

Official Organ of the Special Libraries Association

Special Libraries

"Putting Knowledge to Work"



Petroleum Libraries: Their Present Situation and the Outlook for the Future	<i>Delbert F. Brown</i>	3
The Work of a Labor-School Library	<i>Henry Black</i>	7
Important Books of the Year — A Symposium by Correspondence		12
Training Desired by Special Librarians		16
Technical Book Review Index	<i>Granville Meixell</i>	22
What We Publish and Why	<i>Howard L. Stebbins</i>	24
Over the Editor's Desk		25
Letters to the Editor		27
Calling All Members — <i>M. C. Brace</i> ; A Ready Reference Tool — <i>Wm. Craig Dalgoutte</i> ; Report of Placement Activity in New York — <i>Mary Patchin</i> ; Help Needed — <i>Jed H. Taylor</i> .		
Publications of Special Interest		29

Indexed in Industrial Arts Index and Public Affairs Information Service

JANUARY 1937

VOLUME 28
2 *

NUMBER 1

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

MARIAN C. MANLEY, *Editor*

Vol. 28, No. 1

January, 1937

Petroleum Libraries: Their Present Situation and the Outlook for the Future

By Delbert F. Brown

Librarian, Standard Oil Development Company, Elizabeth

THE term library as used in the field of Special Libraries is difficult to define since the name is applied to such a wide variety of units and different types of organizations. Any specialized collection of information or any unit engaged in maintaining and/or using such a collection is generally recognized as a Special Library.

This diversity of specialized interests on the part of Special Librarians has necessitated the organization of specialized groups within the national Special Libraries Association. One of the largest of these groups is the Science-Technology Group. Science-Technology is itself a very comprehensive term. In the Science-Technology Group are to be found chemistry libraries, engineering libraries, public utility libraries, railroad libraries, electrical and radio libraries, and petroleum libraries. The interests of these sub-groups are so different that several sections have been formally established in order to provide increased opportunities for librarians to meet and correspond with other librarians whose main interests are in the same field as their own. Thus we now have a very large and active Chemistry Section, and recently the Public Utility Group was formed. Committees such as the Petroleum Committee serve as the nucleus for still other sub-groups.

The Petroleum Committee was first

established in 1926 under the chairmanship of the writer. Through this committee contacts were established, largely by correspondence, between the various petroleum libraries, and the principal project worked on has been the petroleum bibliography. In cooperation with the Bureau of Mines the Petroleum Committee enlisted the aid of not only practically all of the petroleum libraries but also of many other libraries and individuals in supplying from assigned periodicals abstracts of current articles and patents relating to the petroleum industry. More than seventy-five individuals were aiding in this abstracting work at one time. The abstracts were forwarded to the Bureau of Mines where they were compiled and issued monthly in mimeographed form as "Recent Articles on Petroleum and Allied Substances." Nearly 6,000 abstracts were published in this bibliography in 1932. Unfortunately during the depression, enforced curtailment of expenses by the Bureau of Mines compelled them to abandon their part in the project and the bibliography had to be suspended in 1933. An attempt to continue it as "Petroleum Technical Review" was made by the Oildom Publishing Company, but they found it impossible to make the project self-supporting even though the abstracting work was rendered gratis by the librarians. They were

accordingly forced to discontinue publication. Mr. J. M. Smith, Librarian of the Humble Oil & Refining Co., the present chairman of the Petroleum Committee, is trying to work out some practical plan for the revival of this project and it is hoped that his efforts may soon be crowned with success.

In every group in the Special Libraries Association, whether it is large or small, the field of principal interest, the type and manner of organization, the functions and even the collection itself of the individual libraries in the group vary more or less widely from those of the others. This is true among the petroleum libraries. It is, therefore, difficult in even so small a group as this to summarize or compare the work done in the various libraries of the group. The writer has collected information in the form of answers to a questionnaire submitted to fourteen petroleum libraries situated in almost as many localities from New York to California. The scattered location of the thirteen libraries which replied has made it possible at the present writing to visit only six of them. In almost every instance, each library has developed under the direction of some executive in one of the technical units of the company who recognized the need of a centralized collection and took the initiative in creating a library service for his company. The trend in each library varies, therefore, with the views of the executive in charge as to the type of work performed, the size of the collection and the staff and the purpose of the library in the company organization. Library policies appear to be determined in most part by executives above the librarian, although matters of library routine are generally left to the direction of the librarian.

Of the thirteen libraries surveyed in this study, only six, as stated above, have been visited personally by the writer.

The data was collected in late 1935, and early 1936. At that time it was found that the number of workers in the different libraries surveyed varied from one to fifteen. Four of the libraries had but a single librarian, four had an assistant, one had an additional clerk and two had staffs of five members each. One library had fifteen members on its staff. There are then approximately fifty people engaged in full time library work in the petroleum industry. No attempt has been made to gather statistics as to the size of the collections. None of them are large. They range from a few books, pamphlets, clippings, etc., to perhaps a maximum of 10,000 or 15,000 volumes. Neither was it attempted to collect statistics relating to the volume of circulation, the number of visitors or reference requests or the like. In general, the libraries studied do not attempt to compile such records, because they are more apt than not to be misinterpreted and cause wrong conclusions to be drawn as to the true functions and worth of the library in its relation to the department or the company it serves.

In most cases the librarian has at least a Bachelor's or equivalent college degree with a science major, usually in chemistry. In addition, several of the librarians have had previous training in library administration and methods. The almost unanimous answer to the question, "What type of training is essential for members of your library staff?" was, "Technical, particularly chemistry and petroleum technology, languages (at least German and French), and, to a lesser degree, training in library administration and methods." Some of the answers stated that technical training is not essential for the clerks, but that some knowledge of chemistry is helpful.

Most of the libraries surveyed are organized as a part of the research and development branch of their respective

companies and serve their own and allied technical branches chiefly. Two of the libraries are integrated with the patent and legal departments, but offer technical service to the other units, largely technical, of their companies. Some are more general in scope, serving all branches of their companies, including the executive and sales departments. Little outside service appears to be rendered except on the basis of inter-library loans or special requests for individuals to visit another library and make use of special information in the library visited. Even such services appear not to be extensive, however. There is a natural reluctance toward placing one's library under obligation to another by requesting such favors. This and ordinary business courtesy apparently prevent outside services from becoming a burden to any of the libraries surveyed.

Most of the answers indicate that the present set-up within the company organization is considered by the management to be satisfactory for the purpose for which the library exists. Some libraries feel that their translating, searching or abstracting work might perhaps be extended with profit by increasing their personnel for that purpose. Some also stated that they did not feel that their collections were complete enough to be called satisfactory. Others, even though their collections are small and incomplete, feel that they are sufficient for all practical purposes because of their proximity to the extensive collections in the large city libraries. The attitude of the immediate and other departments toward the library appears in all cases to be encouraging. The value of the library to its company is generally recognized and its services are almost universally utilized.

While the type of work done in each library varies considerably and the emphasis placed on certain phases is

different in each, yet there is a strong similarity throughout the libraries surveyed. All the libraries report more or less reference work which includes answering minor requests for information or even the preparation of brief or extended bibliographies. Most of the libraries do at least some abstracting. In several of the libraries this appears to be one of the major functions. The type of abstracts varies from mere indexing to both short and long abstracts which are usually filed in some sort of subject or author index, or perhaps both. Several of the libraries issue regular bulletins of abstracts. At least one library collects its abstracts on specified subjects and prepares them in thoroughly indexed bound volumes. A majority of the libraries do at least some translating. Several of the libraries perform true searching as one of their major functions. This consists in collecting the art in a given field and presenting a summary thereof as it pertains to the given question. The range of searches may vary from an art search for the research worker or an economic survey for the development man to an infringement or validity search for the patent department.

Rather meager data was obtained in answer to the question concerning the relative amounts of time spent on the different types of work done. Only five libraries answered the question, the data supplied being as follows:

Type of Work	Library				
	A	B	C	D	E
1. Reference work.	20%	2%	17%	10%	} 50%
2. Abstracting . . .	45%	30%	17%	30%	
3. Searching . . .	0	20%	17%	10%	
4. Translating . . .	10%	3%	25%	0%	. . .
5. Other work . . .	25%	45%	24%	50%	50%

No real comparison is possible, therefore, particularly with respect to searching, abstracting and translating work,

since in many organizations much or all of these types of work is done by technical people in other departments. Where this is the case, of course, a smaller staff in the library can perform the other services required. A definite trend toward the performance of an increasing amount of this type of work in the library appears to be evident, and as it develops the library personnel will increase.

Very little information was received with reference to the relative rank of the librarian in his company organization. It appears, however, as stated previously, that the library is in most cases organized as a division of one of the technical departments, usually the research unit, and the librarian, therefore, reports directly to the manager of that department. In only one case was it stated that the librarian reported directly to a vice-president of the company. In at least one case the librarian attends regularly the technical staff meetings of his company and reports current articles and other technical information for the staff to discuss at these meetings. The rank of the librarian appears in most cases to be that of a foreman or research chemist. The librarian generally signs library reports and correspondence, but requisitions and questions of policy must be approved by a higher executive. In the few instances reported where other libraries or collections exist within a company organization, no particular coordination appears to have been established between them.

Only four libraries reported relative items of expense. The data is as follows:

Item of Expense	Library			
	A	B	D	F
Books and periodicals	4%	10%	18%	62%
Salaries	95%	60%	69%	30%
Rent	15%	13%
Miscellaneous	1%	15%	.	8%

These figures are not significant since separate library budgets do not appear to be kept in most of the organizations and there is, therefore, no real basis for comparison. Library costs are usually absorbed as overhead expense by the department under which it is organized, and only one library reported a cost accounting system by which the actual cost of library service could be ascertained. In only one case was it reported that the cost of books was charged to capital expenditures. All others reporting stated that this item is charged off to expense.

Certain functions appear definitely to belong to a special library such as may be found in growing numbers in the petroleum industry. The Library serves as a central repository for the collection and housing of the great store of information of interest to the industry, both published and private which is accumulating at an accelerated rate. That this information is accumulating at an accelerated rate is strikingly illustrated by the number of United States patents relating to mineral oil which have been granted. More U. S. patents have been granted in this field since 1930 than were granted from 1800 to that time. The library must not only collect, arrange and store this information, but it must take the first step in putting it to work. There is no satisfactory abstract service for the petroleum industry other than is provided by each petroleum library for its own organization. Abstracting of the current petroleum literature, including the patent literature, is therefore an important function in practically every petroleum library. The library which contents itself with merely abstracting and indexing the literature does not, however, fulfill its complete function in this respect as is indicated by the experience of many of the petroleum libraries. These libraries prepare critical reports

which summarize the literature in a given field and so save the time of the engineer, the research worker, the patent attorney, the salesman or the busy executive which would otherwise have to be spent in searching the literature for the information needed. The library serves as a central clearing house for information and its usefulness to its organization is in direct proportion to the training, ability and willingness to serve and responsibility assigned to the library personnel. No librarian can be of maximum service to his organization without the confidence and cooperation of the units he serves. On the other hand, unless his ability and personal characteristics are such as to inspire such confidence and cooperation he has no place in a special library.

