

Official Organ of the Special Libraries Association

Special Libraries

"Putting Knowledge to Work"



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The Special Library, the Public, and the Public Library

By *Marjorie E. Utt, Assistant Librarian*

State Medical Library, University of California

OF COURSE it is entirely unnecessary to suggest to a group of learned librarians that the driving force behind any library, general or special, is service. Yet, well as we know that fact, we can agree with Miss McCann's pat little quatrain:

"We demand perfect service wherever we go,
We're enraged at the slightest neglect.
But consider the poor human race as it is,
And it seems quite a lot to expect."¹

Generally speaking, special libraries have their own clientele, the needs and interests of whom are given first place. A medical library, for example, considers the medical profession its public; law libraries will include John Smith, Esq., and his colleagues; our banking and insurance libraries cater to the more monetary-minded of the population. Fundamentally, the aim of the special library is to serve within its field, and the better our special libraries, the better people we should develop within the community — more efficient doctors, lawyers, bankers, welfare workers — even more intelligent Congressmen. If we can encourage the professions to make the most of the libraries intended for them, we can hope to raise the general standards of our community. Can we not assume that, the more our libraries act as post-graduate courses, keeping the doctor or

dentist better able to give patients every advantage, the lawyer every legal benefit, and so on through the specialties, the more our general public, being in turn served by those specialties, is benefited?

Then there is the question of use of special libraries by the public. What are we to do about John Jones, private citizen, whose night school course in economics requires that he write an exhaustive paper? And he has probably chosen some complicated subject, from those offered, because of the fact that he has an unusually inquiring mind, and an insatiable desire to "track down" every phase of his interest. That interest happens to be the effects of economic conditions on the people whom he sees around him. His search at the public library shows him that he needs more material than even their very exhaustive indexes can yield. He wants the psychological and physiological aspects, and discovers that many references are available only at the medical library some blocks away; he wants to find out what bills in the state legislature have any bearing on his subject — bills rising from the public's need for adequate medical care and economic and social well-being. John wishes to trace some of the legal cases which sound interesting; he wonders if other libraries in the city might not have material of special interest to him. Very well. What are we to do?

¹ McCann, Rebecca, "The Cheerful Cherub." 2nd. ser. Covici, Friede, 1930

Is John Jones to be entitled to material from these various libraries? Will he be refused because he is not a doctor or a lawyer, or because he has not a card of introduction from some well-known social worker? Will the public library, which wishes to feel free to send him elsewhere for special research, later have misery heaped upon its unsuspecting head, because John Jones has been told "sorry, but this library is open only to so-and-so-and-so."

If any library's chief function is service, then that means that our material should be made available, not left to lie idle in cold storage. Dr. Llewellys F. Barker, in an address made at the 1924 annual meeting of the Cleveland Medical Library Association, said this: "I have discovered a rather remarkable fact — that the greater the demands you make upon a medical library, the more welcome you seem to be in it; instead of regarding you as a nuisance, those strange creatures, the librarians, behave as though you were actually conferring a favor upon them by increasing the amount of work they have to do."¹ This may apply to any library service — medical librarians have no corner on that.

Specifically, each library has its own type of service, which it seeks to promote. The State Medical Library here is founded on the idea as originally started by Mr. Johnson Brigham, until his recent death, veteran state librarian of Iowa, and by Dr. Gersham Hill, with Miss Frances van Zandt as active organizer. The second state to have the service was Wisconsin, and California is the third. It might be called a postal adaptation of the Bookmobile idea, as material is distributed to outlying districts having not-so-easy access to larger city libraries — but it is done by mail, and not by automobile. The chief service is that of mailing regularly, as published, current

medical journals, to physicians all over the state — or non-current, if they wish to keep them for a greater length of time. For no charge but the transportation these are sent out regularly from a mailing list, and thus doctors are kept constantly abreast of the latest medical literature, and at nominal cost. Requests need be made only once, and the journals are theirs, for as many weeks or months or years as they desire. We have a very small budget (which seems to be the hue and cry of most libraries) on which we buy no books but those of general reference needed at the library. Through the kindness of other libraries we are able to borrow much of what we do not have.

Doctors alone receive material regularly. However, in our five years of service, we have amassed many back files of journals, as well as those from our subscriptions, through gifts and exchange of duplicates — we have also received many books from many sources. And all this has enabled us to build up a great deal of material, used for reference work, both for those coming into the library to read and to withdraw journals, and to those telephoning or writing or telegraphing — and requests are filled the same day as received, wherever possible. A collection of some 20,000 prints, to date, kept constantly catalogued, the promptness in locating material and sending it out at very reasonable cost, further assists.

