered such a plan first at its annual meeting in 1946. It was apparent to those charged with drawing up a program that the principal difference between medical and general library work lay not in techniques and procedures but in the subject matter itself. The secretary-librarian approaching medical librarianship from the subject standpoint found that a knowledge of library techniques was important. The library school graduate likewise found medical knowledge essential.

The first attempt to provide formal training in medical librarianship took place at the University of Minnesota in 1923-24, but after several years the proposed course was abandoned since there were no applicants. Actual instruction was given in the spring of 1937 by Isabelle T. Anderson and Helen H. Norris. Emphasis was on hospital work with patients rather than on medical library service to physicians. The first course devoted to the work of a medical library was taught by Thomas Fleming at Columbia University School of Library Service in 1939.<sup>2</sup>

Agitation continued through the years for training in special librarianship and particularly medical librarianship, but it was not until the presidential address of Mary Louise Marshall before the

Medical Library Association in 1946 that a united and concrete effort was finally instituted to set standards for those wishing to become medical librarians. A program of special training at three grades recommended by the Committee on Standards of the Medical Library Association was adopted in 1947:<sup>3</sup>

*Grade 1*—Completion of college and library school training including an approved course of instruction in medical library service.

*Grade 2*—In addition to the completion of training for Grade 1, a term of supervised experience of at least six months in a medical library approved by the Subcommittee on Internships.

*Grade 3*—Graduate work in library science and in medical or related subject fields leading to an advanced degree; or completion of a two year course correlating work in library science, medical library work and medical subject work, leading to an advanced degree.

The first course developed with the advice and approval of the Medical Library Association was taught by Estelle Brodman at Columbia University School of Library Service in 1948. This course consisted of lectures, reading, discussions and consideration of problems pertaining to medical literature. Other courses soon followed at Emory University, University of Southern California and the University of Illinois To encourage students to enroll, scholarships, made possible by a grant to MLA from Eli Lilly Company, were offered.

In order to train its medical librarians, the Veterans Administration offered four instructional courses in 1949 and one in 1950. These courses were given at the University of Illinois, University of Southern California, University of Chicago and Columbia University, and were organized along similar lines to those given at Columbia and Emory Universities.

The Medical Library Association then moved forward in another direction—the setting up of an organization for

the adoption of standards by means of certification. In 1949 the Association adopted a certification program based on the three levels of training already listed. Briefly, certificates were to be issued as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*Charter Certification*—In the main this was to consist of those with five years of professional experience in a medical library.

*Certification at Grades 1, 2, and 3*—These were to correspond to approved levels of medical library training as previously adopted.

*Certification in Special Cases*—This was to take care of special cases and certificates were to be awarded on the basis of an examination after individual case study.

The program has now been in operation for eight years. Over 300 librarians have received charter certificates. Courses given at the various universities have resulted in the certification of over 100 librarians at Grade 1. The internship program organized to qualify students for Grade 2 has issued only a few certificates due to the lack of libraries offering internships. Only one applicant has qualified for Grade 3, the grade based on advanced training. Interest in qualifying for Grade 1 certification is continuing. During the summer of 1957 all of the library schools previously mentioned will offer the usual course in medical bibliography. In addition, Catholic University in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine will offer such a course to be taught by Estelle Brodman.

There seems little doubt that the program to date has been most successful. It was a unique experiment and has certainly proven successful in raising the standards of medical librarianship. The committees charged with the responsibility of supervising the program are continually examining the various facets of the project for improvement as a great deal still remains to be done.

Medical librarians in America have long been aware of the need for training librarians in foreign countries. With funds provided by the Medical Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Medical Library Association has been responsible for the training of foreign fellows. Carefully selected librarians have been brought to the United States for periods of training. The plan followed is naturally different for each individual. In the main, some formal training is integrated with practical experience. This has been found to be the best type of training for these librarians.

In England, interest in training medical librarians has also been manifested. Medical librarians are recruited from university graduates who have passed at least part of the professional certification administered by the Library Association and by School of Librarianship and Archives at University College, London. The examinations for professional certification cover three phases: entrance, associateship and fellowship. The examinations provide for specialization and one of the optional subjects is medical librarianship.<sup>2</sup>

In summarizing it can be said that a great deal has been accomplished in raising standards of medical librarianship within the past decade. Medical librarianship has established itself as a profession. Definite standards for those wishing to be recognized as medical librarians have been adopted. Formal courses are being conducted by universities, and internships have been established, although more are needed.

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# The Retrieval Of Therapeutic Information: *Using Abstract and Index Publications*



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**I**N TAKING down a reference for an interlibrary loan the other day, I asked the requester routinely where it had been cited. He said that it had come from *Current List of Medical Literature* and added that it was a shame the *List* didn't have better abstracts. After a momentary mental readjustment to the concept of a title or subject entry being an "abstract," I suggested that we might be able to find a better abstract elsewhere, since the reference was from an early 1956 journal. When we found an adequate summary in *Biological Abstracts* through its 1956 author index, my inquirer scarcely believed it, because, he said, "They are so late in publication."

There are at least two morals to this story. First, the librarian or information worker should know his sources thoroughly. It took positive conviction on my part to induce the inquirer to go to an abstracting service that he considered to be out of date for a summary of an article that had been published about a year ago. But I knew that the average time lapse between the appearance of an article in an American journal and of its abstract in *Biological Abstracts* is two-thirds of a year. I also knew that the annual author indexes are received during December in the December issue.

The second moral is that when there is no single perfect source in a field, a combination may be used even in searching for a specific item.

In the field of therapeutic information librarians are faced with starva-

tion in the presence of abundance. More than a thousand periodicals contain abstracts of original articles mentioning drugs (9), but I know of none whose primary aim is to abstract and index therapeutic information in an even partially comprehensive way. By therapeutic information I mean published studies on the use of medicines to treat or prevent disease and on the effects of the drugs themselves on human beings, animals or other living organisms.

Since there is no single source on which one can rely for prompt retrieval of such information, most pharmaceutical libraries set up their own indexing systems and there have been sporadic attempts at cooperation among these libraries (4,16). To answer today's question, however, we cannot wait for the ideal service. We owe it to ourselves to make the fullest use possible of existing publications to reduce the supplemental indexing we must do individually.

Three years ago Anne McCann, Irene Kelly and I made a study of the advantages and limitations of seven services used by pharmaceutical librarians (17). Instead of repeating that work now, I shall use it, other studies (5,15, 19) and subsequent observations to suggest methods and attitudes of mind which promote most effective use of available publications.

## Factors To Be Considered

The facts a librarian should know about any abstract or index service he uses are its promptness, the extent of



its coverage of original papers and what he can expect of its indexing system and abstracts.

*Promptness* is determined by the interval between publication of an original article and the appearance of its citation, abstract and indexing in a secondary source. Secondary publication may be in the form of an abstract with subsequent indexing by subject (*Chemical Abstracts*, *Biological Abstracts*, *Excerpta Medica*), an abstract and simultaneous indexing by subject (*Helminthological Abstracts*), a listing and simultaneous indexing by subject, usually with subsequent cumulation (*Current List of Medical Literature*, *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*), or a listing and later subject indexing (*Bibliography of Agriculture*).

Publications which list or abstract without indexing are not considered here because they have practically no value for information retrieval. Many services publish author indexes at the same time as abstracts or citations even though subject indexes are delayed. These indexes have value for finding abstracts when the reference has been found by subject elsewhere, for locating a citation when an author is known or for searching for papers on a subject by authorities in the field. No matter how early an abstract or citation appears, it cannot be well utilized until it is indexed; thus promptness of indexing is critical.

*The extent of coverage* of original publications by abstracting and indexing sources has two aspects. First, from what periodicals have citations been taken? Most major sources periodically list the journals they cite. Unfortunately, while many journals are surveyed by a high percentage of services (15), about one-third of all periodicals that contain original therapeutic information are not covered by any major secondary source (9,13,17). For reference work the only practical way to fill this gap is to use a variety of

sources, including those for the medical specialties and from foreign countries, and to recheck constantly the items found against those in the bibliographies of original papers. Always be conscious that no search is ever one hundred per cent complete.

Secondly, is the coverage of the journals listed by the secondary sources complete or selective? Almost all abstracting and indexing services are selective with respect to some of the journals which they survey. Of the major secondary sources, *Chemical Abstracts* is perhaps least likely to cite all items on drugs from the journals it abstracts, while *Current List of Medical Literature* and *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* include all signed articles from the major medical and medical science journals they index.

I know of no major indexing service that cites abstracts of meeting papers. Journals known to publish meeting summaries must be searched for these. Examples are *Presse Médicale*, *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*, *Münchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, *Nordisk Medicin* and *Federation Proceedings* (index to April meetings is in the March issue but not with the volume index), *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* (meeting papers are not covered in its index), *Clinical Research Proceedings* and other official publications of specific societies and organizations.

Familiarity with the *scope and limitations of the various subject indexes* will be best obtained by thorough and imaginative search methods. If one turns up two references in source B not found in source A, he should immediately check source A's author indexes to make sure that the new references really were omitted. If, as frequently happens, they are in source A, finding under what subjects they were indexed may lead to other missed references. *Chemical Abstracts* indexes therapeutic information most specifically, but other major indexes can be made to yield a

great deal with a little skill in their use (16).

One can say categorically that no abstract should be used as a final authority for the original article. Nevertheless, long use and the knowledge of whether abstracts are done by authors and volunteer abstracters (*Biological Abstracts*) or by paid abstracters (*Chemical Abstracts*) can help in evaluating them.

#### Most Useful Sources

There are a number of bibliographies which list abstracting and indexing services in fields related to therapeutics (1,2,3,6,7,10,11,12,14,18,20,21,22). Nearly all the services included on the medical lists contain some therapeutic information. If I were to choose a half dozen, however, *Current List of Medical Literature* would come first because of the promptness of retrievability provided by its monthly subject indexes and the relatively short interval (four to six months for many United States publications) between original publication and inclusion in *Current List*. Its lack of abstracts and a tendency toward lumping drugs under relatively broad index headings are major disadvantages. One must search for only a few drugs in the 1951 index and then in a 1957 issue, however, to see a vast improvement.

Because *Chemical Abstracts'* indexing is almost ideally precise, it is a shame that it does not generally include clinical papers on a known drug and that its subject indexes come out so late. *Biological Abstracts* is at present more useful for its fairly prompt abstracts than for its subject indexing, which is still late, though improving. It has defects in the extent of its coverage because of the vast amount of world biological publication and in completeness of abstracting because of its dependence upon authors' abstracts. The subject index ranks between *Chemical Abstracts* and *Current List* in spe-

cificity but is somewhat less predictable than either.

*Excerpta Medica* would have to be included, though the unevenness of its various sections make it incapable of evaluation as a whole. It is more suitable for a limited approach in a specialized field than for reference work in disciplines that do not exactly coincide with its sections. Though I have not examined it systematically, *International Abstracts of Biological Sciences* (formerly *British Abstracts of Medical Sciences*) has a prompt-appearing subject index with headings under the chemical names of specific drugs and a multiplicity of cross references. It is to be commended for the exact statement in each volume of which journals are covered completely and which selectively. Though the list is small in comparison with those of the other sources mentioned, it is expanding. The interval between publication of an original article and inclusion of its abstract in *International Abstracts* seems to average well over a half year.

*Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, now published almost three years late, must be relegated to retrospective search use. Its index headings are too broad for easy location of less familiar drugs, but for the better known ones it is the best general source for therapeutic information published before 1950.

#### Additional Sources

Many foreign sources appear in the lists mentioned above. They provide citations omitted from the major English language indexes (1). The new English language *Abstracts of Soviet Medicine*, to be published in 1957 by Excerpta Medica Foundation, will probably contain some abstracts from *Meditsinskoe Referativnoe Obozrenie* as well as some original ones.

Abstracts are often a regular feature of periodicals which publish original papers, such as *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Deutsche Medizin-*

ische *Wochenschrift*, *Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift*, *Presse Médicale* and *Nordisk Medicin*. For the average search they are so highly selective and duplicate more general sources to such an extent that they rarely yield a profitable return. They may be searched for specific papers, especially those published in their country of origin.

Two general periodicals whose indexing function is coincidental to another primary purpose should not be forgotten because they supply important therapeutic references. *Unlisted Drugs* cites one or two of the first publications on a new drug, and *Translation Monthly* indexes by author English translations of many pharmaceutical articles.

Finally, there is the vast area of specialty abstracts and indexes, both in separate journals (*Tropical Diseases Bulletin*, *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews* and the Springer *Zentralblätter* and *Berichte*) and in periodicals which also contain original papers (*American Review of Tuberculosis*, the various *A.M.A. Archives* and *International Abstracts of Surgery*, published with *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*). These should be remembered both when searching in specialized fields and as sources of abstracts for citations found elsewhere.

#### An Example—Tranquilizers

As an example of what services may be used in a specialty field, let us consider a new one. Publications on "tranquilizers" are appearing frequently and are being quite well covered by *Current List of Medical Literature*, which began in January 1957 to use the heading "Tranquilizing Agents" as well as such specific ones as "Azacyclonol," "Chlorpromazine," "Meprobamate" and "Rauwolfia alkaloids." To find abstracts one may go to *A.M.A. Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Section VIII—Neurology and Psychiatry* and *Psychological Abstracts*. An un-

usual source is the summary of these new drugs in the January 28, 1957, *Drug Trade News* with an index (pages 56 through 70) of some 400 news items from *Drug Trade News* for the three preceding years. Since most of these "news" items are summaries of papers that appeared elsewhere, this is really a cumulative index to "abstracts" on tranquilizers.

Some writers include annual reviews with abstracting and indexing services and certainly reviews should not be neglected in a search in a specialty field. One can, in fact, use them in any way in which an abstract and index service can be used if he is aware of their limitations as to coverage and reliability. Selective reviews for tranquilizers are found in: the section on chemotherapy of "Psychiatry" in *Annual Reviews of Medicine* (volume 7: 114-18, 1956); the neuropharmacology section of "Review of Neuropsychiatry, 1955" in *A.M.A. Archives of Internal Medicine* (volume 97: 612-14, May 1956); the physiological treatment and other divisions of "Review of Psychiatric Progress 1956" in *American Journal of Psychiatry* (volume 113: 611-15, January 1957); and in various parts of *Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry* and *Yearbook of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery*. A guide for searching in psychology was published in 1955 (8).

Company publications cannot be overlooked. The new monthly publication of Ciba, *State of Mind*, may yield periodic summaries of current papers. Occasional bibliographies such as that on *Largactil* (Paris: Spécia, 1955) are invaluable.

In this paper I have reminded those who search for therapeutic information not to limit themselves to one or two abstract or index services and that to make the most effective use of all sources available, they must be studied constantly. If we combine imagination with the knowledge we obtain, we may successfully bridge the gap between the

haphazard search sometimes made today and the ideal search of the future. Certainly we shall be in a better position to prescribe and to work to attain the ideal service for retrieval of therapeutic information.

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# The Academy of Medicine, Toronto: The First Medical Library In Ontario

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1957 marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto. The seeds of the development of the library and museum collections, however, reach back into the early nineteenth century. Progress was slow and at times almost imperceptible, but the seed had not fallen upon stony ground. If at times it lay dormant, it was nevertheless gathering strength to bring forth fruit when the times became auspicious. Slow growth makes the hardest timber and today the medical library and museum are the finest of their kind in Canada.

The history of medical libraries in Ontario dates back to the year 1839 when the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Upper Canada was formed by Act of the Provincial Legislature. One of its first actions was to establish a medical library and museum, the first in the province of Upper Canada. The college was doomed to a brief and troubled existence as all progress was paralyzed by the political and professional rivalries which dominated the first half of the nineteenth century.

The province was a seething hot-bed of political and sectarian animosities, and these rivalries were reflected in the ranks of the medical profession. The old British colonial policy of tying the colonies politically and economically to the mother country brought the second British Empire in America very close to rebellion. Government from across the water, which concentrated all power in the hands of a few, had begun to sit uneasily upon the Canadian people. These grievances culminated in the re-

bellion of 1837. It did not clear the air but made rivalries even more bitter.

In December 1840, Her Majesty Queen Victoria disallowed the college on the grounds that it infringed on the rights and privileges of the Royal College of Surgeons of London. On the dissolution of the college, the library was transferred to the Medical Board of Upper Canada, on condition that a library be provided for the medical profession in the province. These books marked *Coll. Phys. and Surg. U.C.* were turned over to the Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1844 and were under the care of the secretary, Dr. George R. Grasett. As a result of his sudden death in the typhus epidemic of 1847, the society dwindled out of existence and the books disappeared. A diligent search of Toronto libraries has not solved the mystery of their disposition.

The next 50 years were stormy ones in the history of the medical profession. Rivalries between the various medical schools hindered all efforts to establish a medical library. In painful contrast to the United States, where well organized medical libraries had grown up in the leading medical centres, Toronto had no library facilities. By 1887 the leaders of the medical profession became aware of this deficiency. The three medical organizations, the Toronto Medical Society, the Ontario Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, appointed a committee to formulate plans and proceed with the organization of a library.

As a result, the Ontario Medical Library Association was incorporated. Dr.

N. A. Powell was appointed curator. He wrote for advice to Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes who had been actively interested in the organization of the Boston Medical Library. Dr. Holmes had a copy of his medical essays handsomely bound and presented them to the new library. This first acquisition and Dr. Holmes' graceful and charming accompanying letter are among the library's treasures. The Ontario Medical Library Association led a precarious existence during the next few years, but the foundations had been laid.

The Academy of Medicine, Toronto, like many illustrious medical institutions on this continent, owes a great deal to Sir William Osler, the influential physician and teacher of McGill, Johns Hopkins and Oxford. His spirit still pervades its halls. Owing to dissension among the medical profession and the medical schools, Osler was advised to leave Toronto to complete his studies elsewhere. A man of lesser calibre would have turned his back on the centre which had closed its doors to him, but one quality of the truly great which runs like a clear red line through all Sir William's life, is that no matter how high he climbed the ladder of success he never forgot his early associations. Toronto, the city in which the beloved teacher of his early youth, Dr. James Bovell, lived and worked, was never overlooked.

In 1898, speaking at a meeting of the Ontario Medical Library Association, Sir William Osler urged the amalgamation of the different medical societies in Toronto. These societies included the Toronto Medical Society, the Toronto Clinical Society, the Toronto Pathological Society and the Library Association. Cooperation is an essential of all progress; dissension is a canker which eats the very foundations of an institution and hinders all growth and development. The wisdom of Sir William's suggestion finally dawned, and in 1907 these four societies joined to form the Academy of Medicine, To-

ronto, at 9 Queen's Park. The Ontario Medical Library Association contributed the largest number of members and a nucleus of 4,600 books established the library. Sir William's interest in the new Academy never waned. Donations of books and money from him appear almost annually in the early minute-books of the library committee.



*Bill Methven*

In the periodical reading room, Miss Patterson and Dr. Stuart D. Gordon, associate professor of surgery, University of Toronto, and chairman of the Historical Book Committee at the Academy, examine a bound volume of medical journals.

The first professional librarian, Miss Margaret Charlton, was hired in 1913. She came from McGill and was with the Academy for eight years. A woman of character, spirit and ability, she was among the original founders and the first secretary of the Medical Library Association. The minute-books show that for the first time a professional approach was taken towards the organization, acquisition and housing of the collection. To her fell the added task of educating the medical profession in an understanding and an appreciation of library services. She spared none who thwarted her efforts to organize and build up a first class library. She was succeeded by Edna Poole who retired in 1951.

In 1911, the University of Toronto took over the property at 9 Queen's Park and transferred the lease to 13 Queen's Park. The library occupied the second floor of this building. In 1921

Osler Hall, with a seating capacity of 200, was built, and space for a library reading room was provided above. The Academy remained in this location until 1945 when the Provincial Government of Ontario appropriated the property for the extension of departmental buildings. The Academy purchased its present location at 288 Bloor Street, West, and this location has proved a most desirable one.

The library serves primarily practising physicians and surgeons. Centrally located in the heart of the largest concentration of medical practitioners and specialists in Toronto, the move has been attended by an increase in use and vitality. In 1951 a new Osler Hall with a seating capacity of 350 was erected. A large stack area with space for 15,000 volumes and an additional reading room was made available.

GROWTH STATISTICS: 1907 — MARCH 31, 1956

	1907	1919-20	1927-28	1937-38	1947-48	1953-54	1955-56
Accessions.....	4,600	9,885	19,050	27,175	33,144	36,746	38,492
Circulation, Books and Periodicals.....		657	2,352	5,344	6,983	7,521	9,600
References, Searches.....		100	165	.....	.....	2,028	2,793
Telephone Calls (Library business only).....		.....	.....	.....	3,260	3,736	4,345

Since 1907 the library has grown steadily in the number of volumes, in use and in reference services. Though used primarily by the medical profession in Toronto, the library maintains an active mailing and photocopying service for nonresident members and interlibrary loans. From 4,600 volumes in 1907, the collection now numbers nearly 40,000 accessioned books and bound periodicals and receives currently 600 periodical and serial titles. A statistical analysis of the growth of the library would make dull reading, but the chart above illustrates its development over 50 years.

The Academy is rich in historical material and takes a keen interest in the cultural side of medicine. Sir William Osler frequently spoke of the role the Academy should play in collecting and preserving instruments, letters and

documents depicting the history of medical practice in Ontario from the earliest days of the settlement of Upper Canada down to times within memory. The museum is worthy of mention for from a study of it one can acquire a good picture of the early days of medical practice.

Bloodletting instruments and scarifiers recall the days of the barber-surgeons. Semmelweis' original midwifery basin and the famous Lister spray are landmarks in the advances made towards the understanding and prevention of infection following surgical operations. Among the prized possessions are Sir William Osler's desk and microscope with slides, a collection of drug jars, gallipots and English hand-blown medicine bottles imported into Upper Canada in 1832. From Dr. T. G. H. Drake's private collection of antiques of paediatric

interest there are specimens of infant feeding apparatus dating from 400 B.C. to 1840 A.D. and amulets dating from Egyptian and Roman times. Numerous instruments comprising the armamentarium of the early physicians and surgeons of Ontario make up the bulk of the collection. A large selection of portraits, engravings and prints completes the still increasing collections.