Other functions of the library, of course, are the routing of current specialized information to the proper individuals in the organization, securing information from outside sources or advising how this may be done, assisting and instructing the library clientele in the use of the library, providing necessary translations either written or oral, and, of course, classification and arrangement in the library of the information held in a simple, usable manner.

While the data collected in this survey

are meager in many respects, it does indicate a very definite trend toward the development of special libraries in the petroleum industries. Most of the libraries have been in existence for only a few years and yet they are firmly established and their activities and services are increasing. The resultant increase in the number of library workers in the petroleum industry indicates a need for certain definite qualifications most desirable for persons desiring to enter this field. These qualifications appear to be, in the order of their importance, common sense, accuracy, at least a college Bachelor's degree with a major in chemistry or physics, ability to read fairly fluently technical German and French and render the correct meaning clear in good English, and special library training.

There is a definite future for a limited number of college graduates possessing these qualifications who wish to enter this field, and it is the writer's firm conviction that there will be greater opportunities in the future than there have been in the past when it becomes clearer to those responsible for the technical, legal and even the business phases of the various petroleum company operations that intelligently organized and competently managed library service is an indispensable aid in their business.

The Work of a Labor-School Library

By Henry Black

Librarian, Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark.

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE is a small, semi-coöperative school located west of Mena, Arkansas. Established twelve years ago, its function is the training of young people, particularly southerners, for work in the labor movement. Its "graduates" are active in trade unions, unemployed and farmers' organizations, youth groups, work-

ers' education and labor journalism. The college operates its own farm, woodlot, cannery, laundry and other enterprises. Students, for whom the \$50 quarterly tuition constitutes the only necessary cash outlay, work twenty hours per week in the industrial enterprises, kitchen, office or library to pay for their board, room and laundry. Teachers and main-

tenance workers work thirty hours a week in return for board, room, necessary clothing, medical service and the satisfaction of doing a very interesting job. The school is non-factional, taking no sides within the labor movement, but including among students and teachers representatives of all factions and points of view. It is also completely independent, being governed by an Association composed of teachers, maintenance workers and students who have been in residence nine months or more. The normal enrollment is around fifty.

The college library consists of approximately 8,000 volumes, the equivalent of 1,000 volumes of unbound periodical files and about 1,500 pamphlets. One hundred and eighty-five periodicals and six daily papers are currently received. The library has three rather distinct functions: first, it must meet the academic needs of the school. The curriculum is rather specialized, centering around labor history, trade union problems and Marxism, so parts of the book collection take on the aspects of a special library. Second, since there are few public libraries in this region, it must satisfy the general library needs, not only of the college group, but of the surrounding neighbors. Third, to a growing extent, it serves as a center for research in certain fields within the labor movement. A large part of the periodical collection is made up of the "Marvin Sanford Loan Collection," a rather large and valuable collection of periodicals and newspapers of the American labor and radical movements since the Civil War; some of this material is now quite rare. The collection of current periodicals is also quite specialized, including nearly all the publications of the various radical parties, as well as the more important trade union organs. Thus the library represents a peculiar combination of a small general library and a quite spe-

cialized collection within the same institution. Finally, because it is the largest of the four or five similar institutions in this country, the staff is carrying on several projects that may later be of value to other institutions. Our activities are, therefore, unusually complex and varied.

Of approximately 500 volumes, exclusive of pamphlets, that are added each year, around three-fourths, come by gift or exchange. The large number of gifts is a direct result of steady, unremitting advertising. Nearly every issue of the *Fortnightly*, the publicity organ of the college, contains a list of books needed for the library. Between a third and a half of the books thus requested are sent in, a quite high return. Occasionally more general requests for books and pamphlets are sent to and printed by the weekly magazines sympathetic to the school. Among the friends and supporters of the college there are many who are writing and publishing material on labor and economic problems; in such cases we seldom hesitate to write to them for copies of their material, and in a number of cases it comes by return mail. Considerable material is obtained through contact with other groups, schools or clubs with interests similar to our own, and some is obtained from other libraries through the usual exchange channels.

Gifts have their drawbacks. Since most of our requests are for specific titles, an unusually high proportion of the donations, about 60 per cent, is usable; but all gifts must be sorted and culled out. Of those we cannot use some are sold, some are sent to local public schools and the rest eventually destroyed. The limitations of gifts as a source of accessions are obvious; it is almost impossible to obtain reference books that way, and new books are slow in coming in. As the library grows, an

increasing proportion of its material must be obtained through purchases.

Of the 185 periodicals currently received, most come in exchange for the *Fortnightly* and a few by gift. Paid subscriptions are necessary only in the case of ten periodicals and the six dailies. In addition to a fair representation of the standard magazines, such as *Harpers* and the *Nation*, and the more important trade-union organs, the library has an unusually full collection of socialist, communist and other radical periodicals. Nearly all those that are currently published are received — almost three score of them — and the files include at least samples of many of those now extinct.

Many of the weaknesses of the Dewey Decimal Classification are painfully evident in a collection such as ours, where nearly half the annual accessions consist of very recent material on economics, politics and labor problems. The disproportionate development of various classes, the fact that some of the subsections bear but little relation to material now being published and the difficulty of introducing new subjects are particularly evident. But the Dewey is widely known and it would now be quite impractical to change to any other system, so we merely cautiously revise or modify certain sections as the need becomes imperative. To date the subdivisions in 334 and 335 have been revised and we are tentatively experimenting with modifications in the sections between 331.7 and 332 and with added subdivisions in certain other classes.

Cataloging is as full and complete as it can possibly be made. Occasionally another member of the faculty will question the wisdom of spending so much time on this phase of the work. But the collection is growing rapidly, both in size and in degree of specialization. Here even more than in most

special libraries the catalog is our chief reference tool. Much of the earlier "simplified cataloging" is now having to be done over.

Unit cards are used throughout. Subject headings, particularly in the fields of special interest, are very detailed. We have recently finished a "Supplementary List of Subject Headings" to cover the literature of trade unions, coöperation, socialism, communism and related topics (copies are available for anyone interested). Pamphlets that are likely to be of value for two years or more are stitched into paper covers and fully cataloged. About three hundred are thus treated each year (pamphlets of only temporary value are kept in the usual pamphlet file). In the case of certain periodicals, such as *Foreign Policy Reports* or *International Conciliation*, in which all or most of each issue is devoted to a certain single topic, each number is covered and classified and cataloged separately. Few notes are used on catalog cards, though the number is increasing. In the case of some of the smaller and less-well-known political and labor organizations, "Information Cards" giving a brief account of the organization's history, its relations to other bodies and any changes in the name are inserted in the catalog. Analytics are made very freely; in cases where more than 20 or 25 analytics are required for a given title, a special form is worked out and printed in the college printing plant.

Reference work, including the whole general task of placing the library's resources at the disposal of students and faculty, is at once simpler and more difficult than in the usual college library. It is simpler in that our reference collection is small and reference demands are centered on a relatively narrow field. On the other hand we have the problem of introducing a group of people, many

of whom have had little or no contact with any libraries and some of whom have not had much formal education, to a very specialized body of literature.

Under such conditions work must be largely on a personal basis, depending on one's knowledge of the book collection and of the individual concerned; tact and friendliness are highly important, particularly with the southern farm students. Often it is impossible to tell where the librarian's function leaves off and the teacher's work starts, for the locating of material on a given problem will frequently lead to questions and discussions about the meaning and interpretation of it.

In the more advanced reference work, that involved in meeting the needs of teachers and visiting students, certain problems are encountered. In the whole field of Marxian economics — and there is an enormous literature in this field — there are very few handbooks or bibliographies, and there are none at all dealing with the radical political parties. For bibliographical aid we must rely largely on our own creations. Here there is a very direct tie-up between careful detailed cataloging and efficient reference work. In a couple of cases periodicals are routed to instructors who are particularly interested in them, usually with the more important articles checked. A clipping file, containing material pertinent to the various courses, was started a few months ago and its use is steadily increasing. We have developed, also, a mimeographed form for calling the attention of individual teachers to new books or pamphlets as such items are received. Occasionally we send around to certain teachers a list of subject headings under which material relevant to their work may be found. Just now, in connection with preparations for the summer session, nine different bibliographies, on the international situation, the Soviet

Union, Fascism, the youth movement, trends in American trade unions, farmers' organizations, unemployed organizations, farmer-labor parties, and war, are being prepared.

The staff normally consists of two permanent workers, the writer and Marvin Sanford, a specialist in labor history and periodicals, and two or three students. Student labor has its weaknesses, particularly here where the turnover is unusually high, but we have found it to be much more productive than might be expected. It may be that students here, because of the character of the school, have more initiative and resourcefulness than in most places. We have found that after a week of breaking in, a student can usually be left in almost complete charge of periodical and circulation work. In the catalog room the routines are so arranged that a student can normally learn the necessary forms and routines in three or four days. In some cases, students even aid in book selection, and, under supervision, handle a good part of the compiling of bibliographies. Occasionally someone with special ability turns up. Last winter we found a student with a knack for subject-heading and an interest in indexing periodicals. He is doing a good part of the work on the "Index to Radical and Labor Periodicals." Constant and unremitting inspection, of course, is essential, and experience indicates that one permanent worker could hardly handle more than four students.

The internal organization of the library is at an awkward stage. It has grown considerably beyond the one-man stage, but is not quite big enough to allow for the departmentalization, even if we had the necessary funds and personnel. But one phase of the work is really separated. Marvin Sanford, the history specialist, handles all the work connected with collecting, arranging, listing and indexing

the older periodicals; this takes nearly all his time. The rest of the work is rather loosely divided, depending on the particular abilities of student-workers. Ordinarily one student takes care of periodicals, circulation and stenographic work, while another types cards, does other mechanical work, clipping and works on bibliographies. One student spends all his time on the periodical index. The librarian does the technical parts of cataloging, supervision and inspection, order work, publicity, correspondence, worries about financial problems and building plans and does anything else left over. One device that has proved quite useful in managing untrained help is a very simple "job analysis sheet" which lists in some detail all the different jobs and routines in the library.

Activity outside the college has really begun in the last year or so, but is growing rapidly. We of course borrow frequently from other libraries. Occasional loans to other institutions consist chiefly of periodicals, newspapers or an occasional unusual pamphlet or manuscript. Books and pamphlets are also loaned freely to individuals anywhere in the Mississippi Valley when they are known to be responsible or are willing to make a small deposit. Another phase of extra-mural activity is "bundle-work." This consists of sending out to isolated individuals small bundles of pamphlets, magazines, and even recent newspapers. This material is not intended to be returned; we attempt constantly to build up a supply of duplicate copies of pamphlets and the important weeklies for this special work.

In addition to the bibliographies mentioned previously, shorter reading lists are frequently prepared, both in response to specific requests on or off the campus and on our own initiative on topics of immediate interest. To date these latter lists have been printed in the *Fortnightly*,

but in the future they will probably be mimeographed for distribution by mail or through the H. W. Wilson Company.