But the fact that we are special libraries, serving distinct groups, does not seem reason for denying service to those outside those spheres, who have legitimate need of it, and who will make proper use of it. In our own field, medicine, we have chemists, psychologists (and the all-too-frequent psychologist), public health workers, dentists, WPA workers, teachers, ministers, veterinarians, many earnest and coöperative peo-

¹ Academy of Medicine, Cleveland. Bulletin, 1924.

ple, many sent from the public library, from other special libraries, many just wandering in. We do what we can for them, always with the understanding that our doctors do come first — and that if need be material can be called in. But, like John Jones and his paper, there is the talented young illustrator, who must study the very detailed drawings of the technique of hernia injections, preparatory to making drawings of her own for the book her doctor employer is writing; the young and earnest YMCA worker who has recently taken a Sunday School class, and wished adequate material on eugenics; the WPA workers, preparing pamphlets for junior high school grades, under the supervision of the Board of Education — on alcoholism or speech defects or vision acuity; the lawyer needing anatomical charts of fee schedules, for his medico-legal cases. Such requests are too numerous to mention — you all have them, no matter what field your library covers, and these people need our help. It should be understood that somehow material in special libraries should either augment or supplement that to be found in the public library.

Department and branch librarians should feel free to send people to special libraries, knowing that legitimate problems will not be ignored, but will be dealt with sensibly. Special libraries should send the more general requests to the public library — we might thus not only avoid unnecessary duplication of expense and material but also generously increase each other's circulation. Maybe in some more halcyon day we shall have a very definite system of exchange between public and special libraries — a card from one to the other, or a recommendation, if not from library to patron, at least from library to library. We as librarians should not act as though our collection is a hallowed and not-to-be-

touched treasure, for only the chosen few to use.

There are, of course, on the other hand, reasonable objections to the public use of a special library. First, many special collections are reasonably intended only for the research workers whom they are designed to serve — as for example the intensely specialized material to be found in the Mt. Wilson Observatory. Second, many people are decidedly made unhappy by small bits of information — “a little knowledge is a dangerous thing” and this does seem particularly to apply to those using a medical library. Definitions to be found in medical dictionaries are sometimes quite as confusing as the word to be defined. A man may unintentionally misrepresent what he thinks he has learned — and the frequent disagreeable illustrations are often more discouraging than otherwise. Third, some will say that if the public is to have access to the special libraries, why have special libraries at all? Why not leave all material on all subjects to be purchased at the public library's discretion? These objections are mentioned only because they do exist, and must be reckoned with.

We can, also, have reading privileges without borrowing privileges, for the members of the general public whom we feel are not legitimately entitled to withdraw material. We have to determine how much can be lent, and how much is to be retained in the library for the calls which we all have to fill constantly. We must determine whether it is wisest for the public to be introduced to the special library before using it at all — in medical libraries people are often sent by doctors, or letters or 'phone calls serve as introduction. But it is well for potential as well as actual clientele to be aware of the facilities and resources available in any library — in the way of manuscripts, bibliographies, pictures,

special lists of any sort, catalogs, indexes, etc. These are all points which cannot be gone into thoroughly here, but can be mentioned in order to stimulate interest and comment.

The financial needs of coöperation among libraries speak for themselves. If it could be understood that the public libraries need not buy everything, public demand to the contrary — knowing that motion picture, law, medical, petroleum, bank, insurance, tax, *ad infinitum*, libraries, do exist and can be used, each library could thus concentrate more heavily on its own specialty, feeling free to supplement elsewhere. Ideals presumably cease to be ideals when attained — we must have something toward which to work. But sometimes we do wish for good, big, stiff realities. And a closely knit coöperation among libraries is an ideal which might at least approach reality, pushing aside that awful spectre of unnecessary duplication of funds and effort, and also wear and tear on the very valuable nerves of both librarians and general public. To duplicate expensive collections in a community is unwise. Certainly coöperative endeavor in highly specialized fields is vastly necessary — the Los Angeles Public Library, for instance, wisely refrains from buying, in medicine, anything in diagnosis and treatment, leaving that to medical libraries. Yet in order for everyone to benefit there must be a real knowledge of the location of important collections and special resources available. Inter-library lending could be encouraged. Libraries specializing in different fields might be located at conveniently scattered places. For instance, one having medical material from 1925 to date could be kept at one place; at another we could have the library which makes every effort to secure the older material up to 1925, collecting earlier manuscripts and out-of-print books, neither library buying

everything, in the field of medicine. This can apply to any specialty, and of course implies a general catalog for general as well as for special use, giving location and availability of all holdings of all libraries. It would mean less duplication of time, effort and expense. I believe the California Library Association is now making such a survey of library accessibility, in the interest of finding out what it can do of inter-library loan privileges. New Jersey is now making a union catalog — as one of probably many which are being carried on — to meet a very pressing need. Service and coöperation, rather than ownership, should be the keystone in our work. And the library can play a very significant role in preparing the people of its locality to live larger and fuller and more abundant lives.