Inspired again by Sir William Osler, who said "I should like to see in every library a select group of the immortals set aside for special study and adoration," the Academy has a collection of the classics of medicine of which its members can be duly proud. As the library is a working library, this historical collection has grown mainly through bequests from members interested in the cultural and historical aspects of medicine.

From his own priceless collection, Sir William presented a first edition of Laennec, a first edition of Jenner and a Rhazes incunabulum. Other prized possessions are the first English edition of the works of Ambrose Paré, 1634; the rare 1766 edition of Harvey's *Opera Omnia* in Latin; and the Bindoni edition of the first work on plastic surgery, *De Curtorum Chirurgia per Insitionem*, written by Gaspare Tagliacozzi in 1597. In all the collection contains over 500 titles, not all first editions but including early editions of the works of the masters of medicine and surgery—Hippocrates, Galen, Avicenna, Vesalius, Paracelsus and Fracastorius to mention only a few. The Klotz History of Pathology Collection contains some 200 volumes from Hippocrates and Celsus to Adami and Aschoff.

Over the years the Academy Library has had a number of loyal and devoted friends among the medical pro-

fession. They have given generously of their time and effort towards building up a first class medical library and towards putting the institution on a firm financial basis. In 1957 the Academy admirably fulfills the objectives of its original founders—to provide a fine medical library and museum and to provide a meeting place where the medical profession can enjoy facilities for postgraduate instruction through the medium of clinical and scientific meetings and the presentation of clinical and scientific investigations. It was before the Academy of Medicine, in 1922, that Sir Frederick Banting first reported the investigations carried on by himself and Dr. Charles Best on insulin. The original manuscript copy of his paper is now a valuable possession of the library.

Science and culture are united in the Academy to give the medical profession the best knowledge has to offer.

## Bibliotherapy and Psychiatry: Changing Concepts, 1937-1957

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**T**WENTY YEARS ago this spring a paper was read before the American Psychiatric Association in Pittsburgh. The author was William Menninger, and the title was "Bibliotherapy." The report covered concepts formulated after five years of bibliotherapy at the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas. Hospital librarians will be forever grateful for the interest and effort expended by the Menningers in using reading as a treatment method. Many of them believe that research in bibliotherapy started with their studies.

Twenty years ago, according to Menninger, the physician was responsible for at least six functions in the biblio-

therapy program: for the contents of the library and the approval of books before purchase; for approving reading assignments to patients as submitted by the librarian; for prescribing the first reading assignment given to a patient; for weekly conferences with the librarian regarding problems and results of reading; for communicating the historical data and the psychological status of each new patient, along with that patient's particular reading habits and interests, to the librarian for her aid and guidance; and for expressing a personal interest by frequent discussions with the patient regarding his therapeutic reading.<sup>1</sup>



This was "the established attitude that reading is a treatment method and as such, must be directed by the physician."<sup>2</sup> In 1937, the librarian was "the tool who carries out the mechanics and reports the observations."<sup>3</sup>

In 1937, and evidently none too soon, the first course in hospital librarianship was inaugurated at the University of Minnesota. At that time the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology was but three years old; psychiatry as a specialty of medicine was a new idea and not wholeheartedly accepted by physicians in general. The physician—except in rare instances—cared for the physical, psychological, sociological and intellectual needs of his mental patients without benefit of such staff members as the psychologist, the social worker or the librarian. He was literally "all things to all men."

Twenty years later, according to a new concept in psychiatry, the psychiatrist is the captain of a treatment team. This team is composed of specialists with training in the behavioral sciences, group techniques and research methods. They bring to the psychiatric hospital sound, dynamic thinking and methodology. Their training is biosocial rather than biological in approach. Therefore, they see a patient as a social being, a product of a culture and a member of society as well as a sick individual.

Today, the treatment team, directed by the psychiatrist, has been delegated many functions formerly carried out directly by the physician. In bibliotherapy, treatment team members have assumed responsibility for:

1. Suggesting reading materials for purchase which they judge to be of therapeutic value for patient reading
2. Weekly conferences with the librarian regarding group and individual reading programs
3. Communicating historical, psychological and sociological data regarding patients to the librarian for guidance
4. Designing, measuring and evaluating group bibliotherapy activities

5. Selecting, recommending and motivating patients for and toward individual and group reading activities
6. Prescribing reading assignments to individual patients
7. Inspiring, encouraging and counseling the librarian in her role as bibliotherapist
8. For taking an active role in conducting group bibliotherapy sessions with the librarian for select patients.

The role of the psychiatrist in bibliotherapy is still a vital one. Hospital librarians' best friends are doctors, not diamonds! Without the support and guidance of doctors, there would be no bibliotherapy. The physician or psychiatrist assumes responsibility in the bibliotherapy program for:

1. Approving the over-all therapeutic reading program, from its original plan to its final evaluation
2. Suggesting specific books for both purchase and prescription for the benefit of his patients
3. Weekly conferences attended by the librarian, with his treatment team, to give an opportunity for communication regarding reading activities
4. Expressing a personal interest by frequent discussions with the patient regarding his reading activities
5. Taking an active interest in reading activities by visiting the libraries, observing group bibliotherapy activities and occasionally accompanying the librarian on bookcart visits to his wards
6. Stimulating the librarian's interest in professional growth by motivating her to read the pertinent literature in psychiatry and allied fields as well as to attend lectures and meetings which will enrich her knowledge.

The hospital librarian has become responsible for the following functions in a bibliotherapy program today:

1. For selecting books and other reading matter for the hospital library
2. For directing patients in their recreational, informational and therapeutic reading according to the broad goals outlined by the treatment team

3. For formulating individual reading programs for those patients selected by the team for individual bibliotherapy
4. For sharing the responsibilities involved in group bibliotherapy with a psychologist, psychiatrist or other team member who acts as resource person during discussions
5. For communicating the essence of the patients reading record, behavior, regression and progress to team members for consultation and evaluation
6. For manipulating the reading environment both in the wards and in the libraries so that an optimum atmosphere for reading results
7. For motivating patients to read, and especially to talk about what they have read so that they may clarify their thinking and form concrete ideas.
8. For socializing and integrating patients by offering group situations where good results (reading, conversation or interaction) are most likely to develop.

Bibliotherapy—the right book for the right patient at the right time—can do one of several things. It can give information, such as a book on mental hygiene; it can give diversion, such as a mystery; it can give inspiration, such as a poem; it can give vicarious experiences, such as a book on travel; and it can offer a means of identification with a character in a novel or a biography. A patient may be able to release pent-up emotion as he reads, he may gain real insight through reading certain passages or he may gain confidence by relating his new information to others. Conversation started from shared reading may help him socialize and be a more interesting companion.

Bibliotherapy is not yet a science; it is an art. Many intervening variables confront the bibliotherapist. For example, books differ in reading level, size of print, point of view, plot, size, weight, timeliness and literary merit. Patients differ in reading ability, intelligence and social, educational, religious, cultural and environmental background as well as age, sex, interests and needs.



Bibliotherapist Mary Jane Ryan in one of the patients' libraries at Sepulveda VA hospital.

To combine the two main ingredients skillfully—the book and the patient—takes coordinated team effort, specialized training and experience, years of versatile reading, a sense of timing and good salesmanship. In actual practice, bibliotherapists pick out the significant variables and fit the book to the patient, never the patient to the book.

What are the results of bibliotherapy? Menninger, 20 years ago, found a positive correlation between the improvement and recovery of a patient and his new or renewed interest in books. Bibliotherapists have observed nothing that would conflict with this observation today. Many Veterans Administration Hospital librarians are currently working on research studies in bibliotherapy; the findings will begin to appear in the literature this year. Policies and standards for bibliotherapy are being re-evaluated and reviewed by the Bibliotherapy Committee of the Hospital and Institution Library Division of the American Library Association for presentation at the 1957 meeting in Kansas City.

Bibliotherapy—the use of books and other reading activities in the treatment of patients—is a stimulating, fascinating part of hospital librarianship.

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3. *Op. cit.*

# The Medical Library Of A Chemical Company

AUGUSTA POLIAKOFF, Librarian-Translator-Abstracter

Central Medical Department Library, American Cyanamid Company, New York

**T**HE LIBRARY of the Central Medical Department of American Cyanamid Company in New York City was established to fill the need for frequent surveys of the literature in the fields of occupational medicine and toxicology. The Medical Director, Dr. D. O. Hamblin, and his staff had long felt that such a service would facilitate the work of the department and prevent much duplication of effort. In addition, there was need for collecting and organizing the material that had been accumulating in the department over the years, in order to make it readily available to the staff.

Early in 1952, a translator-abstracter with library experience was assigned the task of indexing the files and surveying the holdings which would form the nucleus of the medical library. These consisted of approximately 150 medical books and monographs, a large number of unbound periodicals, numerous photostats and reprints, monographs and technical reports of Cyanamid and other companies. There were also 15 vertical file drawers of correspondence, representing years of staff experience.

## Arrangement Of Holdings

The library of the Central Medical Department now contains more than 200 books and monographs, approximately 1000 bound periodicals, technical reports, bibliographies and eight vertical file drawers of photostats, reprints and miscellaneous clippings. The correspondence files mentioned earlier are housed in the medical director's office, together with a card index to the material in them.

The library subscribes to 27 periodicals in the fields of clinical medicine, industrial hygiene, occupational medicine and toxicology. These include one British, one French and one German publication.

Books and monographs are arranged alphabetically by author on the shelves. Library of Congress cards have been ordered for all books and monographs, and there is a subject and author index to all material in the library. Eventually as the book collection grows, some sort of cataloging system will be instituted, probably that of the National Medical Library. Periodicals are also arranged alphabetically by the first main word of the title.

The library material is divided into seven sections as follows:

1. Books and monographs
2. Reference works: handbooks, directories, dictionaries, etc.
3. Periodicals
4. Technical publications of Cyanamid and other companies
5. Federal, state and city publications
6. Published indexes to the literature of medicine
7. Vertical files: reprints and photostats.

This arbitrary arrangement is not permanent, but is workable for the time being. The doctors have no difficulty in finding material easily.

Because space is at a premium, the reprint and photostat collection will be weeded periodically. All out-of-date medical material will be discarded. Toxicological material will be kept since this is constantly in demand. Periodicals which are to become part of the perma-

ment collection are regularly bound. Periodicals not in the field of industrial medicine and toxicology are kept for three years and discarded. In this way, the growth of the library is controlled to some extent.