Our largest and most important job, however, is the "Index to Labor and Radical Periodicals." This is a projected composite index to about twenty of the most important labor or radical papers which are not indexed elsewhere, including the *New Masses*, *Common Sense*, *American Socialist Monthly*, *The Communist* and others. These periodicals carry an immense amount of valuable reference material on current economic and political problems, trade unions, Negroes, social conditions and considerable on artistic and literary topics, but it is largely unavailable because of the lack of an index. Tentative plans call for a first volume to cover the years 1934 and 1935, and if this can be carried through successfully, the index might be placed on a quarterly basis. The undertaking of so large a task in a library with such limited and personnel might well be thought foolhardy, but we were driven to it largely by our own extreme need for such a tool. Actual indexing work has been going on for about two months and is progressing rather better than we had hoped. The hundred and one minor but annoying problems of routine and procedure and decisions on technical points have been largely ironed out; at this writing, indexing for the two-year period has been completed for two periodicals, is 75 per cent finished in the case of one more, and work has been started on one of the weeklies.

Other projects are in more or less advanced stages of development. A "Checklist of Radical Periodicals," giving the name, bibliographical and physical data, fields of interest, political connections and possible suitability for various types of libraries, of the three-score radical periodicals published in the United States is about half completed.

An extensive bibliography on the split in the Socialist Party and the founding of the Communist Party is being compiled, as is also another one, probably more important, on the Negro question from the Marxian point of view. On the more informal side there is a small but steady flow of inquiries from other libraries, usually concerning labor periodicals, living or extinct. We are always glad to do all we can to aid others in this way.

Our work from many angles is done under almost frontier conditions. Budgets are small and equipment, physical and bibliographical, meager. But the work is absorbingly interesting and highly varied. Also, it is inseparably tied up with our political and social activity. Everyone in the whole college organization is actively convinced of the importance of the school's work. And that compensates to a very large extent for discomforts.

Important Books of the Year

A Symposium by Correspondence

(Continued)

The librarian of a pharmaceutical corporation writes

One prominent scientific writer has pointed out that the literature in our field of interest is like an inspiring mountain with a core of rich ore, inspiring because it is the work of earliest investigators. However, one must know how to ascend it carefully and where to dig for the ore. And so it is in these days when it is not the common practice to publish important new contributions, either of fact or theory, in book form. Books do furnish information in a form adapted to quick reference and guide the scientist back to the original sources, so each year the demand does cause thousands of books to be published.

In listing books accessioned during the past twelve months one must accord the place of honor to the *Index Catalog of the Surgeon General's Library*. I first saw the first volume of the fourth series last June when Major Hume brought it to the Medical Library Association meeting in St. Paul. Certain improvements have been made, including the use of Arabic numerals instead of Roman for volume numbers. The fact that it makes available in one volume all material pub-

lished over given periods of time makes it invaluable for quick reference work. Every librarian should take time to contact her congressman and to urge adequate appropriations for this monumental work.

In the field of ready reference books Gardner's *Chemical Synonyms and Trade Names* (4th ed.) is helpful in solving many problems of nomenclature. The list unfortunately is divided in two alphabetical orders. A supplement to the list of trade names registered with the A.D.M.A. and the A.Ph.A. has been issued and is helpful in locating new pharmaceuticals. V. 3 of Bennett's *Chemical Formulary* amplifies the material which appeared previously and contains an index to the three volumes. Hutchinson's *Technical and Scientific Encyclopedia* is compiled from the point of view of a practical engineer and provides little more than "first aid" information. The glossary and index to the supplement of Thorpe's *Dictionary of Applied Chemistry* includes many new terms coined during the past decade. V. 2 of Heilbron's *Dictionary of Organic Compounds* is said to be invaluable, but it has disappointed me every time I have turned to it for help. The compilation of drug laws pub-

lished by Standard Remedies is also useful.

The comprehensive treatise on bacteria, fungi, viruses, parasites and protozoa (*Gay's Agents of Disease and Host Resistance*) is a mine of information. It is notably free from errors, is adequately illustrated, and is an important addition to any scientific collection. *Glandular Physiology and Therapy* is a reprint of a series of papers published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and contains excellent summaries of modern knowledge in a most complex field. Beaumont and Dodd's *Recent Advances in Medicine* (8th ed.) has been compiled in a critical selective manner and has circulated more than any other one book for the length of time we have had it. Sutton's *Systematic Handbook of Volumetric Analysis* (12th ed.) contains recognized standard methods in full detail—the earlier edition is past repairing.

There are several books, monographic in type, which deserve mention on account of their importance in a highly specialized field. Among these are: Greene's *Anatomy of the Rat*, more detailed than that of any other book on the laboratory or domestic animal; Bridges' *Food and Beverage Analysis*, an excellently printed handbook containing complete tables of nutritive and caloric value of foods; McCulloch's *Disinfection and Sterilization*, significant for its listing of hundreds of bibliographical references; Fieser's *Chemistry of Natural Products Related to Phenanthrene*, which discusses sex hormones, vitamins, sterols and bile acids, cancer producing hydrocarbons, heart poisons, all having an obvious application to the medical sciences; Hill and Howitt's *Insulin, Its Production, Purification and Physiological Action*, while not fully up to date because of the rapid advances made during the past few months, collects and sifts a great deal of evidence; and Landsteiner's

Specificity of Serological Reactions, valuable to those investigating problems in immunology and serology, especially those interested in allergic manifestations of disease. Dugger's *Biological Effects of Radiation* has been ordered this week.

In Remington's *Practice of Pharmacy* (8th ed.), a standard for many years, the sections on organic and inorganic chemistry have been revised completely. Some new sections have been added and it contains a general formulary of various items of value to pharmacists. Other new editions of some indispensable books of this type are: Sollmann's *Manual of Pharmacology*, Gray's *Anatomy of the Human Body*, Cushny's *Action of Drugs in Health and Disease*, Starling's *Principles of Human Physiology* and Boyd's *Pathology of Internal Diseases*. Boyd includes many historical allusions and quotations which add to the portrait of a disease.

The inclusion of structural formulas for organic chemicals is a novel and welcome feature of the new *Pharmacopoeia of the U. S. A.* (11th ed.). Greater exactness in chemical and biological assays is demanded. To further this, specifications and methods of testing recommended by the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the A.C.S. have been adopted. The very concise and complete V. 2 of the *Extra Pharmacopoeia of Martindale and Westcott* (20th ed.) treats important diseases from the modern standpoint and the information included in regard to proprietary medicines is of great value. The make-up of the *National Formulary* (6th ed.) is improved but the revisions are less significant than those contained in the U.S.P. The new *U. S. Dispensatory* (22nd rev.), ordered last July, is expected daily, as a staff member saw the proof of this authoritative source for pharmacy, chemistry, botany and therapeutics while attending the convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association in Dallas.

The arrival of certain annuals and continuations is always awaited with eagerness; *New and Nonofficial Remedies* is found in all of our laboratories. The 16th volume of *Organic Syntheses* adds 28 methods of known value to the literature of organic chemistry. The Herculean task of sifting the literature for the *Annual Review of Biochemistry* is appreciated by the chemists. Likewise are they gratified by the appearance of another volume of Mellor's *Comprehensive Treatise on Organic and Theoretical Chemistry* which brings this encyclopedia within one volume of completion. Two volumes of Beilstein's *Handbuch* were published during 1936. Two volumes of Heffter's *Handbuch der Experimentellen Pharmakologie* were received, one of them containing an exhaustive exposition of the pharmacology of bismuth. The 18th part of Tschirch's *Handbuch der Pharmakognosie*, delayed because of the illness of the author, has been issued under the direction of Prof. Dr. Casparis, who will complete this masterpiece.

As pure diversion for those who like the by-paths of novel information and speculation, there have been at least four books which found their way to our shelves. A season's "best seller" and a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, Heiser's *American Doctor's Odyssey* presents a fast moving, sparkling narrative. Among other anecdotes the author tells of curing the wild Igorots, who were suffering from yaws, with 606 plus hocus-pocus. Major's *Disease and Destiny*, written by a medical man who is also a scholar and traveler is an informal discussion of the influence of the great pestilences upon history. It contains many quaint illustrations. Jaffe's *Outposts of Science* gives one first-hand impressions of current research being carried on in many famous laboratories visited by the author. While the writer has been criticized for his "weak approach," Furnas' *The Next Hundred*

Years points out in a stimulating manner the paths which scientific research must follow in the future.

Severe restrictions were placed upon me by the space available, so I had my choice of preparing a list with brief comments or omitting many important books. Guided by the thought that a more or less inclusive résumé of books used in our scientific research was desired, many other fields of our interests were, of necessity, neglected. There is no opportunity for mentioning books used by our personnel, employment, statistics and art departments, all of whose reading interests we attempt to serve. Of interest to all and in a class by itself, however, must be mentioned Lamb's *American Chamber of Horrors* which caused a ripple of excitement at the time of its appearance. — Irene M. Strieby, Lilly Research Laboratories.

A newspaper librarian writes

In a newspaper library, all knowledge, fugitive information and elusive facts are eagerly sought for, and brought as grist to the mill for dissemination to the readers of the paper, or to the inquirer who calls either in person or by mail.

There have been few definitely journalistic books issued during 1936. Of these, John Edward Allen's *Newspaper Makeup* has proved a useful tool for the news writer, the makeup man, and others concerned with getting out the paper. *America Goes to Press*, compiled by Laurence Greene, is an interesting volume containing excerpts of the news of the day as published from the time of the first newspapers to the shooting of Archduke Ferdinand. This includes the Boston Tea Party, the first steamboat, the first railroad, the sinking of the *Titanic*, and dozens of other notable events. Will Irwin's *Propaganda and the News* is a stimulating account of the use of propaganda in peace, war and politics, and

also gives the history of the newspaper, its organization and its technique. Memories of artists, writers, actors and others, whose friendship was cherished by the newspaper correspondent, George E. Slocombe, were recorded in *The Tumult and the Shouting. The Ladies of the Press*, by Ishbel Ross, is the story of women in journalism by one of them. Douglas C. McMurtrie, the great American authority on printing, has issued volume 2 of a four-volume set on printing, *A History of Printing in the United States*, the history of the introduction of the press and its influence during the pioneer period in each State of the Union. This volume covers the Middle and South Atlantic States. The remaining volumes are to be issued later.

New Typography and Modern Layouts, by Frederic Ehrlich, can be added to the books on the mechanics of newspaper publishing. The Geographical Publishing Co. brought out a *New Commercial Atlas of the World*, which carries maps with county lines clearly marked, the larger towns named, postal information as well as considerable statistical data. G. W. Stimpson, whose odd bits of information have been a godsend to the query departments everywhere, has compiled another volume this year, *Uncommon Knowledge*. In *What's the Name, Please?*, Charles E. Funk, the publisher, has furnished his readers with a guide to the correct pronunciation of current proper names, together with a brief biographical identification.

To the regular annual editions of the various *Who's Who*, some biennial volumes and also some irregularly published have appeared: *Who's Who in: America, education, American Art, Theater, Commerce and Industry, Latin America, Canada, and America's Young Men*. Other annuals, such as *Poor's or Moody's Manuals: Industrials, Public Utilities, Banks, Railroads*, and the yearbooks and

almanacs of various kinds are, of course, invaluable.