C. B. Shaw, in his article on "Creative Librarianship," says this: "Librarians as a group have one common goal; to understand, to sympathize with and to urge on, to direct the thinking of, to transform and develop the ideas . . . of those who can, and will, when properly developed, mould this sorry world a little closer to the heart's desire."¹

Libraries must needs have an adequate philosophy of education, feeling that they are an active educative force. Special libraries can indeed be of the nature of consultant services, for the public and public library.

I should like to close with something which Louis Pasteur said, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, at the exercises held in the Sorbonne, on December 27, 1872 — Pasteur's sound advice to the group of young physicians then sitting before him: "Whatever your career may be, do not let yourselves become tainted by a deprecating and barren scepticism; do not let yourselves be discouraged by the sadness of certain hours which pass

¹ Libraries 31: 427, 1926.

over nations. Live in the serene peace of laboratories and libraries. Say to yourselves, first: 'What have I done for my instruction?' and, as you gradually advance, 'What have I done for my country?' until the time comes when you may have the immense happiness of

thinking that you have contributed in some way to the progress and to the good of humanity. But, whether our efforts are, or not, favored by life, let us be able to say, when we come near the great goal, 'I have done what I could.'" Are we, as librarians, doing what we can?

First Aid for Specialists

By *Mary G. Lacy, Librarian*

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CONFUCIUS said many years ago that, "To search the old is to find the new"; Abbot Joachim wrote in the thirteenth century that, "The knowledge of the past is the key to things to come"; and Horace Mann followed with the statement, "As each generation comes into the world devoid of knowledge, its first duty is to obtain possession of the stores already amassed. It must overtake its predecessors before it can pass by them." Perhaps these statements are as good a text as any from which to begin to talk about *First Aid to Specialists*, as provided by the bibliographical service of the Library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The economists of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics believe that a knowledge of the past can illumine the future and may prevent costly mistakes and loss of time.

The desperate agricultural situation of the last few years has forced the Administration to plan for relief not only for the rural population but for all of us, because the plight of the producer of agricultural commodities was affecting the whole business structure of our country and bringing misery and unemployment to millions of our people. In August, 1933, the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture asked the Library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to compile a bibliography on Agricultural Relief¹ which

¹ Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 50, 1933.

would show what had been proposed and done to improve the condition of agriculture. Great haste was necessary as the material was to be used in the preparation of the Department's brief for the first court case to test the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Two of the men working on the brief used the material as it was collected and abstracted in the library, in the attempt to show that the welfare of agriculture was essential to the general welfare of the country. This bibliography, which is 327 pages in length, was compiled and issued in mimeographed form in ten days from the day it was begun. Practically everyone in the library, as well as others on special detail, worked on it. The bibliography was issued in time to meet the immediate need for information on agricultural relief measures proposed or adopted, and was later indexed and issued in our regular series.

In connection with the efforts to relieve the plight of agriculture which were made at the time of the depression following the war, four bibliographies were compiled to show different types of effort which had been used in the past, namely, "Government Control of Exports and Imports in Foreign Countries,"² "Price Fixing by Governments, 424 B. C. to 1926 A. D.,"³ "Bounties on Agricultural

² *Ibid.*, No. 12, February, 1926.

³ *Ibid.*, No. 18, October, 1926.

Products,"¹ and "Control of Production of Agricultural Products by Governments."² These four bibliographies were used at that time and have been steadily used since. When the later depression of 1929 came, increased interest in them was shown, and a bibliography entitled "Government Control of Cotton Production in the United States 1933-1935"³ was compiled and issued in January, 1936.

The appalling extent of unemployment after 1929 brought to the forefront the possible use of the land for the relief of unemployment, and we were asked to investigate the literature in this field. Our Bibliography on Land Settlement with Particular Reference to Small Holdings and Subsistence Homesteads, which was published as Miscellaneous Publication 172 of the United States Department of Agriculture, was issued in August, 1934. It was an attempt to make available for economists and others the literature which would be helpful in a study of this question. It lists references to the literature on the subject for both foreign countries and the United States, and is a part of our larger project of investigating the literature of Land Utilization in the United States and Foreign Countries and Land Policies.⁴ Both of these bibliographies have been used, while in progress, by those who were developing a program and policy for the Tennessee Valley Authority and for various subsistence homestead projects in various parts of the country. In one case, I recall that for three weeks one of these agencies had a typist working with our unfinished material copying references for the use of investigators. We could not get it ready fast enough to meet the demand for it, and some parts of it were almost worn out before the slips were finally copied for printing.