#### Cyanamid Medical Department

To understand the functions of so "special" a special library, it is necessary to know something of the operation of the medical department of a large chemical manufacturer such as Cyanamid. The associate medical director of the company has described it well:<sup>1</sup>

The functions of the Cyanamid Medical Department fall into three major categories: toxicology, industrial hygiene and clinical medical services. Together they comprise the employee health program. The toxicology section is responsible for investigating the toxicity and hazard of all compounds other than biological and therapeutic agents that the company offers for sale . . . The industrial hygiene section consists of men highly trained in various disciplines pertinent to this type of work, such as analytical chemistry, ventilation engineering, chemical engineering, etc. A number of them have also had training in the biological sciences . . . The third major function is the clinical medical services. This section comprises the physicians, nurses and technicians. Their functions may be grouped into seven subdivisions:

1. Pre-employment physical examinations . . .
2. Periodic physical examinations . . .
3. Health counseling . . .
4. Immunizations. These are given when indicated by travel outside the United States, in epidemic situations or where the nature of the job indicates it, as in the manufacture of biological materials.
5. Medical treatment. Occupational injuries and illnesses may be treated by our physicians or referred to privately practicing physicians. We do not treat nonoccupational illnesses and injuries except minor, short-lived complaints and, of course, emergencies. All other nonoccupational disorders are referred to the family physician.
6. Diagnostic services . . .
7. Psychiatry . . .

#### Library Policy

From the preceding description it is evident that the medical library must

be geared to the needs of men working in all aspects of the employee health program. Therefore it has been library policy:

1. To collect and retain books, monographs and periodicals related to occupational medicine, toxicology and industrial hygiene. More recently material on industrial nursing has been added to the library.

2. To keep a representative group of the most recent books on clinical and laboratory medicine and the specialties required by the staff of the clinic. These texts are discarded as newer editions or later material on the subjects are acquired.

3. To buy handbooks and basic texts in chemistry, biochemistry, physics, toxicology and the like. These are replaced by new material periodically.

4. To keep in the library published indexes to the medical and chemical literature. The library has acquired, mainly by subscription, the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, from volume one, 1927, to the latest issue, *The Current List of Medical Literature* and the "Basic Medical Sciences Section" of *Biological Abstracts*. *Chemical Abstracts* is available in a nearby department of the company in New York and is therefore not duplicated in the medical library.

5. To obtain reprints or photostats of articles of interest when these are not in journals received in the library, or not readily obtainable from other company libraries.

6. To obtain all technical reports of interest.

7. To compile bibliographies on subjects of interest, or to obtain these from other libraries when available.

8. To index all current material on industrial toxicology and occupational medicine by subjects, indicating on a card where this material may be obtained. Clinical medical material, except for an occasional review article, is not indexed unless specifically requested by the staff, since the *Current List*

of *Medical Literature* is a fairly up-to-date source for such material. This steadily growing file may eventually need to be transferred to some sort of punch card system or collected into bibliographies. However, right now, it seems to be functioning adequately.

9. To keep up to date the index to the correspondence file in the director's office.

10. To translate or abstract articles of interest as required.

#### Bibliographic Services

The bibliographic services to the staff consist of: culling the current literature for articles of interest; making searches for information on a specific compound or subject; and translating or abstracting from the foreign literature (mainly from German and French). The literature is scanned daily as it is received in the library. Since the number of periodicals on subscription is small, coverage is increased by scanning xeroxed copies of tables of contents of all periodicals received at the Lederle Laboratories Division Library in nearby Pearl River. *Chemical* and *Biological Abstracts* are also scanned for current material.

When a literature search for information on a specific compound or subject is requested, this begins in the library with the card index which serves as a quick guide to the most recent material. If nothing has been recorded here, then a systematic search is made of *Chemical Abstracts*, *Current List of Medical Literature*, *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* and sometimes *Excerpta Medica*. In addition, reference departments of the larger Cyanamid libraries are called upon to see if they have collected information. Very often the subject catalog at the New York Academy of Medicine is also consulted. Interestingly enough, articles on toxicology of industrial compounds sometimes appear in journals which seem only very remotely related to medicine

or toxicology. Often the toxicity of a compound is mentioned in passing even though representing animal experimentation or some human experience.

When the literature has been covered for the range of years requested, a report is written, describing the findings and citing references to the literature and the period covered. A colored index card is placed in the file to indicate that a search has been made for information on a particular compound.

Translations or abstracts are made for the staff in connection with literature searches or whenever requested in other connections.

#### Circulating Current Material

Periodicals regularly received in the library are routed to individuals who have indicated that they wish to review them. No time limit is placed on these, since it is relatively easy to obtain a periodical from any office if another reader wishes to see it. Items of interest in the xeroxed tables of contents from the Lederle Library are marked and sent to individuals who might be interested in seeing the original articles. If interest is indicated, the journal or a photostat is obtained from the Lederle Library.

Items of possible interest from other sources are typed on a 3 x 5 "You may be interested" cards and sent to interested doctors. If a card is returned, the journal or a photostat is procured.

At first an attempt was made to publish an abstract bulletin of current items. This proved to be time-consuming and a duplication of effort, since so much of the material crossed the doctors' desks anyway. Fortunately, with such careful readers, the librarian need not worry about a doctor missing any item from a journal or new book placed on his desk for inspection. Rather, they keep the librarian stepping to see that she does not miss any items. The use of tables of contents, the "You may be interested" cards and routing of jour-

nals has proved to be a time-saving and practical method in the Central Medical Library.

#### Use Of Resources Outside The Library

Since space is so limited and many journals are discarded after three years, the library relies on the company's larger libraries for much of its material. The company libraries most frequently used are: Lederle Laboratories Division Library, Pearl River, N. Y.; Stamford Research Division Library, Stamford, Connecticut; Organic Chemicals Division Library, Bound Brook, N. J.; Phosphates and Nitrogen Division Library, N. Y.; Technical Department Collection, New York.

Intracompany cooperation is excellent, and the efficient intracompany communication system makes the service particularly fast. In addition, the Central Medical Department Library is very fortunate in being able to draw on the excellent resources of the large libraries in New York City, such as the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York Public Library where

service and interlibrary cooperation are especially good.

It is the aim of the staff of the Central Medical Department to build a useful collection of books, monographs and other material in the field of occupational medicine and toxicology. Records of literature searches and bibliographies are indexed and filed as they are compiled. Translations are also recorded. In this way there is accumulating in the library an index to the toxicology of a large number of industrial chemical compounds and much information on industrial medicine. It is hoped that in the near future space will become available for a collection of material on that fascinating chapter in medical history: "Industrial Medicine, its History and Development."

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## The Role of the Nursing Library In The Education of Nurses

MRS. HELEN W. MUNSON, Librarian  
Barney Library, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut

OF THE 1139 schools of nursing approved in 1955 by the state boards of nurse examiners in the United States, 959 were hospital schools with programs leading to the diploma in nursing; 180 were university schools with programs leading to the baccalaureate degree and the diploma in nursing. Over 900 of the total schools were also approved for full or temporary accreditation by the National League for Nursing (8). (National approval is volun-

tary; state approval is mandatory.)

A nationwide study made in 1949 (18) reported that the "good" school of nursing had a library of 1,000 or more titles, added 100 or more books each year and had access to the additional facilities of a college, university or medical school library. The range in number of titles in these libraries was from less than 100 to many thousands.

The university school of nursing may be served entirely by the university li-

brary, possibly through a decentralized unit; it may maintain a small specialized collection apart from the university library to be used in addition to the latter; or it may have its own separate library under the control of the school rather than the university library.

Since there are more hospital schools of nursing than university schools, and since the greater number of nurses will be prepared in hospital schools for some time to come, this discussion is focused on the library in the hospital school of nursing. "Nursing library," rather than "school of nursing library," seems the more appropriate term since this library serves the graduate nurse staff of the hospital as well as student nurses and faculty. As schools for practical nurses in hospitals increase in number, the nursing library increasingly serves student practical nurses also.

In some institutions, the nursing library is combined with the medical library or with the medical library and the patients' library. In others, the libraries are separate. The separate nursing library may be located in the nurses' residence or in an educational building where there are classrooms and laboratories for students.

Both separate and combined libraries have advantages and disadvantages. The traditions of the institution and the size of the school, of faculty and nursing service staff and of the medical staff, will all enter into any consideration of whether the libraries should be combined or separate. Both plans are in effect; both have worked satisfactorily.

The greater number of persons served by the nursing library are student nurses. They are young adults in their late teens, most of them recently out of high school, often from the upper third of their class; others have had one or more years of college. The curriculum includes such subjects as anatomy and physiology, microbiology, chemistry, nutrition and diet therapy, pharmacology, psychology, sociology, the history of nursing, general medical and surgical

nursing and nursing in such specialties as the operating room, obstetrics, the care of children, psychiatry and others. Experience in the nursing care of patients in the hospital is correlated with clinical subjects taught in the classroom.

The faculty of the school may consist of professional nurse instructors in the clinical nursing subjects and non-nurse instructors in the sciences, sociology and psychology or it may be composed entirely of professional nurses who have also specialized in teaching. Medical lectures are usually given by members of the medical staff. The nursing service staff consists of graduate nurse administrative and supervisory personnel, who have often had special study in administration and supervision, head nurses and graduate general staff.

#### Library Services And Cooperation

If the library is to serve the school and nursing service effectively, the librarian must find ways of working closely with faculty and nursing service personnel. If she is a member of the faculty, taking part in faculty committee and other meetings will help her to keep in touch with curriculum developments and other school activities. If she is not a faculty member, she may be privileged to attend some of these meetings when it is recognized that the library can give better service if she does.

The curriculum plan should be on file in the library and the librarian should know when courses are scheduled to begin and end so that necessary library materials may be assembled in time. Some instructors routinely send class schedules and reading lists to the library well before courses begin. If this is not the practice, it is essential that the librarian confer with instructors, before their courses start, about the library materials students will need.

Individual members of faculty and nursing service staff can help the librarian in book selection by reviewing, be-

fore purchase, and advising on new books and new editions. A useful service of the librarian is to send book notices or summaries of reviews to persons interested. This type of close cooperation is essential to ensure the greatest use of books and to keep the librarian informed, in advance, of materials needed for courses, staff education programs, workshops and other activities. These same persons can give valuable advice on weeding the book collection.

The librarian should make a special effort to orient each new instructor to the resources of the library, its arrangement, special indexes and files, loan policies, reserved book policies, book selection procedure and the like. Thus a newcomer will know, soon after she arrives, what services the library can give her and what it may expect of her.

Special services which the librarian can provide faculty and administrative personnel include sending, on request, collections of books to their offices where they are easily accessible to those who need them frequently; compiling bibliographies or assembling material on special subjects; circulating reviews or notices of new books or films of special interest; handling personal book orders; sending lists of acquisitions to everyone once or twice a year; arranging, if possible, for delivery service if their offices are at a distance from the library; arranging interlibrary loans; and giving editorial or bibliographic help when asked to do so by those writing papers. The situation itself will suggest other services.

The library should mean more to students than the place where they go to find assigned reading matter. An important function of the librarian is to teach them how to use the library and to try to help them find the satisfaction that comes from searching out information for themselves and the enduring pleasure that books and reading can give. Some provision should be made for recreational reading. Even though

excellent public library facilities may be near by, the hours of nurses are such that they appreciate being able to borrow recreational reading material from the nursing library. Sometimes the public library may be willing to send a deposit of books to be changed at intervals.