The advertising department and the artists have been enthusiastic over the initial issue of *Advertising Agency*, a highly colorful pictorial magazine, published by the Agency Publishing Co., Inc., six times a year for \$10. *Coronet*, another profusely illustrated periodical, published by Esquire, Inc., has recently made its bow, and its reception will be watched with interest, as well as the one to be published by Time, Inc.

All these books but supplement those already in use for to have a live and efficient library, one must not only do careful adding but wise pruning of all material available. — *Frances E. Curtiss, Detroit News.*

A college librarian writes

Ours is a school library which serves two departments whose fields of study are but loosely related.

New books of interest to our law students cannot possibly be very exciting. The usual law reports and digests appear at frequent intervals and are mere continuations and citations of cases in a pattern conventionally known. However, one new legal tool that our students find valuable is the *Corpus Juris Secundum*, published this year. This is the beginning of a series which will supersede the indispensable *Corpus Juris*. It is replete with footnotes, references, and helpful indexes and analyses. Another important new series begun this year is *American Jurisprudence*, a rewriting of *Ruling Case Law* to include modern developments of the law.

Of interest to students in Business Administration, the year 1936 has produced many interesting volumes. I shall cite only half a dozen titles to show the variety of subject matter. *Contemporary Problems in the United States*, volume II, 1935-1936, edited by Horace Taylor and

the Columbia College Associates, presents, in six sections, a clear picture of the economic and social problems confronting the American people today. It also indicates the new functions which modern governments are obliged to assume. *Rich Land, Poor Land*, by Stuart Chase, is a meaty book on the conservation of our natural resources. Professor John R. Commons's revised *Principles of Labor Legislation* is valuable for the light it throws on a timely subject. Abraham Epstein's *Insecurity*, a study of social insurance in the United States and abroad, is the most important book in this particular branch of social reform. A few of the books sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace are highly stimulating, among them *American Diplomacy*, by Benjamin H. Williams, and *Propaganda and Dictatorship*, by Harwood L. Childs. A book related to these is *Inside Europe*, by John Gunther.

Valuable as these volumes of a specialized nature are, we feel that our students should also have access to books more general in character. Among recent acquisitions that have aroused a great deal of interest are the new *Dictionary of American English*, the first part of which has just come from the University of Chicago Press; H. L. Mencken's revised *American Language*, and Professor Jay B. Hubbell's *American Life in Literature*. And speaking of American life, students have evinced much interest in a recent collection of short stories reflecting American social problems. I almost hesitate to mention the title of this volume, because it is edited by a member of my family. However, I speak as a librarian, so here goes: *America Through the Short Story*, by N. Bryllion Fagin. The book shows that even our story-writers have been aware of the basic social problems of American life. — *Mary Fagin, University of Baltimore Library.*

Training Desired by Special Librarians An Informal Sampling of Questionnaire Returns

By the Committee on Training and Recruiting

Librarians Replying between December 3rd and 23rd

Hilda P. Albaugh, Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.; Elizabeth Allen, Electric Storage Battery Co.; Lydia Louise Allen, Eastern Laboratory, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.; Albert Althoff, General Petroleum Corp. of California; Mrs. Evalyn Andrews, Insurance Library of Chicago; Louisa Artesani, Hood Rubber Co., Inc.; Elizabeth R. Asset, Campbell-Ewald Co. of N. Y.; Beulah Bailey, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance; Mary Peyton Ballard, The William S. Merrell Co.; Nelle Barmore, Rockefeller Foundation; Mrs. Elizabeth Brown Beach, Household Finance Corp.; Anne Elizabeth Beal, School of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State College; Margery Bedinger, Montana School of Mines; Bettye E. Bell, Business Branch of Carnegie Library, Nashville; Dorothy G. Bell, Business Branch of Providence Public Library; Hazel C. Benjamin, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, Mildred Benton, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Flora J. Bergstrom, New York Hospital School of Nursing; Esther D. Bixby, American Kennel Club; Mrs. Phyllis Blood, Webb Institute of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering; Emelia Bohne, The Manitowoc Herald-Times; Mrs. Edwin Bonta, Montclair Art Museum; Elaine Boylan, The Dallas News; Thelma Brackett, New Hampshire State Library; Eugene F. Bradford, The Los Angeles Examiner; Mary G. Bradley, Utica Mutual Insurance Co.; Alma Estes Browne, Social Service Library, Simmons College; Mrs. Helen Bullock, Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.; Marguerite Burnett, Federal Reserve Bank; Elizabeth Burrage, Boston School Committee; Madeline Buzsell, Tri-Continental Corp.; Martha M. Cameron, W. K. Kellogg Foundation; Dr. Marvin S. Carr, The R. & H. Chemical Dept., E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.; Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, Standard Statistics Co., Inc.; Ella I. Chalfant, Peoples-Pittsburgh Trust Co.; Mrs. Mildred C. Chamberlin, Business Branch, Newark Public Library; Evelyn Chase, Rhode Island School of Design; Ross C. Cibella, Research Laboratory, Titanium Division, National Lead

Co.; *Alta B. Claffin, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland*; *Mrs. Leila Clark, Washington, D. C.*; *Mrs. Elsie M. Clements, Oswald Advertising Agency, Inc.*; *Elizabeth Joy Cole, Calco Chemical Co., Inc.*; *Marie Comte, Monsanto Chemical Co.*; *Eleanor Conway, Chicago Historical Society*; *Anita Crellin, Library of Economic Research and Bureau of Public Administration, University of California*; *Elizabeth O. Cullen, Bureau of Railway Economics*; *Frances E. Curtiss, The George B. Catlin Memorial Library, The Detroit News*; *Mr. L. E. Daniels, U. S. Trade Marks Association*; *Mrs. Fern De Beck Davis, Rucker Library of Architecture, University of Illinois*; *Mrs. Frances Stevenson Davis, Power and Light Division, Municipal Reference Library, Los Angeles*; *Mary B. Day, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago*; *Mrs. Emily Dean, Institute of International Education*; *Mrs. Mary Watkins Dietrichson, Kirstein Business Branch, Boston Public Library*; *Frank Donohoe, Evening Bulletin Library*; *Mrs. Louise P. Dorn, Detroit Edison Co.*; *Mabel Duthey, Burroughs-Wellcome & Co.*; *Guelda H. Elliott, The Commerce Library, University of North Carolina*; *Maude Ellwood, Dow Chemical Co.*; *Mrs. Elizabeth Skillman Evaul, Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural College*; *Edith B. Fagerstrom, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*; *Adra M. Foy, Business and Municipal Branch, Minneapolis Public Library*; *Caroline Ferris, The Philadelphia Insurance Library of Insurance Society of Philadelphia*; *Alberta Fish, California Taxpayers Association*; *Edith M. Flagg, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*; *Doris-Lee Fletcher, Arthur Kudner, Inc.*; *Mrs. Caroline W. Foote, Experiment Station, U. S. Bureau of Mines*; *Mrs. Martha Thompson Ford, J. M. Mathes, Inc.*; *Mrs. Florence E. Forsey, Geological Survey and National Museum of Canada*; *Martha E. Foulk, E. R. Squibb & Sons*; *Lillian M. Froggatt, The Stout Institute*; *Mrs. Florence Fuller, American Standards Association*; *Virginia L. Garland, The Philadelphia Company*; *Elsie L. Garvin, Eastman Kodak Co.*; *Adelaide Gemberling, Frick Chemical Laboratory Library, Princeton University*; *Mrs. Sophia Hall Glidden, News-Week, Inc.*; *Edna C. Gordon, School of Dentistry, Washington University*; *Mrs. Helen Graves, Federal Reserve Bank of New York*; *Leonore Greene, Los Angeles Museum*; *M. Ruth Grierson, Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*; *Barbara Grimm, Home Life Insurance Co.*; *Edith Gustafson, Newark Public School of Fine and Industrial Arts*; *Anna Haddow, The National Education Association*; *Elizabeth C. Hall, Horticultural Society of New York*; *Daniel N. Handy, Insurance Library Association of Boston*; *Marcella Hasselberg, The Commerce Library, Temple University*; *Marion L. Hatch, Business Branch, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*; *Mary Jane Henderson, Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada*; *Hollis Hering, Missionary Research Library*; *Margaret Hester, Dairymen's League Co-Operative Association, Inc.*; *Mrs. Sarah Hettinger, Curtis Institute of Music*; *Daniel A. Hill, Ohio Public Service Co.*; *Josephine Hollingsworth, Municipal Reference Library, Los Angeles*; *Paul Howard, School of Mines and Metallurgy, University of Missouri*; *D. E. Humphreys, Montreal Board of Trade*; *Elizabeth Hunter, The Mead Corp.*; *Alma Jacobus, Time, Inc.*; *Mrs. Marjorie C. Dewire Keenleyside, Central Y. M. C. A. College*; *Adelaide C. Kight, Industrial Relations' Counselors, Inc.*; *Wilbur Kirkman, The Cowles Publications*; *Mary C. Lacy, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture*; *Agnes Lawson, Vermont Historical Society*; *Mildred A. Lee, Atlas Corp.*; *Millicent Leeper, American Retail Federation*; *Eileen Lever, Pace Institute*; *Amita F. Levy, Business Branch, San Francisco Public Library*; *Buena Lindsay, Marshall Field & Co.*; *Ruth Littig, Newark College of Engineering*; *Katherine Lloyd, Chemical Research Department, Armour & Co.*; *Margaret S. Locke, College of Business Administration, Boston University*; *E. Marie Lugscheider, R. C. A. Manufacturing Co., Radiotron Division*; *Katherine J. McCreedy, 6th District Agricultural Association*; *Rachel MacDonald, Engineering Laboratory, Ford Motor Co.*; *Mary Pierson McLean, American Bankers Assoc.*; *Adeline Macrum, Industrial Arts Index*; *Edith Meserole McWilliams, National Probation Assoc.*; *Rea Mauzel, Dearborn Chemical Co.*; *Dorothy St. J. Manks, Massachusetts Horticultural Society*; *Marian C. Manley, Business Branch, Newark Public Library*; *Maud Elisabeth Martin, Montreal*; *Mona Martin, The Great West Life Assurance Co.*; *George R. Marvin, Bostonian Society*; *Edith L. Mattson, Commonwealth Edison Co.*; *Mrs. Frederick H. Mayes, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*; *Dorothy T. Mellow, Kirstein Business Branch, Boston*; *Fern Metzger, Gulf Research and Development Corp.*; *Alma C. Mitchill, Public Service Corp. of N. J.*; *Mr. D. L. Moody, The Hoover Company*; *Mrs. Anna Morgan, Archives Division, Department of Secretary of State, Boston*; *Grace B. Morgan, Analytical Research Bureau, Inc.*; *Peter Morgan, Confederation Life Assoc.*; *Mr. J. H. Moriarty, Cooper Union*; *Maude Nesbit, New York State Library*; *Anna Louise Nestmann, International Printing Ink Corp.*; *Jean Norcross, Tamblin & Brown, Inc.*; *Oscar E. Norman, The Peoples Gas Light & Coke Co.*; *Elisabeth C. Palmer, The Crowell Publishing Co.*; *Frances R. Parker, Canadian Institute of Insurance, Inc.*; *Gertrude D. Peterkin, American Tel. & Tel. Co.*; *Agnes J. Petersen, The Milwaukee Journal Library*; *Julia Pellee, Union Theological Seminary*; *Elisabeth Pickering, E. R. Squibb & Sons*; *Jennie Pinchack, E. R. Squibb & Sons*; *Mr. M. M. Piskur, Swift & Co.*; *Elizabeth T. Platt, American Geographical Society*; *Mr. W. L. Poulison, Automobile Manufacturers Assoc.*; *Rebecca M. Prasow, U. S.*

Works Administration, National Research Project; Geraldine Rämmer, Hardware Mutual Casualty Co.; Marion Rawls, Burnham Library, Art Institute of Chicago; Thelma R. Reinberg, Battelle Memorial Institute, Margaret Reynolds, First Wisconsin National Bank; Mrs. Mildred B. Richards, Baker & Co., Inc.; Wilham R. Roalfe, School of Law, Duke University; Dr. William Walker Rockwell, Union Theological Seminary; Margaret K. Roop, Commonwealth Edison Co.; Mary K. Rowland, Bank of Canada; Mary E. Sawyer, Perkins Institute and Massachusetts School for the Blind; Mrs. Catherine M. Schmidt, American Polish Institute, Inc.; Phoebe Sherley, Department of Labor and Industries (Massachusetts); Ethel Shields, Eastman Kodak Co.; Elinor H. Smith, Sanderson & Porter; Jerome Irving Smith, Museum of the City of New York; Mrs. Margaret G. Smith, Montclair; Ernest F. Spitzer, Consolidated Oil Corp.; Frances Sprague, National Broadcasting Co., Inc.; Howard L. Stebbins, Social Law Library; Kathleen D. Stebbins, The Grolier Society; Florence Ward Stales, School of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Sarah F. St. John, Fine Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh; Edith C. Stone, Simmons-Boardman Publishing Co.; Mrs. Irene M. Strieby, Eli Lilly & Co.; Mrs. Charlotte Noyes Taylor, Experiment Station, E. I. du Pont de Nemour & Co.; Mrs. Mary Waldo Taylor, Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund; Mariana Thurber, Employers Mutuals of Wausau; Betty B. Tullis, Decatur Newspaper, Inc.; Isabel L. Towner, The National Health Library; Zeliaette Troy, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research; Mildred I. Turnbull, The Royal Bank of Canada; Emma C. Turner, Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Co.; Paul Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Museum of Art; Harriet V. V. Van Wyck, American Association for Adult Education; Ruth von Roeschlaub, Central Hanover Bank and Trust Co.; Mr. W. K. Walker, Grand Lodge of New York, F. & A. M. Masonic Hall; Mrs. Isabella Brokaw Wallace, Standard Oil Co. of Indiana; Anna S. Walton, Bureau of Public Roads; Helen M. Walton, Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.; Dorothy Ware, Business and Municipal Branch, Minneapolis Public Library; Sallie E. Warn, Business Branch, Newark Public Library; Marion E. Wells, The First National Bank of Chicago; A. Frances Whidden, F. P. Ristine & Co., Hertha Wiegman, American Standards Assoc., Louise S. Wallis, Business & Commerce Division, Detroit Downtown Library; Florence E. Wood, Grinnell Company, Inc.; Laura A. Woodward, The Maryland Casualty Co., Eleanor V. Wright, Chrysler Motor Corp.

FOR those who have debated the efficacy of questionnaires in securing response from members of the Special Libraries Association, the whole-hearted coöperation given the Committee on Training and Recruiting is an encouraging experience. This is shown by the list of those who have already replied. December 3, 1936, 700 questionnaires were sent to a selected list of S. L. A. institutional, active, and associate members. On December 23rd, 195 replies had been received. The Committee is happy over this coöperation and appreciates the immediate attention given its request for information.

Seven hundred questionnaires were mailed out. So far 27 per cent of those approached have replied. Could this not be an instance in which a questionnaire gets 100 per cent results? Will those members who have not already sent in the information look through their folder, "For Immediate Attention," rescue the questionnaire, and return it to the Committee on Training and Recruiting?

As is always the case in preparing a survey, the technique to be used was a subject for much discussion, with the result that two types of questionnaires were sent out so as to secure data on their respective value. One was of the leading question type, and the other, the detailed questionnaire calling for specific replies. The replies showed that the detailed form was easier to fill in swiftly, as 119 out of the 195 replies were of this type. The relative helpfulness of the details contained in this way is indicated by the selections quoted in this report.

Many interesting side lights were gained through these replies. Perhaps chemical librarians are our most prompt correspondents. At all events, of the one hundred replies analyzed, 22 were from chemical librarians. Financial librarians ranked next with 13. The social sciences group furnished 12; technical libraries, 12; insurance, 8; museum, 8; advertising, 5; public utilities, 4; newspaper, 4; leaving a miscellaneous group of 12. Twenty-nine per cent were library school gradu-

ates, 19 per cent had had some library school training, 18 per cent had had public library experience of varied types and 34 per cent had had none of these types of library training. The relative stress placed on the value of training in subject matter as against library school training varies with the type of library. Chemical librarians, for example, feel the need of chemical education more than they do library training, while in some other libraries, training in organizing material is more essential than knowledge of the subject matter.

Of the many interesting comments, one of the most penetrating was made by a newcomer in the library profession, who writes:

"I wish I had learned a little earlier how to work efficiently alone, how to analyze rapidly, and how to go about research methodically."

These notes give a slight glimpse of the interesting and helpful information derived from this study of present special library preparation. Only one point has been even partially covered in this analysis. Data from all of the questionnaires, and for all of the topics will be analyzed and studied. This sample is presented as a most encouraging indication of the way in which special librarians cooperate to make information about their own work available to their fellow members.

Comments from Certain Types of Librarians

Financial Librarians

REPLIES from thirteen financial librarians are included in the questionnaires analyzed. Of these, five were library school graduates, two had had some library school courses, and one had had public library experience. In this group, the number who wanted additional library training and those who wanted additional training in subject

matter, balanced, but here was found a decided expression of the necessity for library school courses stressing the special library aspects.

A bank librarian who had found an assistant's job in a small financial library on her graduation from college writes:

"If, as you suggest, I were starting over again, I would consider a year at library school, a necessary backlog, because it seems to me far easier to eliminate some of the technique than to try to acquire it while carrying on a job. Furthermore, I do feel that a knowledge of the subject is so very important, that all of one's spare time should be devoted to increasing that knowledge from the practical viewpoint."

An investment house librarian who had no previous experience says:

"Possibly I could use a library course in cataloging. But so far I haven't missed the formal training particularly."

Again, a bank librarian with library school training writes:

"I would emphasize that library school training on the whole does little to prepare students for special library work. I would recommend more attention to the problems of special libraries and less to those of public libraries, for the student will be confronted with the former much sooner than the latter. There is, as a rule, a longer term to be served as an apprentice in public library work, with a corresponding increase in preparation to meet the problems in that field."

Chemical Librarians

OUT of 22 chemical librarians, only five were library school graduates, five had had some library courses, and two had had public library experience. Those who had not had library school training would like to have had certain courses. Although all had had chemistry, 11 wanted more chemistry, ranking to a doctor's degree in that subject, while nine felt the need of additional language work.

A chemical librarian who is a B.S. in chemistry and who has had public library experience writes:

"Personally, I would like to have more chemistry, even for library work, though a B.S. with a

major in chemistry is sufficient for a reasonably adaptable person, in a chemical library. I do *not* feel the need of further formal library training. I *would* have appreciated earlier a course in chemical literature. However, there are one or two good books on this subject and experience is a good teacher, if somewhat time-consuming. Language training is always a help. I could use training in Russian and Japanese to good advantage, as well as the Dutch and Italian I have already been forced to read occasionally with no training except the customary French, German, and Latin of college. Incidentally, for a chemical librarian, French and German are as indispensable as her chemistry or training in library methods."

A librarian who came to her position in a chemical library by way of a college major in chemistry, followed by some teaching and some laboratory work, writes:

"My present position, where organic and pharmaceutical chemistry are required, also requires a knowledge of German and French. I would have kept up both languages if I had known they were to have been so essential."

Chemistry as a college major and some contact with the library under the preceding librarian provides the background for this comment:

"At least this amount of scientific training is, I feel, very necessary for capable work in a scientific library; one never has too much or too broad knowledge and at one time or another can make use of all information stored away. It gives a fair background for relating of coordinating and evaluating scientific work. For scientific work German is essential, French desirable and next in importance I would add Russian. In the previous position which I held I was doing editorial work which comprised editing abridged scientific publications and monographs. The accuracy required in proofreading and knowledge of publication vagaries picked up in accurately quoting references was of practical use.

"The library training which I lack and which I feel would be of the greatest value to me is in the field of cataloging and classification. A better knowledge of standard library practices would likely be time-saving compared to some trial and error methods. An off-hand knowledge of standard reference works in fields other than the strictly scientific, is desirable, but this can be

acquired more easily than some of the formal work."

Again, chemistry as a predominating interest provides background for this comment:

"For my particular phase of library work, *i.e.*, chemical and medical, I wish I could have studied more of the sciences. It seems to me that a thorough and basic knowledge of the field you are going to work in, is the primary requisite for intelligent library work. The technique is secondary and can be developed to suit particular needs."

Library school training of different degrees has some effect on the following points of view:

"If I were to change the plan of training, I probably should include — previous to the library training — courses in statistical method and probably some work in economics. In connection with the library training, I should want special work on office methods, filing systems and special classification schemes for scientific subjects, particularly the physical sciences. This, of course, is my personal reaction to the things where I have felt a lack."

"It would have been advisable for me to take more courses in library school every five years or so, or if I had had the right kind of brain, a study of chemistry might have made other work possible. Given the same unscientific brain to live my life over with, I think the further contact with library schools would have been the best thing for me. Or, more time to visit other libraries. That is as good as a library course, once you have learned the fundamental rules of library work."

Social Science Libraries

OF THE 12 social science libraries considered, six have library school training, three have had public library experience as a substitute, while three were without library experience of any sort. Of the six with less formal training, four want library school work, while only two of the library school graduates feel the need for a broad general education.

In discussing her needs, one librarian writes:

"I always regret that I have never had a

chance to work in a large system under experienced librarians before being put adrift where there is no one with whom I can discuss technical problems. For over two years I did work under one well trained and experienced librarian, and of course that was helpful. More experience in the routine methods of a large system would also have been helpful. It seems to me that any special librarian would benefit by such experience, and I have the feeling that the special librarians here who have formerly worked in the Public Library system receive more cooperation there than the others."

The need for consideration of special library problems as contrasted with the usual training is felt by another who says:

"I would like a brief course in the problems of special libraries and the application of standard practices to special collections. I wasted valuable time during my first year of service attempting to adapt my library training to conditions as I found them."

This same need for a training attuned to the future vocation is shown in these comments:

"I would like to have taken more of the subjects acquired after graduation as part of the undergraduate work. In addition to the languages, the courses particularly useful were the history of economic thought, the history of education and the history of English literature. Statistics courses of more specialized nature would be useful and more business administration. More political science in my particular work would have helped. The elementary law course I took has stood me in good stead. More of the moderns, less of the ancients."