The services of a nursing library are by no means confined to providing reserved books and answering routine questions involved in finding books. The librarian must also give reference assistance on a wide variety of subjects. She must, for example, be prepared to answer questions ranging from "What is prolan?" to "Can the fetus of a diabetic mother have insulin shock?" and to furnish material on such diverse topics as superstitions about pregnancy, local agencies serving orthopedic patients or legal problems in nursing.

#### Standards And Specifications

Standards for nursing school libraries have been drawn up by the Joint Committee on Standards for Hospital Libraries of the American Library Association, Special Libraries Association and Medical Library Association (11) and are endorsed by the National League for Nursing. They cover the qualifications and status of the professional librarian and clerical staff, the collection, the budget, the library committee and specifications for reading rooms, workrooms and equipment. The *Library Handbook for Schools of Nursing* (16) and *Guide for the Development of Libraries in Schools of Nursing* (10), also discuss standards and specifications. Because all these have the approval of professional organizations including the National League for Nursing, they can strengthen the hands of the librarian and the library committee as they work to improve library service.

The Joint Committee on Standards for Hospital Libraries specifies that "the school of nursing librarian should have a library science degree. Medical or school librarianship courses and back-



ground in biological or social sciences are desirable." *Library Handbook for Schools of Nursing* and the *Guide*, list similar qualifications recommended by the National League for Nursing. If the professional librarian in the nursing library does not have the recommended subject background, her effectiveness will be increased if she orients herself as soon as possible through reading, attending selected nursing, medical and other lectures and classes and taking part in the committee and other activities of the school.

A library committee of faculty members and nursing service personnel representing the clinical and service areas, with student representation and the librarian, can give much support and counsel to the librarian. This group is concerned with formulating policies that guide the librarian in her work and are in keeping with the general policies of the institution. If, for instance, a question arises as to how much service the library should give to outsiders, a policy formulated by the library committee is more apt to be in line with hospital and school policy than a rule formulated by the librarian alone. The *Library Handbook* outlines the functions of the committee in more detail.

#### Special Aids To The Nursing Librarian

The *Library Handbook for Schools of Nursing* discusses library organization and administration as applied to the special needs of nursing libraries and includes a list of general reference works, a very inclusive list of suggested periodicals and a list of agencies and organizations that are sources of pamphlet materials.

The *Handbook* is most valuable for its classification schedule and subject heading list. These were developed for the library at the Bellevue Schools of Nursing, New York City; adopted by the National League of Nursing Education (now the National League for Nursing) for the *Library Handbook*;

and revised for its second edition in 1953.

The classification outline is geared to the subject matter of nursing, is a decimal system capable of being expanded as necessary and provides for fairly close classification without too long numbers. It has some mnemonic features and its use is facilitated by an index. The nursing library which is part of a university or medical library will, of course, be classified according to the classification schedules used by either of these. Both general and medical classification schedules need considerable expansion at various points to make the resources of the nursing collection accessible.

The subject heading list contained in the *Library Handbook* provides a basis on which to build a library's own subject heading authority list. Indexes to professional nursing journals and to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *Subject Heading Authority List* of the Current List Division, Armed Forces Medical Library (now the National Medical Library) (17), are sources of terms for new headings.

The comprehensive *Bibliographies on Nursing* (15) cover books, periodical articles, pamphlets and films and other visual aids. They are arranged according to the subjects in the curriculum and the various aspects of nursing education and nursing service administration and supervision. The *Bibliographies* are under constant revision.

The *Guide for the Development of Libraries in Schools of Nursing* (10) was planned as a checklist for evaluating nursing library services and developing them further. It considers the collection, technical library services, staff, library committee, equipment and materials for proper maintenance and budget.

The Medical Library Association's *Handbook of Medical Library Practice* (7) focuses on medical libraries, but its discussions of library organization and administration are helpful to any spe-

cial librarian. It also illustrates and discusses the general and medical classification systems (including that for a nursing library described above) and contains a notable bibliography, parts of which are applicable to a nursing library collection.

The American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons each publish lists of standard medical books and periodicals suggested for hospital libraries (1,3). Reviews published in nursing, medical and other professional journals are other sources of information about books and pamphlets. Suggestions individuals in the school and hospital can offer are also helpful.

In addition to the films included in the *Bibliographies on Nursing*, other sources of film information are the lists of state health departments (which often lend films without charge) and of state university audio-visual centers; the ANA-NLN Film Service (9); *Medical Motion Pictures Approved by the American College of Surgeons* (14); and the American Medical Association list of films available from its film library (13). The *American Journal of Nursing*, *Nursing Outlook* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* publish reviews of films, and the American Medical Association cumulates those published in its *Journal* in pamphlet form from time to time (2). The AMA also publishes a list of sources of medical motion pictures (4) and one of sources of motion pictures on health (5).

A picture collection is useful for patient studies, for bulletin boards and for use in a projector in classes. Publications of the drug firms yield superb colored pictures which can be the basis of a picture file.

#### Making Library Resources Accessible

*The catalog*—In searching for information, young students seem to think in specific rather than in general terms and if they are to do independent searching, it helps if the catalog contains many specific headings. After the eighth or ninth student, within a week, has asked for information on myocardial infarction, hitherto buried in the catalog under the general heading "Heart—Diseases," the librarian may realize that it would save time if the materials on myocardial infarction were brought out in the catalog under a more specific term.

This leads to the useful subject analytic entry. The librarian soon learns what subjects are called for frequently or to anticipate those that will be called for and can exploit the resources of the library greatly by cataloging, under specific subject headings, a chapter, a few pages, tabulated information, an illustration or other information contained in books of a more general nature which might be overlooked.

Another device is a form card calling attention to specific material found in general works which students may

Student nurses attending the School of Nursing at the Hartford Hospital prepare class assignments and do reference work in the Barney Library



not think to consult. For instance:

**TYPHOID FEVER**

Chapters or sections on this subject may also often be found in the books listed in this catalog under the headings:

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES; MEDICINE**

It may be helpful to include cross references from some terms of "hospitalese" used locally to the accepted terms, for instance, from "CVA" (cerebrovascular accident) to "Brain—Hemorrhage."

*Pamphlet and picture files*—Assigning subject headings to pamphlets and filing them in folders similarly marked, alphabetically by subject, in vertical files to which patrons can go directly to search for material, works well in a nursing library (12). For the most part, pamphlets need not be cataloged. A very few of the more elusive or those of permanent value may be represented in the catalog by colored cards. Some librarians prefer to classify pamphlets and shelve them in boxes with books in the same class.

Pictures can be mounted with rubber cement on heavy kraft paper, assigned subject headings and filed in folders similarly marked, separately in a vertical file or interfiled with pamphlets.

*Periodical indexes*—Current periodical literature is especially important in nursing as it is in medicine or any field in which new developments are taking place constantly. Much information is lost to immediate use, however, unless indexes are available soon after a magazine appears. The *Current List of Medical Literature* and the *Index of Current Hospital Literature* are useful in a nursing library as are the *Education Index* and some others. They may also be frustrating since they index many more periodicals than the nursing library is apt to have or to need.

The library of the Bellevue Schools of Nursing publishes *Brief Notes*, a semi-monthly index to the periodicals it receives which is available on subscription (6). The "reference cards" pub-

lished monthly by the American Journal of Nursing Company constitute current indexes to the *American Journal of Nursing*, *Nursing Outlook* and *Nursing Research*.

Since, apart from these, there is not at present a current periodical index designed especially for nursing libraries, a number of librarians compile indexes to the periodicals received in their libraries, usually subject indexes only. This results in considerable duplication of effort, but the librarians who make them feel that they could not keep house without them. A selection of briefly annotated entries from such a current periodical index, can be used to make up a monthly or semi-monthly bulletin, comparable to *Brief Notes*, which can be sent to faculty and nursing service personnel who request it. This keeps them abreast of what is being currently published, helps instructors to develop bibliographies for their courses and extends the use of the periodical collection considerably.

The librarians who work in nursing libraries soon realize what a broad field nursing is and how much responsibility the library has in the education of nurses. They can be of much help to the schools as they work toward the high standards set for nursing libraries by the professional library organizations and the National League for Nursing.

The qualified librarian who is searching for an interesting, growing field in which she may work with young students and their teachers and supervisors—all of whom are engaged in service that touches people closely from birth to death—can find it here.

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### Hospital Library Pamphlet

Realizing that the inadequacy of hospital library facilities is a problem common to most hospitals throughout the United States, the United Hospital Fund of New York formed a study group three years ago to investigate the situation. The Committee on Hospital Library Architecture has recently published the results of its findings in an attractive 12 page booklet entitled *Planning The Hospital Library*. The report includes a diagrammatic layout for an integrated library in a 400-600 bed general hospital, detailed recommendations on the function and organization of patients', medical, nursing school and integrated libraries and a statement of basic principles of planning hospital libraries. Copies may be obtained from Diva Agostinelli, Librarian, United Hospital Fund of New York, 3 East 54 St., New York 22, N. Y.

#### SLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The appointment by Alberta L. Brown, First Vice-President and President-Elect, of the following members of the Nominating Committee to prepare the slate for the 1958 election, was approved by the Executive Board:

AGNES O. HANSON  
*Cleveland Chapter*

PAULINE M. HUTCHISON  
*Toronto Chapter*

MRS. ELIZABETH W. OWENS  
*Greater St. Louis Chapter*

BILL M. WOODS  
*Illinois Chapter*

EUGENE B. JACKSON, Chairman  
*Michigan Chapter*

Prospective names, with reasons for their selection, should be mailed as soon as possible to the Chairman, Eugene B. Jackson, General Motors Corp., Research Labs. Division, P.O. Box 188 North End Station, Detroit 2, Michigan. In accordance with By-Law IX of the SLA Constitution, the Nominating Committee must present the 1958 slate to the Executive Board by November 15, 1957.

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

# Publications and Services Useful to the Medical Librarian

**B**ECAUSE of frequent requests received at the National Library of Medicine for information on organizing small medical libraries, this list of references was compiled to provide a guide, in condensed form, to sources of information about organization, book selection, cataloging, reference and bibliographic work in medical libraries. It is intended primarily for librarians who have had no special training in medical librarianship and find themselves in charge of a medical library. Selections from Pendrill's *Medical Library Literature*, 1950-1952 and 1954, were used as a basis for this list, supplemented by articles and books that have come to the attention of librarians at the National Library of Medicine in the course of their daily work.

ELIZABETH G. MOSELEY, Compiler, Reference Division  
National Library of Medicine, Washington, D.C.

## GENERAL

*Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. Published by the Association. Correspondence regarding subscriptions should be addressed to Mr. Earl C. Graham, Business Manager, National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 11 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Ill. Quarterly. \$7.00 per year.

Articles on the literature of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and allied scientific fields, biography, history and on various phases of medical library work; includes book reviews and biennial directory of members.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, School of Library Service. *Guide to the literature of the medical sciences*; for use in connection with Library Service 220 B. Prepared by Thomas P. Fleming, preliminary ed. 1953. 131 p. The School, 516 Butler Library, South Hall, 114 Street, New York 27, N. Y. \$4.00.

Lists of texts, periodicals, reviews and abstracts in the preclinical and clinical sciences.

JENKINS, FRANCES BRIGGS. *Science reference sources*; a selected list of titles for use in Library Science 412 at the University of Illinois Library School. 1954. 90 p. Illini Union Bookstore, 715 South Wright Street, Champaign, Ill. \$1.00.

A listing of reference tools useful in the sciences; includes sections on biological sciences, psychology and medical sciences.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. *Handbook of medical library practice*, with a bibliography of the reference works and histories in medicine and allied sciences, 2d ed., rev. and enl. Janet Doe and Mary Louise Marshall, editors. 1956. 601 p. American Library Association, 50

East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill. \$10.00.

A guide to the collection, organization, use and care of medical literature and to the chief reference works and histories in medicine and allied fields; includes annotated bibliography of 1965 entries; indicates titles especially useful for small libraries.

PENDRILL, G. R. Medical library literature, 1950-1952. *Libri*, vol. 3, 1954, p. 423-51; Medical library literature, 1954. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 44, no. 2, April 1956, p. 160-74.

Articles on medical librarianship. 1953 literature to be published later.

TENNESSEE, UNIVERSITY OF, College of Medicine. Library. *Library orientation and instruction syllabus*, rev. ed. Memphis, Library, University of Tennessee, 1952. 110 p.

Information on integral tools found in any type of library, e.g., the card catalog, indexes and reference texts; stresses application of these tools to the highly specialized fields of the pre-clinical and clinical sciences. Much space given to reference sources, especially indexes, abstract journals, review journals and reference books, with very brief descriptive notes for most entries.

## EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

MARSHALL, M. L. Education for special librarianship: Medical librarianship. *Library Quarterly*, vol. 24, no. 1, Jan. 1954, p. 13-15.

POSTELL, W. D. The medical librarian. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 30-41.

*Symposium on education and training for medical librarianship*: Education for medical librarians in the United States by Estelle Brodman; Report on the two courses for medical librarianship sponsored by the Medical Library Association by Mildred Jordan; The Future in medical library education in the United States by Wilma Troxel; Training oneself for medical librarianship by H. M. Brandeth; Education and training for medical librarianship in Great Britain by W. J. Bishop; Medical library education and regional seminars in Latin America by J. C. Secondi. *Libri*, vol. 3, 1954, p. 205-53.

#### ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY. *Organizing small medical libraries in military installations*, rev. Aug. 1951. Washington, D.C., 1951. 16 p.

Practical suggestions for organizing library materials, selection, withdrawal, circulation records, processing, brief cataloging, serial records, filing, inventory. Out of print; a new edition is contemplated.

BRODMAN, ESTELLE. Medical librarianship. *Public Health Reports*, vol. 70, no. 5, May 1955, p. 473-8.

CROWE, M. R. Public relations. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 239-63.

DARRACH, M. J. Orientation in the medical library; training the new librarian assigned to medical library. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 38, no. 3, July 1950, p. 234-7.

FOREGGER, RICHARD. What the physician expects of the librarian. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 40, no. 3, July 1952, p. 283-7.

GOODALL, A. L. The place of the librarian in the medical team. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 42, no. 1, Jan. 1954, p. 19-22.

JONES, M. I. Classification. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 89-153.

JORDAN, MILDRED. Administration. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 42-66.

Includes organizing, budgeting, planning.

MECKEL, C. L. Bigger or better collections? *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 41, no. 4, Oct. 1953, p. 365-8.

SEXTON, A. M. Methods used in the library, publications, and museum department. In: Wadsworth, A. B., *Standard methods of the Division of Laboratories and Research of the*

*New York State Department of Health*, 3d ed., Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1947, p. 849-61.

*Symposium—weeding the medical library*: Medical school libraries by Elizabeth Carr; Medical school libraries by M. A. Murphy; The special hospital library by J. W. Felter; An association library by J. M. Reilley; Pamphlet weeding by M. L. Marshall. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 40, no. 2, April 1952, p. 162-9.

TROXEL, WILMA. Cataloging. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 154-88.

WADA, MASAO. High cost of medical periodicals. *Libri*, vol. 3, 1954, p. 322-5.

#### REFERENCE WORK AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL METHODS

BRODMAN, ESTELLE. *The development of medical bibliography*. 1954. 226 p. Medical Library Association, 1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore 1, Md. \$5.00.

Historical development and present trends; list of medical bibliographies by centuries.

CLARK, G. M. Some secondary tools in reference work. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 41, no. 4, Oct. 1953, p. 396-8.

CUNNINGHAM, E. R. and GRINNELL, M. E. Reference and bibliographic service. In: Medical Library Association, *Handbook of medical library practice*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1956, p. 264-93.

GALLAGHER, W. M. The preparation of medical bibliographies. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 42, no. 1, Jan. 1954, p. 23-9.

MORTON, L. T. *How to use a medical library*: a guide for practitioners, research workers, and students, 2d ed. 1952. 44 p. Wm. Heinemann, Ltd., 90 Great Russell Street, London W.C. 1. 5/-.

Although based on British medical library practice, contains information applicable to the average medical library; includes a chapter on compilation of medical bibliographies.

#### BOOK LISTS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, Department of Literary Research. *The Hospital medical library*. 1955. 48 p. Available from the Library, American College of Surgeons, 40 East Erie Street, Chicago 11, Ill. Reprinted from *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*, vol. 40, no. 4, July-Aug. 1955, p. 225-67.

Organization and management; list of monographs, by subject and by author, list of periodicals, by subject and by title. Includes publisher and price.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Council on Medical Education and Hospitals. *Hospital medical library suggestions*, rev. to June 1954, 18 p. The Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Ill. Available upon request. Originally published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, vol. 128, no. 3, May 19, 1945, p. 228-32.

General requirements for organization and maintenance; classified list of periodicals and books. Includes publisher and price.

CRAMER, DOROTHY M. *Suggestions for a public health library in the tropics*. December 1956. 30 p. Issued by the National Institutes of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bethesda 14, Md. Available upon request; supply limited.

List of monographs, arranged by subject, giving publisher, date and price; reference tools; list of serials, giving publisher, address, frequency and price.

KENTON, CHARLOTTE. Reference tools for hospital medical libraries. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 40, no. 4, Oct. 1952, p. 369-80. Supplemented by Tools for medical libraries, 1952-1954; a selected list of reference books in medicine and allied fields. *Ibid.*, vol. 43, no. 3, July 1955, p. 381-93. Reprints available from the author, Reference Section, National Institutes of Health Library, Clinical Center, Rockville Pike, Bethesda 14, Md.

A classified list; includes publisher; no price given.

LOWE, D. J. A selected list of books for the pharmaceutical industry. *Special Libraries*, vol. 45, no. 2, Feb. 1954, p. 87-92.

MCCANN, ANNE. Pharmaceutical codices and related useful reference tools. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 43, no. 1, Jan. 1955, p. 40-51.

*Medical books in print*; a complete index of all publishers' titles, 1956-1957. 1956. 108 p. Available from George Eliot, Medical and Scientific Books, 1302 Second Avenue, New York 21, N. Y. Copies sent on request.

Subject arrangement; includes publisher and price. Issued in spring and fall.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, Committee on Standards of Criteria for Pharmacy School Libraries. Books, reference works and periodical literature recommended for college of pharmacy libraries. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, vol. 19, Summer 1955, p. 480-99.

Publisher and date given; highly recommended items starred.

New books. In: *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, published semi-annually by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Ill.

Alphabetical and classified listings of new books published during each six months period covered by the *Index*. Alphabetical list gives publisher and price. Approximately 2 years late in appearance.

Recent United States publications [in the] National Library of Medicine. In: *Current List of Medical Literature*, at end of each monthly issue, beginning with January 1957 issue.

Complete catalog citation for publications received; includes call number and price for most entries.

*Science reference notes*; critical notes on recent important reference materials in the sciences. Published by the Science Libraries of Columbia University, 601 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y. Quarterly. Probably free.

Includes a section on medicine.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, Science-Technology Division, Pharmaceutical Section. Drug information sources. *American Journal of Pharmacy*, vol. 129, no. 1, Jan. 1957, p. 4-10.

A comprehensive world listing of the various sources of information about drugs; to be published monthly in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*.

U. S. ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY. *Catalog, 1950-1954*. 6 vs. 1955. J. W. Edwards, Publisher, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan. \$64.00. (v. 1-3, authors; v. 4-6, subjects).

Quinquennial cumulation; supersedes the Library's annual catalog for the preceding four years and includes the work of the fifth year not issued separately as an annual volume. Continued by annual volumes issued by the Library of Congress. Available from Card Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. 1955 volume, \$17.50, plus postage, \$4.00.

U. S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, Department of Medicine and Surgery. *Basic list of medical books and journals for Veterans Administration medical libraries*, rev. April 1956. 20 p. Library Division, Office of the Chief Medical Director, Veterans Administration, H Street and Vermont Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D.C. Available upon request.

Classified list; includes publisher and price for books, price only for periodicals.

#### PERIODICAL LISTS

*List of journals indexed in the Current List of Medical Literature*. June 1956. 20 p. Issued by the National Library of Medicine, 7th Street and Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington 25, D.C. Available upon request.

Usually appears in July issue; also published separately as a reprint, with monthly supplements. Includes abbreviations.

*Periodica medica; Titelabkürzungen medizinischer Zeitschriften.* 4th ed. von Walter Artelt [and others]. 1952. 280 p. Georg Thieme Verlag, Herdweg 63, Stuttgart, Germany.

U. S. ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY. Supplementary list of abbreviations for serial publications used in the fourth series of the Index Catalogue. In: *Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, United States Army (Armed Forces Medical Library)*, Fourth series, vol. 11, MH—MN. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955, p. 1-79. Also issued separately as a reprint.

Alphabetical listing of periodical title, abbreviation, place of publication.

*Vital notes on medical periodicals.* A publication of the Periodicals and Serials Publication Committee of the Medical Library Association. William K. Beatty, editor. Medical Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Appears 3 times a year.

Lists new periodicals, changes in title, mergers and titles suspended or discontinued.

*World medical periodicals.* 1953. 237 p. Published jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 19, Avenue Kléber, Paris 16, and the World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. \$2.00.

Lists alphabetically approximately 4000 titles current in 1950, with place of publication, frequency of issue and symbols indicating coverage by certain abstracting services. Pharmacy, dentistry, chemistry and veterinary medicine are included. New edition due in 1957.

### SPECIAL TYPES OF LIBRARIES

EXLEY, M. Medical libraries in industry. *Libri*, vol. 3, 1954, p. 53-9.

Emphasis is given to the pharmaceutical library.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIES. *Hospital libraries; objectives and standards.* 1953. 19 p. Hospital Libraries Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

Includes the patients' library, the hospital medical library and the school of nursing library.

LEAKE, C. D. The role of the medical school library in the medical school teaching program. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 41, no. 4, Oct. 1953, p. 369-78.