Other variations in point of view are shown in these notes:

"For any career I am convinced that college preparation is an advantage, and almost a necessity. Living it over again I should endeavor to obtain the four-years' college experience at almost any cost. The lack of library school training is also a disadvantage. My experience in library work has been the cart-before-the-horse method. I have grown into the job by actual experience and reading — but find the lack in the fundamental groundwork that would be automatic had the earlier training been with library work in view."

"My library experience has all been in libraries

where I have used my technical scientific knowledge constantly. I am a firm believer that special librarians cannot be too well trained in the subject matter of the special subject library."

"I do not agree with those who claim that the most important thing was subject knowledge of your particular field. I think the most important thing is to have a broad, general foundation for library work and to be able to adapt that knowledge to the specific kind of library in which you are."

Miscellaneous Libraries

A FEW comments from miscellaneous types of libraries follow:

"I would suggest that any one taking up business library work should have a brief business course in shorthand and typewriting and some knowledge of the type of work done in the business house in which she is interested. In her formal library training I feel that special emphasis should be placed on the part the periodicals play in business plus some work in the keeping of clippings."

"I am not at all sure that I would want any modification or additional training. The one thing that I would like to have had is a year or so of experience in organizing from scratch a one-man library in an industrial plant. I should like to be more familiar with the immediate problems of building up a collection with limited funds and assistance. I still hope some day to have an opportunity to spend several months in Washington so as to study the special library resources there. This seems to me a group of source libraries about which all special librarians should have more complete information."

"I feel that special library work requires the maturity of age plus the virility of youth. It requires a broad knowledge of library principles and a broader knowledge of the business in which you are a librarian. I have studied the curriculum of the library course of a number of colleges. All of them seemed inadequate. They all taught the principles and methods of library science but nothing more. A great deal of what they taught seemed useless, to me at any rate. There is a great deal that it is nice for a librarian to know, but that is all. Cataloging and classification, for example, are necessary but only in as far as they apply to one's work. So many texts on library science stress repeatedly the great necessity for a classification scheme. When I first commenced the work the problem worried me very much. Now I realize that classification is only the means to an

end, and not the end, as so many books by their insistence would suggest. Classification should be simple, whereas so many librarians make it complex."

"If I were 'living my life over again,' I would specialize in foreign languages, concentrating on French and German. For my own convenience, I would also train myself thoroughly in typing and shorthand. I would duplicate the general background of college work which I have had. Also I wish to say here that I feel very definitely that one can obtain an excellent background of general information without attending a college

or university. Nothing can equal real 'job experience' coupled with a real desire to learn."

"I would advise a college or university training. Experience is a marvelous teacher but the four years of college or university training ARE now absolutely necessary, to get into any good newspaper library. (The days are gone forever when a news editor will take time out to teach a reporter how to do his reporting—just so the librarian must have assistants with training.) All of my assistants are university graduates but one—this one entered the library from a business office as a typist 16 years ago."

Technical Book Review Index

A Brief Survey of Its Progress

THE first year of publishing the *Technical Book Review Index* was of necessity experimental, certain problems had to be solved, certain decisions made, the objective being always, the best possible service to subscribers within the budget allowed. The year's work revealed many things. Chief among the lessons learned was that, however careful the planning, a publication which depends upon other publications for its material cannot completely shape its own destiny.

For example, before publication was decided upon, a statistical check had been made of the periodicals carrying book reviews, the number and frequency of the reviews, etc., and this check had revealed that for 1934 and 1935 the number of reviews published in the summer months of July and August was relatively slight and that it would be feasible to have ten issues a year omitting publication for those two months. The June issue for 1936 was run as late as possible in order to include a goodly portion of the July material, but nevertheless, reviews were so heavy in July, August and September of 1936 that reviews from these months are still being put into the third issue of the second volume in order to avoid a gap in the continuity of the material. Twelve issues a year in future must be seriously contemplated. Should

there be a dearth of material for the summer months as in 1934 and 1935, the cumulated indices and the listing of additional reviews of books already noted could easily take up the space.

The wide range of periodicals checked requires that the work be done at some institution such as Columbia University where a large collection is available. The periodicals are provided, of course, for the use of the University clientele so that the editor of the *Index* must use the material at such times as will not interfere with the use by the students and staff. Thus issues of certain periodicals are not always available immediately and there must be slight variations in the regularity of indexing.

Another problem is that of maintaining the balance of the subject matter in each issue of the *Index*. The periodicals are by no means regular in the publication of reviews, yet it seems important not to have any issue top-heavy with medical or psychological or chemical material, for example. With special libraries in the fields of petroleum, rubber, pharmaceuticals, public utilities and so on, subscribers, it is desirable to have some reviews of interest to each of the varying fields in each issue of the *Index*.

The main problem and one which the grant from Carnegie made it possible to

solve in part is that of the need for space. In the first volume, we indexed 4,397 reviews of 3,300 books. Almost half as many again were recorded in the editorial working files, but were not used due to lack of space. Having planned originally on 16 pages to the issue, the grant made it possible to expand the number of pages so that the first volume comprised 268 pages or an average of 26.8 pages to the issue. Increasing page space is occupied in each issue by the cumulation of the subject index which in the first issue occupied only one page open-spaced, by the last issue took up more than four pages closed spaced. A total of twenty-three pages were occupied by the two author indices. These indices are a valuable and essential feature of the *Index* service and cannot be eliminated, but should be if possible further expanded. But beyond this more space is needed each month for reviews. The editorial work is being done in recording them, it is the expense of printing which is the consideration. It seems advisable to give the users of the *Index* as many reviews as we can and as promptly as possible.

Unfortunately many of the more scholarly periodicals, which publish excellent reviews are very slow, so that they are now still publishing reviews of 1934 and 1935 books. The policy has been followed of recording the first reviews and publishing additional reviews later when space permitted. In the June issue an offer was made to supply lists of additional reviews, where available, to any readers who requested them. That offer has been repeated in the first three issues of Volume II. So far there have been no requests. It will be repeated in the next two issues. If no requests have been received by that time, it would seem fair to believe that in using the *Index* as a tool for book purchase promptness is of prime importance, that our readers would pre-

fer more books reviewed rather than more reviews for books already listed and that it would be wise to continue the omission of additional reviews of books already listed, and perhaps in another year to discontinue recording them, which would be a saving in editorial work.

Since smaller public libraries were included in our list of subscribers, reviews of more popular books from the more popular periodicals were included in volume one. There were twenty-odd cancellations of subscriptions for volume two. Letters were written immediately to the subscribers who cancelled, asking them to let us know how the *Index* had failed to meet their needs, so that we might take steps to remedy any deficiencies. None had any criticism to offer, either they were company libraries so specialized to one small field that the *Index* did not offer them enough on their particular subject, or, and these were the majority, they were small public libraries, with no technical departments, without presumably reference or adult education service developed far enough to make sufficient use of the *Index* to justify its subscription price in a meager book budget. Some of the more popular periodicals have therefore, been dropped tentatively from the list of the periodicals indexed and our efforts concentrated on the more technical material.

Starting with the 300 subscriptions necessary to launch the *Technical Book Review Index*, the number of subscribers has grown slowly but steadily and now, even with the cancellations, numbers 356. The increase in the subscriptions has allowed the *Index* to be practically self-supporting. A sum of the Carnegie grant amounting to \$700.00 was set aside for use in advertising and in expanding the size of the *Index*. The *Index* paid back the \$98.89 advanced for advertising previous to publication, expended a further \$80.31 for promotion and still

used only \$61.48 of the money set aside from the Carnegie grant, leaving \$2,948.56 still on hand.

The growth of the subscription list of the *Technical Book Review Index* is slow but steady. It will continue to increase, for the *Index* fills a real need. It would seem wise to proceed cautiously, advertising by personal contact and letter, rather than broadcast, expanding, with the knowledge that there is the Carnegie grant to fall back upon, in case of emergency, but no further than would appear to be within the possibility of the increase in the budget from new subscriptions. The editorial files, the format, the various problems would have been worked out and labor reduced to the minimum. We know how much work is required to edit the *Index* efficiently, we know that the facilities of a large library, and the services of an editor, conversant with science and technology, with a knowledge of lan-

guages, and of printing are necessary. The *Index* is now supporting the clerical assistant, but it cannot expect indefinitely that the services of the editor should be volunteered in the interests of the Special Library profession. Neither should it expect to be carried by the Carnegie grant as far as it can go. But with the fund as an anchor to the windward, it should aim at complete self-support in the course of the next year or two. Twelve issues a year with a minimum of 30 pages to the issue and with an annual subscription of \$7.50 is a plan to envision for Volume 3, and one which should bring us nearer to our goal, which is one with that of Special Libraries Association "Putting Knowledge to Work," supplying a needed bibliographical tool to technical libraries and supported by them in its production.

GRANVILLE MEIKELL,

Editor, Technical Book Review Index

What We Publish and Why

I AM setting down this month a few points in regard to our miscellaneous publications. In this category I include all our printed documents except SPECIAL LIBRARIES, the monthly journal of our Association, and "Technical Book Review Index," a self-supporting periodical sponsored by us and backed by a Carnegie grant as well.

The first general publication bearing our imprint was the special libraries directory of 1921. Ten years later the list of items issued by the Association and its subdivisions filled five columns of small type in the November, 1931 SPECIAL LIBRARIES. This number is worth looking up in your files as it contains a clear and detailed statement of the publications policy under which we are operating today.

For the past eleven years a national committee has been responsible for the

program. It falls to this committee to consider submitted projects and to initiate new projects as they seem to be needed. The committee has general supervision of printing, advertising and selling such documents as have been approved by the Executive Board.

Why issue these miscellaneous documents? First, because many of them capture in print vital information and vital rules of procedure that strengthen the hands of our own members in their daily tasks. Second, because many of them appeal to specialists in fields contiguous to our own. Through these volumes and pamphlets we make contacts, spread information and preach the doctrine that Special Libraries Association is a vital factor in "putting knowledge to work" in every corner of the industrial and professional world.

Our collection of printed matter ranges

from such general items as the national directory, appealing to all members, to such special lists as the bibliography of rubber periodicals, of little interest to most of us, but vitally useful to the few engaged in that particular line.

During November 1936, a typical month, we sold 99 copies of 12 publications valued at \$111.05. Our best seller for the year was "The Special Library in Business" (1936), with 261 copies sold to December 31st. Other standbys were the national directory (1935) 85 copies, "Guides to Business Facts and Figures" (1933) 102 copies, chart of statistics of Canadian commodities (1935) 51 copies and chart on statistics of commodities (1931) 55 copies.

All general publications are distributed gratis to institutional members; 1934 and 1935 were particularly good years in this respect. Most human activities move in cycles, and 1936 was a lean year by comparison. Present indications point to congestion of the mails in 1937. This distribution does not come in return for the dues of institutional members, which go for other purposes. Publications are financed by a revolving fund which amounted on November 30th to \$1,613.31.

Stress this coming year is to be laid on revision and bringing up to date of basic

tools that have proved their value, on subject heading lists that various groups are bringing to fruition and on a long talked of manual on the organization and operation of business libraries of all kinds.