MOHRHARDT, FOSTER. Standards of performance for hospital libraries. *Library Trends*, vol. 2, no. 3, Jan. 1954, p. 452-7.

Libraries of the Veterans Administration.

ROBINSON, ARLINE. The separate dental school library. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 40, no. 1, Jan. 1952, p. 26-9.

*Symposium on types of medical libraries:* Recruiting begins in the library by I. M. Strieby; The hospital medical library by Ella Crandall; The medical school library by R. T. Lentz; The medical society library by G. M. Clark; State medical libraries by Jeannette Dean-Throckmorton; The pharmacy library by J. A. MacWatt; Research libraries in medicine by T. E. Keys; The public health library by F. E. Herman. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 43, no. 2, April 1955, p. 177-216.

TROXEL, WILMA. Library service for modern dental education in a combined medical—dental—pharmacy library. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, vol. 40, no. 1, Jan. 1952, p. 21-5.

VAILLANCOURT, P. M. Hospital nursing school libraries. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, Vol. 44, no. 2, April 1956, p. 121-4.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MEDICAL REVIEW LITERATURE

Annotated list of reviews in medicine. In: *Annual review of medicine.* Published by Annual Reviews, Inc., Stanford, Cal. \$7.00.

A classified list appears at the end of each volume.

*Bibliography of medical reviews, 1955. 1956.* 74 p. Published by National Library of Medicine, 7th Street and Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington 25, D. C. To be issued annually.

Alphabetical subject arrangement. Contains alphabetical list of journals in which 1955 review articles appeared.

### SERVICES OFFERED BY LIBRARIES

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Public Relations Department. *Guide to services.* 1955. 120 p. Published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Illinois. Probably free.

History, organization, activities of the American Medical Association; its publications, library. New edition in press.

Leaflets describing special services offered are available from many libraries including the following: John Crerar Library, 80 East Randolph Street, Chicago 1, Ill.; Library, New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, New York 29, N. Y.; Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.; U. S. National Library of Medicine, 7th Street and Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington 25, D.C.



# Who's Who Among The Medical Authors

**Mary Elizabeth Bedwell** began her adult life as a teacher of Latin and English. After 20 years of teaching in high schools in Kentucky and Mississippi, several of which she also worked in the school libraries, she joined the library staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington, D.C. Miss Bedwell returned to the classroom to further her knowledge of librarianship and attended the Catholic University School of Library Science as a special student for two years. In 1955 she also received a certificate in Spanish from the Institute of Languages and Linguists. This is not her first contribution to a professional journal.

**Elizabeth G. Moseley**, a native of Florida, studied at Florida State University (A.B.) and the University of North Carolina (A.B. L.S.). Washington, D.C. has proved to be the center of her professional career which has included library positions in the Smithsonian Institution, the Reference Division and Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads and, since 1953, the Reference Department of the National Library of Medicine (formerly the Armed Forces Medical Library). Miss Moseley is a member of the Medical Library Association as well as of SLA.

**Mrs. Helen W. Munson** has been actively engaged in various aspects of the nursing profession for more than 30 years. She studied at the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing and later concentrated on supervision in nursing education at Teachers College, Columbia University. After experience in various hospitals, Mrs. Munson joined the editorial staff of the *American Journal of Nursing* and for 13 years was its associate editor. Becoming interested in nursing libraries, she resigned to enter the School of Library Science at Simmons College and in 1949 was selected librarian of the School of Nursing at the Hartford Hospital.

**Marian A. Patterson**, a resident of Toronto since birth, earned her B.A. at Victoria University and then attended the University of Toronto Library School for her B.L.S. She has been associated with the Academy of Medicine Library for the past ten years, since 1952 as head librarian. An active SLA member, Miss Patterson was chairman of the Biological Sciences Division, 1954-55, and last year was president of the Toronto Chapter. She lectures on medical librarianship in the special libraries courses given by the university library school and has written many articles on medical history and medical libraries.

**Augusta Poliakoff** has been concerned with the biological sciences since she studied at Johns Hopkins (B.S.) and the University of South Carolina (M.S.). While living in Baltimore in the early '40's, she was a librarian at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute and the Baltimore Hospital. Moving north to New York City, Miss Poliakoff worked at the Ophthalmological Foundation Library, in the bibliographical department of the New York Academy of Medicine Library and in 1952 joined the medical department of American Cyanamid. She has been chairman of the New York Group of the Biological Sciences Division and has edited the *Reminder*.

**William D. Postell** has long been active in library associations, having served as president of the Library Section of the Louisiana Teachers Association, the New Orleans Library Club, the Louisiana Library Association and the Medical Library Association. He has been a consultant to several medical libraries, including the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei, Formosa, an assignment from the I.C.A. office of the Secretary of State. Mr. Postell is the author of numerous articles on librarianship and medical history, including two monographs.

**Mary Jane Ryan's** training in librarianship, counseling and guidance at the College of St. Catherine, Columbia University, University of Illinois and University of Southern California prepared her for a career as a bibliotherapist. She worked in Veterans Administration hospitals in Fort Meade, South Dakota, and St. Cloud, Minnesota, before coming to the VA hospital in Sepulveda, a new 1000-bed research hospital where she supervises a medical library and three patients' libraries. She has been vice president of the Hospital and Institution Division of ALA and president of the Minnesota Hospital and Medical Library Association.

**Winifred Sewell** was employed in both drug research and university libraries before moving to the Squibb Institute of Medical Research in 1946. She is active on a number of committees of SLA and the Medical Library Association. Editor of the Pharmaceutical Section's publication, *Unlisted Drugs*, since 1953, she is also the author of several papers in this and related fields which have appeared in *Special Libraries* and the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. Miss Sewell holds degrees from the State College of Washington and Columbia University. In her spare time she enjoys bridge, bowling, gardening, hiking and bicycling.

## *This Works For Us . . .*

### **Indexing Scholarship Announcements**

**A**BOUT a year ago, the M.I.T. Library was asked to set up a system for filing scholarship, fellowship and assistantship announcements so that students might make fuller use of them. The end result should be a file easy to consult and to maintain.

There are two important parts to every announcement; first, the name of the college, university or foundation offering the awards and second, the subject fields in which the awards are available. More often than not, one announcement offers aid in a number of fields. This is where the problem arises. If the only information desired is what is offered by a specific institution, the arrangement is obvious—alphabetical. However, if a student wants to determine the awards available in a specific subject field, more is needed.

Each announcement is placed in its own vertical file manila folder. In consecutive numerical order as received, both folder and announcement are assigned an identical number. A catalog card is prepared giving the number assigned to the individual folder, the name of the college, university or foundation offering the awards and the date. On the reverse side of the card, tracings are added for the subject fields in which the awards are available. These main cards are kept in alphabetical order by the name of the institution.

A similar card, without date and tracings, is made for the shelf list file. These cards are kept in numerical order. An individual card is made for each subject field the first time it oc-

curs; thereafter the folder number and college or university name are simply added. These subject cards are kept in a third section of the catalog in an alphabetical arrangement by subject heading. One can thus quickly determine the awards offered by a specific institution by consulting the main card section of the file, or can refer to the subject section of the file to find institutions offering aid in specific fields.

Once such a catalog file has been established, it is easily kept up-to-date. As the announcements are received for the current year, a check of the main card section of the file indicates whether such an announcement has ever before been received. If it has, and the subject fields agree with those traced on the reverse of the card, all that need be indicated is the new date. The folder is then assigned the appropriate file number and substituted for the earlier announcement. If the announcement is new to the collection, a check of the last card in the shelf list section indicates what the next new folder number should be. After such a file has been maintained for two years, and periodically thereafter, the main cards should be checked to eliminate announcements of awards no longer being offered.

This system of indexing and filing could easily be applied to other similar types of material such as trade catalogs, press releases on new products and other ephemeral pieces containing several different types of information.

ELEANOR L. BARTLETT  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass.

This new feature is being initiated in response to requests from many readers for short, how-to-do-it articles. All librarians who have developed short-cuts or new methods or who have adapted standard procedures to special needs or found new gadgets or techniques helpful, are urged to contribute brief descriptions of 150 to 450 words in length. Share your know-how with others!

# SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, May 26-31, 1957

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	BREAKFAST	MORNING	LUNCHEON	AFTERNOON	DINNER	EVENING
<b>SUNDAY MAY 26</b>		Executive Board Meeting		Executive Board Meeting Exhibits open		Advisory Council Meeting Open House: Guests of Boston Chapter
<b>MONDAY MAY 27</b>	Financial Newspaper	<b>OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONVENTION</b> General Session	Financial Insurance Joint Luncheon: Advertising Newspaper Publishing	Hospital Insurance Metals Museum and Picture: Tour Newspaper Social Science International Relations Transportation Open House: School of Library Science, Simmons College Tours: M.I.T. and Harvard Libraries	Newspaper Joint Dinners: Advertising, Business, Financial, Publishing and Transportation Biological Sciences and Hospital	Metals: Open House Military: Informal get-together Science-Technology: Social Hour Joint Meeting: Picture and Museum <b>Reception and Open House:</b> Host, Boston Public Library
<b>TUESDAY MAY 28</b>	BULLETIN EDITORS EMPLOYMENT CHAIRMEN Newspaper	Biological Sciences Geography and Map Metals: Tour Military Museum: Tour Social Sciences Joint Meetings: Advertising, Business and Financial Newspaper and Picture	Insurance Museum Newspaper Science-Technology Chemistry Paper and Textile Public Utilities Social Science Social Welfare	<b>General Session:</b> "Professional Standing at Stake" Biological Sciences: Tour Geography and Map: Tour Military: Tour Newspaper: Tour Science-Technology: Chemistry, Petroleum, Engineering, Pharmaceutical and Public Utilities Joint Tour: Advertising, Business, Financial, Insurance, Publishing and Transportation	<b>Executive Board and Advisory Council</b> (closed) PAST SLA PRESIDENTS Joint Dinner: Picture and Museum	<b>Executive Board and Advisory Council:</b> Open Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY MAY 29</b>	Newspaper Publishing	Advertising Geography and Map: Tour Hospital Insurance Military Museum: Tour Newspaper Picture Science-Technology Joint Meeting: Business, Financial, Social Science and Transportation	Biological Sciences Documentation Geography and Map Insurance Museum Newspaper Picture Joint Luncheon: Advertising and Publishing	Business Financial Hospital: Tour Metals Newspaper Science-Technology Social Science Industrial Relations Joint Tour: Museum and Picture	<b>BANQUET</b>	
<b>THURSDAY MAY 30</b>	Newspaper SCHOOL FOR INCOMING CHAPTER OFFICERS	SCHOOL FOR INCOMING DIVISION OFFICERS <b>Annual Business Meeting</b>		<b>Annual Business Meeting</b> Documentation Science-Technology Geography and Map: Trip		Boston "Pops" Orchestra Concert
<b>FRIDAY MAY 31</b>		Executive Board Meeting POST-CONVENTION DAY Geography and Map: Trip Insurance: Trip Newspaper: Trip		Executive Board Meeting POST-CONVENTION DAY Geography and Map: Trip Insurance: Trip Newspaper: Trip Tour: Harvard Libraries		

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

## Convention Extras

### A Collector's Heaven—The Exhibit Area

The exhibit area at the Convention is a good place to while away a little free time. It is usually located on the same floor with the meetings rooms and often near the information desk.