Our best selling publications relate mostly to business libraries. Haven't the other large divisions of our membership equal need for printed solutions of their problems? Can't they prepare and submit to the committee projects that will be just as valuable in their own special lines? I have in mind such brochures as the 1932 "Creation and Development of an Insurance Library," of which copies are still sold nearly every month.

The revolving fund is available for loans to chapters after approval by the Publications Committee and the Executive Board. This makes possible the financing of directories and union lists, too local in character to warrant the national imprint but too expensive for the chapters to swing without temporary help. The Committee is ambitious to improve and expand our entire program, and all projects, national and local, will receive sympathetic consideration from the Chairman, Miss Marion G. Eaton, Librarian, Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, Mass.

HOWARD L. STEBBINS, *President*.

Over the Editor's Desk

Training Courses. . . . The plans for the training course to be given under the auspices of the Conference and Promotion Committees of the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity are well in hand. Thanks to Miss Bemis, the meetings are to be held in the Alumni Room in Logan Hall, Wharton School of Finance. Meetings are open to all Council members and each may bring a guest. The registration fee for the whole course is \$1.00, payable at the first meeting. The

schedule shows an interesting arrangement of subjects and is as follows:

January 12 — The Library. I. Its Equipment (Mrs. Carolyn S. Faltermayer). II. Its Administration (Mrs. Marie S. Goff). January 26 — Sources of material. Emphasizing especially the ephemeral type, and unusual sources. (Miss Isabelle Bronk and Miss Isabelle W. Entriken). February 9 — Documents (Mrs. Martha C. Leister). March 2 — Periodicals. March 16 — Question meet-

ing. (Questions submitted in writing before the session.)

Radio Broadcasting. . . . Our radio expert has been on the air once more. After Dorothy ("Nellie Bly") Kilgallen of the International News Service completed her flying trip around the world, she came to Schenectady during November to broadcast from WGY an interview with her father, a well known newspaper correspondent. Following this interview, she spoke on the two short-wave stations of General Electric, W2XAF and W2XAD, addressing greetings to the various countries in which she landed on her world-encircling tour. Her messages to each of these countries were first given in English and then repeated by an interpreter in the prevailing language of the country addressed, including German, French, Italian, Hindu and Chinese. Because of a sudden last-minute change in plans, William F. Jacob, S. L. A.'s first vice-president, was called upon an hour before the program went on the air, to interpret and broadcast to Germany the German version of Miss Kilgallen's greeting. Of course he rose to the occasion. The Albany "Times-Union" had an impressive picture of Dorothy with her cohort of interpreters.

Rebecca B. Rankin, librarian of the New York Municipal Reference Library, is again broadcasting over WNYC. This group of broadcasts will be called "New York Advancing," and is based on the book published by the city in September. These broadcasts are given each Wednesday at 4:30 P.M. Those who have been fortunate enough to hear some of the earlier series know what an excellent radio personality Miss Rankin has.

Another broadcast that has some interest for librarians is one in which the American Library Association coöperates with the United States Office of Education in a program called "Treasures Next Door." These dramatizations of "The

Man Without a Country," "Sea Wolf," and "Typee" will be given over the Columbia Broadcasting System at 4 P.M. on January 11, January 25, and February 1 respectively.

Moving About. . . . Mildred E. Robie, who has been cataloger with Standard Statistics, is now moving back to Boston. We are not sure whether she will continue to be known as Mildred Robie in Boston, or whether she will be more generally addressed as Mrs. Francis Smith Wagner, her non-professional name for more than two years. . . . Edna M. Becker of Fordham University Library, who married Dr. Lawrence Bass, is moving out to Pittsburgh where Dr. Bass will be with the Mellon Institute. . . . Emma M. Williamson, formerly cataloger of the Guaranty Trust library and recently librarian of the "Magazine of Wall Street," has gone as cataloger to Standard Statistics. . . . Olga Anderson, formerly with the Bankers Trust Company, has gone to "Time." . . . And Anna V. Cullen of Standard Statistics is now librarian of the "Magazine of Wall Street." . . . On January 1, Mary G. Bradley, librarian of the Utica Mutual Insurance Company, joined the staff of Standard Statistics Company library. . . . Barbara Wertman, formerly with Employers Mutuals of Wausau (Wis.), has left the company to be married, and Mariana Thurber is now librarian in her place.

News Note. . . . When it comes to abbreviations, S. L. A. has a rival in New York State, where the State Liquor Authority operates under those initials.

Indexes and Indexing. . . . The Editor is pleased to call the attention of all the members to the index for 1936, which is mailed with the January 1937 issue. For those who have not realized the interesting content in an index, a comparison between this and earlier issues is suggested. An index is, perhaps, as good

an indication of the growth of the magazine as any other standard, and the expansion that SPECIAL LIBRARIES has been permitted through its increased advertising is demonstrated by these indexes.

Questionnaires and Questionnaires. . . . S. L. A. members have good reason to pause and meditate on answers to one thing and another. That they do this promptly and comprehensively is shown by the report of the Committee on Training and Recruiting. This report makes interesting reading. The list of those who are so prompt in replying bears analysis. Is this an honor list of our prompt correspondents? The replies indicate that there are many more gifted writers in our midst than we had realized.

S. L. A. in Print. . . . Special libraries have received attention in one of the country's most widely read publications. In the December issue of the *Reader's Digest* under "Trends in Business" is a quotation from the *Business Week* article in June on the work of special librarians and of the S. L. A. This article was extremely encouraging in the first place. The condensed reproduction in *Reader's Digest* adds to the pleasure of that contribution. S. L. A. has a good friend in Earl Whitehorne of McGraw-Hill. . . . Mrs. Bevan, librarian of the Phoenix Mutual, made the columns of *Sales Management* on October 10th, where she presented her plan for encouraging salesmen to do more reading. . . .

Letters to the Editor

Calling All Members

THE committee on Sources of Statistical Information has a letter from the Public Printer indicating his willingness to print a monthly index to the Monthly Catalog if adequate funds were available. He says, "The growing need of working tools in the reference field is recognized and the value of a monthly index is appreciated; but at the present time adequate funds are not available."

It would greatly strengthen the position of the printer and the committee, if Special Libraries members, one and all, would *to-day* write in protest against the continued lack of working tools in the public document field and especially urging him to provide for the monthly index.

Please write on your company stationery and do it at once. Speed is necessary if protests are to be effective in securing more adequate funds with which to accomplish this project.

Address: Mr. A. E. Giegengack, Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

M. C. BRACE, *Chairman of Indexes to Sources of Statistical Information.*

A Ready Reference Tool

THE *Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom*, which Miss Joy mentions in her article on "A Better Guide to Government Statistics" in the September issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, does not apparently enjoy the popularity and usage its merits warrant. True, most librarians know of its merits in theory, but few —

judging by sales returns — consider that it is something which can be used. Many consider it a mere finding list of statistical publications (for which the title is doubtless partly responsible), but the *Guide* is actually an annual index and guide to statistics. If that difference were fully appreciated the *Guide* would be taken out of storage and given an honorable position at the librarian's elbow.

Some will object that they do not take many British publications, that those they do take are thoroughly catalogued and that the *Guide* is therefore a luxury. Even then it has its place, because in most cases some larger collection of documents will be available, e.g. in the local public library, to which the *Guide* will serve as an index. The special librarian equipped with the *Guide* is able to determine in advance the extent and up-to-dateness of the information she is likely to obtain. And since the *Guide* costs only 35 cents postpaid, it should not be long before the saving in telephone calls liquidates the expense of its purchase.

An actual example is the most convincing illustration. Recently an advertiser telephoned to his public library for statistics of the consumption of biscuits in Britain, and later called the British Library of Information at the suggestion of his own librarian. The B. L. I. had 1934 statistics assembled in a few minutes, but it was literally some hours later before the public library provided him with figures for 1930. When it comes to British official publications the B. L. I. has, of

course, an obvious advantage over other libraries, and in this instance we knew the proper sources of the information desired. How would the *Guide* have helped? Consumption is assumed to be the result of production plus retained imports less exports; and under the heading for industrial production in the latest, 1935, *Guide* we are referred to and are given details of the Census of Production 1930 and the Import Duties Inquiry 1933 which, we are informed, include statistics of imports and exports. The Census is taken every sixth year (and will therefore be taken at the end of 1936) and the Inquiry annually in the case of every commodity where a customs duty is levied on imports, which means in almost every case. The preliminary results of these surveys appear as supplements to the *Board of Trade Journal*, and we were fortunate in finding a preliminary report on biscuits under the 1934 Inquiry. We hoped for 1934 figures, but the *Guide* would have shown that 1933 figures at least were almost certainly available.

Having illustrated the usefulness of the *Guide*, I should like to take time to describe it more fully. The object of the *Guide* is (1) to direct the enquirer to all current official publications that contain statistics bearing on his subject; and, more especially, (2) to inform him of the nature of the statistics he will find in the volumes to which he is referred, i. e. their mode of analysis and the time and place to which they relate. The *Guide* consists of two main and two supplementary sections — (a) Subject Index providing a detailed survey of statistics contained in the publications of the year under review; (b) List of Publications grouped under the responsible departments; (c) Key to the statistical contents of these publications, and (d) Index to departments, sub-departments, etc. The publications in the List are numbered and the references to them in the Index are by those numbers. The alphabetical Subject Index is well supplied with references and cross-references. One important but little-known feature of the Index is the classification which underlies it; all knowledge is divided into 25 classes and the scheme of classification is worked into the Index so that by taking any one of the 25 headings and "developing" the references given there and under the headings referred to, it is possible to trace with certainty the whole of the published statistical material dealing with that subject. Only statistical publications are included, of course, and not government publications as a whole.

The *Guide* is published annually by the Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics which was set up in 1921 following the recommendations of the "Report on the Collection and

Presentation of Official Statistics" which appeared in that year. The Committee is made up of representatives of the major government departments under the chairmanship of the government actuary. It is purely consultative and has no executive powers, but it may initiate discussions upon any question affecting official statistics and bring its recommendations to the notice of the department concerned. The current *Guide*, covering 1935 publications and published in June of this year, is the fourteenth annual issue: the first, second, tenth and twelfth issues are now out of print. The second issue, 1923, contained a supplementary index of publications of permanent statistical interest which were published prior to 1923, but it is unfortunately out of print.

WM. CRAIG DALGOUTTE,
British Library of Information.

Report of Placement Activity in New York

Registration

All members of the Special Library Association and non-members seeking employment through the Employment Committee have been notified that placement activities of the Association have been delegated to the Professional Division of the New York State Employment Service. The announcement has been published in the Association's publications, and broadcast in other ways. This total, however, probably exceeds considerably the number at present seeking jobs. A follow up of several in this group, qualified for jobs open, showed that they had been already placed.

The registration figures, October 1–December 1, are:

Those Classified as Special Librarians

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
New Registrations . . .	3	36	39
Renewed Registrations	0	10	10
	—	—	—
Total	3	46	49

Those Classified as Librarians (Public)

New Registrations . . .	0	10	10
Renewed Registrations	0	13	13
	—	—	—
Total	0	23	23

Total (Active List) 72

Of this group 45 had registered as a result of direct referral by the Employment Committee, or through the Association's publicity.