It is a collector's heaven—the place where you supply yourself with a free envelope large and sturdy enough to hold all the material you can possibly collect. You will also find pencils and pads for note taking, available in a wide assortment of styles and sizes, at many booths. The nibbler may find a few nuts or crackers, too, if she keeps her eyes open.

But there are serious aspects to these booths and the products displayed are well worth seeing. They include equipment, supplies, binderies, subscription agencies, book publishers and, of course, SLA itself. Many of the same manufacturers are represented year after year but the items they feature are their most recent products.

For example, in 1956 the Microcard Corporation featured a method for making microcards from strips of Micro-tape. Recordak Corporation (Eastman Kodak), the Microlex Corporation, Cormac Industries, Godfrey Memorial Library and Remington Rand had a variety of equipment, services and publications to show those interested in microreproduction and photoduplication.

A booth which was crowded every time I tried to go near it was that of Bro-Dart Industries. Bro-Dart is one of the newer library suppliers. They are expanding their line to include such products as Plastic-lac, a lacquer for preserving the covers of books, and Book-Aid tape for binding pamphlets. Demco, Gaylord and Remington Rand, also dealers in library supplies, had booths too. Demco sells Crystaljac, a clear plastic bookcover for books which have heavy circulation. Gaylord makes

plastic letters for making your own signs and displays and Magic Mend, a liquid plastic for mending tears and repairing broken bindings.

Hamilton Manufacturing Company, the firm from whom we bought our compact shelving, had models of its COMPO stacks and also regular shelving and those with metal partitions for pamphlets. Remington Rand had illustrations of its line of TREND wooden furniture as well as complete catalogs of the furniture.

I was interested in comparing prices at other binderies with what I was paying and was fortunate to find several bindery booths with abundant literature.

SLA had a booth where selections from the bulletins, directories and special publications of the Chapters, Divisions and SLA itself gave good ideas for all aspects of library administration.

A definite stopping point, regardless of its location, is the Combined Book Exhibit. This is an area of table-top shelves where the important standard references and the best of the new books and references are to be found. This is where I become acquainted with the content and format of the publications displayed jointly by over 100 publishers. Each year the books featured are different. I must admit that I make the most of this opportunity to browse through all the books which have nothing to do with my library. Of course, there isn't time to read even one all the way through, but it is pleasant to glance at what is going on in other fields. I always take the catalog provided and make notes for the men in my organization.

Many individual publishers also have booths with catalogs and displays of their publications. The encyclopedia and reference book firms, like Encyclopaedia Britannica and Field Enterprises, had sets of their latest editions

while scientific, technical, economic, social and library literature was featured by the Pergamon Press, Oxford University Press, The H. W. Wilson Company and other publishers and importers. Consultants Bureau, a New York concern which publishes translations of Russian scientific papers, also sells subscriptions to translated journals. Magazine subscription agencies, such as Moore-Cottrell, have catalogs, descriptive literature about their services and samples of publications available.

One may wonder just how the information gained in the Convention exhibit area can be put to use. One year I decided I had a lot of ideas that no one in my company knew anything about so I wrote a report to the research director on "Ideas for Improvement of the Research Library." It covered suggestions both for giving better service and for improving the physical equipment and layout of the library. To illustrate it I made Contoura negative and Ozalid prints of the literature collected at exhibit booths for the past several years and thus was able to present a meaningful report with information and ideas of immediate and future reference value.

CHARLOTTE K. BOARDMAN, Librarian  
Thomas A. Edison Industries  
West Orange, New Jersey

#### **Impressions Of A First Convention Pittsburgh, June 3-7, 1956**

First experiences are something extra special—the first diploma, the first date, the first job and the *first* time your company respects your library to the extent of encouraging your attendance at an Annual Special Libraries Association Convention.

The impulse to record the stimulation and excitement of being part of a professional convention and to retain impressions is a great one—wearing the green badge of the "firster," the hello's from other green badge wearers and comparing notes on what you were learning and whom you meet. The lectures, the trips, the luncheons and the

dinners were all grist to the mill of "Putting Knowledge to Work." It was exciting to meet the VIP's informally, either by being seated at their tables or in the lounges. There was a feeling of being young because there was so much to find out, so many avenues to explore and so many steps to take toward being really professional. And it was satisfying to acquire a large view of one's place in Special Libraries Association.

Returning to your office with the need instilled of going forward, there were reports to make to the executives and the lasting thought that our library jobs are and can be as interesting as we ourselves wish to make them.

Looking back, I am curious to know if the second convention will deepen and strengthen my first impressions.

ETHEL LEWIS, Librarian  
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Transportation and Tours Committee

# Have You Heard . . .

## SLA Tri-State Meeting

A tri-state meeting of the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indiana and Pittsburgh Chapters was held in Columbus on March 29 and 30. Approximately 100 members and guests attended the busy two day meeting sponsored by Battelle Memorial Institute and *Chemical Abstracts*, Ohio State University.

After a welcome to and tour of some Battelle highlights Friday morning, the group was served lunch in the cafeteria. Tours in the afternoon included the library facilities, the Titanium Information Center and Battelle's West Jefferson Nuclear Center. Two papers, The Bibliographic Triangle by Majorie Fizette and The Training of Reference Information Specialists by James Thomas completed the day at Battelle.

A dinner at the Ohio State Student Union was followed by a delightful talk by J. Homer Winkler on his hobby of collecting medieval manuscript leaves. The group adjourned to the new home of *Chemical Abstracts*, where Dr. E. J. Crane, editor, discussed some of the problems faced by CA.

A breakfast on Saturday morning preceded five papers by Battelle and

CA specialists on information handling: *Chemical Abstracts' List of Periodicals* by James Wood; The Library—A Communication Tool by Iver Igelsrud; What Is the Ideal Information Center? by Paul Moore; The Relation Between Organization and Performance of A Technical Information Center by Ben-Ami Lipetz, and Systems Engineering and the Information Center by J. J. Stone, Jr.

Luncheon at the University Club was followed by a panel on Are We Really Giving Our Users The Services They Need? Participants from the four chapters were: Mrs. Virginia Sternberg, Mary Evalyn Crookston, Mrs. Elizabeth Burton and Mrs. Emily Rahe. A tour of the new Bell Telephone Long Distance Dialing Exchange ended the meeting.

## Correction

Robert Lovett has informed the editor of an error in his article on Boston libraries in the March SPECIAL LIBRARIES, page 118. Mrs. Isabell N. Britton is librarian of the Missile Systems Division, Raytheon, Manufacturing Co., Bedford, Mass. and Mrs. Frances Leve is a technical writer for the same firm.



During the Tri-State Meeting, a Battelle technologist explains the operation of an electronic "thinking" machine to interested SLA visitors (left to right): Dorothy Bulford, Babcock and Wilcox Co.; Miriam M. Landuyt, Caterpillar Tractor Co.; Frances J. Poremba, U. S. Steel Corp.; Mrs. Virginia Sternberg, Westinghouse—Bettis Plant; Lulu B. Hardesty, Cleveland Public Library; Helen Hauck, Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory; Mary J. Volk, Mellon Institute; and Kathleen T. Garner, Diamond Alkali Company.

# Off The Press...

HANDBOOK OF BIOLOGICAL DATA. William S. Spector, editor. Prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Handbook of Biological Data, National Research Council, Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1956. 584 p. \$7.50.

The aim of this compilation has been to present for ready use by nonspecialists basic tabular data, charts, graphs and diagrams from broad general areas in biology and the pre-clinical sciences. Information is arranged in ten classifications beginning with biochemical and biophysical characteristics on through genetics, cytogenetics and reproduction; development and morphology; nutrition, digestion and metabolism; respiration and circulation; other physiological activities and performances; environment and survival; symbiosis and parasitism; to ecology and biogeography. Here, for example, one may quickly find the physical and chemical characteristics of human tears, G-forces acting upon man and aircraft at different speeds in flight, effect of wave lengths on flowering, germination and growth in plants, life spans in many groups of animals, conduction velocity and fiber size in representative nerves and even the nesting success of a variety of birds.

The data has been prepared by experts and then reviewed by other experts to make certain that what is presented is currently accepted as established fact or reliable theory. Great effort has been made to allow for the variability inherent in biological materials by giving numerical values that are averages or adjusted averages of a group of measured values. Bibliographic references for data are not included because of space limitation but are available from the contributor or from the Handbook Office. The roster of the 4041 scientists who contributed to this volume reads like a *Who's Who in the Biological Sciences*. There are full indexes to the contributors and reviewers as well as to the subjects covered, although the Contributor-Reviewer Index is somewhat cumbersome to use.

The great usefulness and value of this handbook in any library serving students and investigators in biology and medicine is obvious. It should also have a place in large, general reference collections where it would undoubtedly save many hours of searching. There are two minor criticisms of the handbook: the small print necessitated by the problem of covering so much information in a single volume of reasonable size and cost and the bibliographically confusing title.

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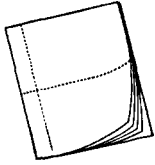
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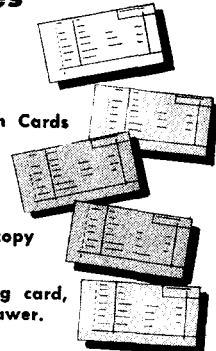
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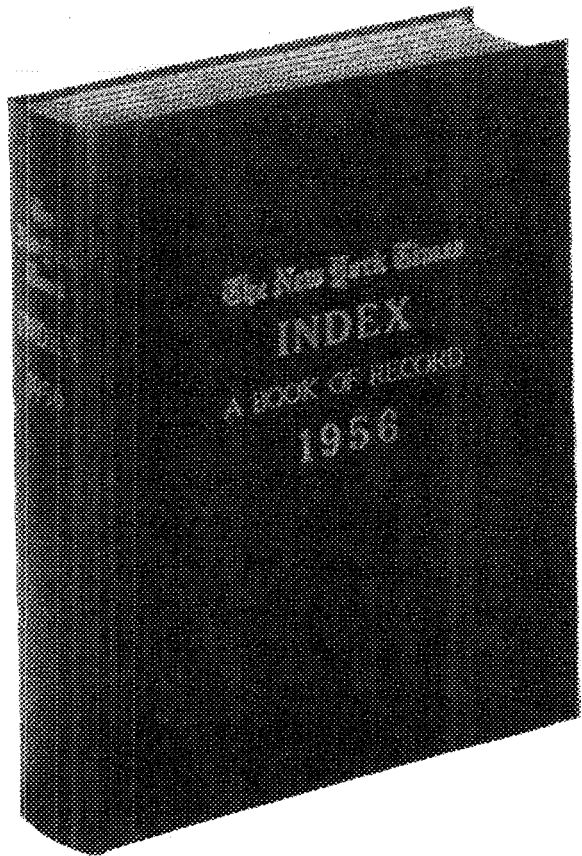
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