Office Hours

No one referred by the Special Libraries Association has been refused an interview. The careful publicity given to office hours (1–3 P.M. for new applicants and 9–11 A.M. for those already regis-

tered) has reduced to a minimum applications out of office hours.

From placement activity of a month only it would be unwise to draw conclusions. However, one thing is very evident — there is a dearth of librarians in the age group from 25 to 32 who have professional training and some experience in special library work.

Field Visits

The number of field visits made on Special Librarians by Special Field Worker to date is 85.

MARY PATCHIN, *Director*.

Help Needed

THE Library Advisory Service for CCC Camps, 2nd Corps Area, is a demonstration, sponsored by the American Association for Adult Education, in charge of the writer.

One of the chief functions of this Service is to act as a "Mail Order" reference center for the 150 camps of the 2nd Corps Area, New York,

New Jersey and Delaware. Information is given about the best and least expensive sources of printed material useful in the promotion of the educational programs of the camps. It has been found that many companies and associations, commercial and non-commercial, have material which can be adopted for instruction purposes in the camps; anything from service manuals to posters.

We need the cooperation of special librarians in locating and obtaining this material since they offer a point of contact with their organizations. Will you help put across this demonstration; to achieve its aim, namely, to prove the value of a trained librarian personnel and thus bring about the inclusion of a library department as a regular part of the CCC Educational Program.

JED H. TAYLOR, *Librarian*,
Library Advisory Service for CCC Camps
Second Corps Area, 33 East Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Publications of Special Interest

Arnold, Oren. *Wonders of the west*. Banks Upshaw & Co., Dallas. 1936. 248 p. \$2.00.

A fine record of the real west adapted to twelve-year-olds but interesting for adults. Beautifully illustrated, interestingly written. Gives a selective picture of a unique country.

Bates, E. S. *Story of the Supreme Court*. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis. 1936. 377 p. \$3.00.

A fine, comprehensive account of the development of the Court covering its background as of the Constitutional Convention, its personnel, and the leading cases of each period. Clear, penetrating and fair in its presentation. Material is carried through the spring term, 1936. Bibliography and list of cases cited are included.

Becker, M. L. *First adventures in reading*. Stokes, New York. 1936. 286 p. \$2.00.

Selected lists of children's reading prefaced by delightful and practical essays on the problems involved. The book begins with babyhood and moves on through high school years. Anyone needing a short cut to an understanding of reading psychology will find this profitable.

Bricker, H. L., ed. *Our theatre today*. Samuel French, New York. 1936. 427 p. \$3.00.

The editor has selected a group of experts in theatre problems from play brokers to costume and make-up designers. The articles are all interesting and to the point. A selective bibliography grouped by general subjects is included. An able text.

Broening, A. M., Law, F. H., and Wilkinson, M. S. *Reading for skill*. Noble and Noble, New York. 1936. 439 p. \$1.20.

An excellent textbook in which the chief techniques in reading are outlined clearly and illustrated by many examples. A section on the use of the library is included. This covers the use of the card catalog and magazine indexes, as well as the chief reference books.

Burt, Struthers. *Escape from America*. Scribners, New York. 1936. 255 p. \$2.00.

Some enlightening considerations of many Americans' reaction to America, marked by a discerning passion for America and a keen and caustic realization of the superficiality and weakness of much current comment.

Childs, H. L., ed. *Propaganda and dictatorship*. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 1936. 153 p. \$1.50.

Six essays with clear presentation of such topics as state propaganda in Germany, Italy, Russia, etc., and its function in a democratic government. The authors include such authorities as Harold D. Lasswell. Many footnotes to specific references are given but no separate bibliography. Authoritative and requiring serious consideration.

Cushing, Harvey. *From a surgeon's journal*. Little, Brown, Boston. 1936. 534 p. \$5.00.

A record of war medical service with a wealth of day-by-day notes on patients, operations, negotiations, and the thousand and one incidents involved. An authentic picture of the mess and misery, the courage and struggle of those days in war hospitals. Should be prescribed reading for militarists.

Dahl, J. O. *Soda fountain management.* Hospitality Guild, Stamford. 1936. 228 p. \$3.00.

A practical, specific book full of check lists of points to be considered in management. Proper distribution of funds considered. Many useful recipes included. A satisfactory book on an omnipresent industry.

Dmitri, Ivan. *How to use your candid camera.* Studio Publications, New York. n.d. 67 p. \$3.50.

Clear descriptions of photographic technique with the Leica camera with 26 plates for which specific working instructions are given. Beautiful and stimulating examples.

Fanning, L. M. *Rise of American oil.* Harper, New York. 1936. 221 p. \$2.50.

A fascinating, vivid story in which the high spots in the American oil industry are shown.

Floherly, J. J. *Police!* Doubleday, New York. 1936. 101 p. \$2.00.

A clear, simple account of police organization throughout the country, notable for its enlightening and dramatic photographs. Excellent introduction to the "arms of the law."

Gumpert, Martin. *Trail-blazers of science.* Funk & Wagnalls, New York. 1936. 306 p. \$2.50.

A collection of short but vivid essays on outstanding leaders in medical science from Jerome Cardan of the sixteenth century, to Harvey Cushing, the brain surgeon of the present day. An effective glimpse of the high points in the history of medicine.

Hamilton, M. W. *Country printer.* (New York State Historical Association Series No. 4 D.) Columbia University Press, New York. 1936. 360 p. \$3.75.

A survey of the papers in New York state from 1785-1830. The difficulties of the apprentice journeyman and proprietors in the strenuous days of expansion are clearly portrayed. The political ramifications are many and well covered. Appendices include a detailed, specific list of printers, editors and publishers, a comprehensive bibliography, and some valuable statistics.

Hockin, J. R. A. *Walking in Cornwall.* Macmillan, New York. 1936. 293 p. \$2.50.

A delightful and detailed account of the fascination of a country studied on foot. Would there were such treatments of parts of this country! The general literature on that section is noted and dismissed or approved in the preface. A book to be noted for the next prolonged vacation.

Howes, P. G. *Handbook for the curious.* Putnam, New York. 1936. 364 p. \$3.75.

A delightful book in which the curator of natural history at the Buncce Museum, Greenwich, describes the appearance and habits of the every-day insects, fishes and crawling things of our surroundings. Well arranged for easy use by the inexperienced, and interestingly and amusingly written. Illustrated by many photographs and some sketches. Selected bibliography included. Indexed.

Hutchins, R. M. *Higher learning in America.* Yale University Press, New Haven. 1936. 119 p. \$2.00.

A refreshing study of the problems of a fundamental education in which the vocational training in education is relegated to its proper place and stress is laid on education as the pursuit of truth. Fine, sane and engrossing.

Kibre, Pearl. *Library of Pico Della Mirandola.* Columbia University Press, New York. 1936. 330 p. \$4.00.

An account of one of the largest private libraries—1,190 volumes, in existence at the time of the discovery of America. The greater part of the book is devoted to the inventory of this library which serves as a checklist to early classical productions.

Laski, H. J. *Rise of liberalism: the philosophy of a business civilization.* Harper, New York. 1936. 327 p. \$3.00.

This survey of 400 years' development of political systems for the benefit of property owners is interesting because of its apt interweaving of selections from economists and propagandists of this period. It's exposition is clear and its conclusions appear sound. Freely documented. Not indexed.

Marburg, Clara. *Mr. Pepys and Mr. Evelyn.* University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. 1935. 156 p. \$2.00.

A careful study of the letters and relationship between two men active in English politics from 1660 to 1700 and later. Gives a scholarly picture of London activities at that period.

Orr, Dorothea. *Portrait of a people: Croatia today.* Funk & Wagnalls, New York. 1936. 246 p. \$2.50.

Colorful sympathetic sketches of a subject race—Slavic peasants under a King-dictator. The author successfully conveys the burning fervor of the country. Illustrated by excellent photographs.

Petulengro — *gypsy fiddler.* Funk & Wagnalls, New York. 1936. 278 p. \$2.50.

An entertaining and illuminating glimpse of the modern gypsy musician with sketches of family life in the vicinity of London, life in Australia, South America, and New York, as well as notes on the experiences of an orchestra player in London.

Rosendahl, C. O., Gartner, R. A., and Burr, G. O., eds. *J. Arthur Harris, botanist and biometrician.* University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 1936. 209 p. \$2.50.

Notes on the life and selections from the work of a gifted scientist. The sketches of Dr. Harris as a man and as an administrator are delightful. The record of his work in his special lines is impressive. His gentle satire on the use of funds for research is worth careful attention. A complete bibliography of his work is included.

Salvemini, Gaetano. *Under the axe of Fascism.* Viking, New York. 1936. 402 p. \$4.00.

The author, formerly professor of history at the University of Florence and visiting professor at Yale and

Harvard, writes scathingly of the effect of Fascism on Italy, and appears to have his statements well supported by references to source material. His comments on many contemporary writers on Italy are caustic. A comprehensive study of economic and sociological factors. Long bibliography

Tobias, J. C. *Student's manual of microscopic technique.* American Photographic Publishing Co., Boston. 1936. 210 p. \$2.50.

A well arranged manual giving information about microscopes, accessories and methods of collecting, preparing and preserving specimens. Devotes much attention to photomicrography. Good illustrations of equipment and specimens. Simple list of books on subject included.

Whiteman, L. H., and Lewis, S. L. *Glory roads; the psychological state of California.* Crowell, New York. 1936. 278 p. \$2.00.

A clear picture of the development of the emotional political movements in California showing the parts played by the leaders of technocracy, the Townsend, Utopian and Epic movements. Readable and fair.

Williamson, J. E. *Twenty years under the sea.* Hale Cushman, Flint, N. Y. 1936. 320 p. \$2.50.

A fascinating record of the adventures involved in developing undersea photography. The equipment, the procedure and the subjects are all described skillfully. A fascinating book beautifully illustrated by undersea photographs.

The
Rumford
Press

Concord
New Hampshire

▲▲▲

*Makers of Magazines and Books
of Distinction*

"Conquest of Goiter"

by
EMILIAN O. HOUDA, M.D.

A compact and well illustrated monograph which should incite almost universal interest. It supplies the only logical answer to the goiter question in a wholly reasonable and easily understood manner with convincing proofs.

Though revolutionary in thought, because so contrary to all existing theories, the positive conclusions therein expressed are based upon and supported by a flood of newly revealed facts.

Specific treatment of the condition is explained in detail and many case reports are presented as ultimate proofs.

PRICE, \$2 50

Published by
CONRAD PRINTING COMPANY
Tacoma, Washington

*Both Recommended for Larger Libraries
and Special Libraries by the A. L. A.
Subscription Books Bulletin*

**Who's Who in Commerce
and Industry**

a combined Business "Who's Who" and Corporation Directory at a popular price: contains names and addresses and complete biographies of officers of 4,445 largest corporations and banks.

Price \$15.00

**Who's Who Among
Association Executives**

a list of important trade and professional associations, and biographical data relating to 2,700 of their secretaries and managers.

Price \$8.50

Order from
Institute for Research in Biography, Inc.
205 East 42nd Street, New York