¹ Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 20, July, 1927.

² *Ibid.*, No. 23, December, 1927.

³ *Ibid.*, No. 63, January, 1936

⁴ Miscellaneous Publication No. 284 (In press).

The Land Utilization bibliography is now nearing completion. We have almost finished reading the galley proof. It consists of more than seven thousand annotated entries, and comprises in addition to the land use references much material supplementary to the Land Settlement bibliography. It attempts to present selected references on the economic aspects of land utilization and land policy in the United States and in foreign countries published for the most part during the period 1918 to 1936. Relatively few references to the early land policy of the United States and the individual states have been included, mainly because a bibliography on this subject is in preparation in the office of the Agricultural History Specialist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Anyone who is interested in the methodology used in such an extensive piece of work would undoubtedly be interested in a paper by a member of our staff read at the American Library Association at its meeting in 1936, entitled Methodology Used in Compiling a Bibliography in the Field of Agricultural Economics.⁵

The demand for the material relating to farm tenancy was so widespread and so insistent that we found it necessary to issue a separate bibliography on that subject⁶ before the land utilization bibliography was finished. The interest in the Southern sharecropping system is one reason for the wide demand for this material. Both the farm tenancy and the land utilization bibliographies are indexed in great detail so that the material which they contain is made more quickly available. I could multiply instances of the current use of our bibliographies but the instances cited are probably enough to show that they are used in this way.

An instance of a definite tie-up of bib-

⁵ Supplement to Agricultural Library Notes, v. 11, No. 5, May, 1936.

⁶ Farm Tenancy in the United States, 1918-1936. Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 70, June, 1937.

liographical work with action programs might be found in connection with the Report of the President's Committee on Crop Insurance. Specialists in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and elsewhere in the Department prepared the report of this committee and were given a very short time indeed in which to do the necessary work. The library was called on to compile a bibliography for their use and to send them the material as it was located from various sources. Fortunately, work on a bibliography on Crop and Livestock Insurance¹ had already been begun, and we had a good deal of material ready. The work was pushed full steam ahead, and our 263-page bibliography was issued almost simultaneously with the Report of the President's Committee on Crop Insurance issued as House Document 150 of the 75th Congress, 1st session.

Another instance of the close relationship between bibliographical work and economic research was given less than a year ago, when I was hurriedly called into a conference one morning and asked if I could have a bibliography ready by noon the next day for inclusion in a report that was being prepared on the incidence of the processing tax. I said that it would not be much of a bibliography, but that I could present a short list of references. We went to work, and our bibliography entitled "Incidence of the Processing Taxes under the Agricultural Adjustment Act"² issued in January, 1937, is the result. Needless to say, it took much more than 24 hours, but it was found that more time was available. It has been widely used in the preparation of the recent report³ issued by the Bureau of Internal

Revenue and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Bibliographical work is undoubtedly now recognized as basic in research. In the library of our Bureau, we feel that our major work is to so organize the literature in the field of Agricultural Economics that it can be quickly found whenever needed. This sounds thoroughly trite, I realize, but the doing of it is anything but stereotyped or trite. One of the means we use to accomplish this purpose is to read 398 current periodicals and newspapers as they are received. This work is divided among the various members of the staff, who can be trusted to recognize significant material. Descriptive notes or abstracts of such material are made currently for use in the preparation of our periodical Agricultural Economics Literature and afterwards filed by subject so that they are ready for use at a moment's notice. All the books received in the library are examined and those to be included in Agricultural Economics Literature are selected. For some reviews are made; for others descriptive notes or abstracts. It is this constant day-by-day work that enables us to meet rush demands when they come. One of the most outstanding results of this systematic reading is the education of the library staff, itself. It keeps the staff on tiptoe to see the relationships of subjects and to get the material filed where it will really produce results when needed. It also gives an appreciation of the very fertile area on the periphery of our subject. It vitalizes the daily work enormously and gradually develops on the library staff, specialists in certain parts of the field.

¹ Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 67, November, 1936.

² Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 68, January, 1937.

³ An analysis of the effects of the processing taxes levied under the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Prepared by the

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture (under the direction of F. L. Thomsen). 111 pp. Washington, U. S. Govt. Print. off., 1937.

At head of title: U. S. Treasury Department, Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Banking and Economic Planning

By Benjamin Haggott Beckhart

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IN NO country can monetary and banking policies be adequately understood without a careful analysis of the economic and political background. Monetary and banking systems can not be studied as if they were in a vacuum. In their policies and operations, they reflect not only business practices but even more fundamentally they reflect the prevailing economic philosophy.

In the world today, there are roughly speaking two rival economic creeds: the economic liberalism of the United States and of the democratic nations of Western Europe and the totalitarian philosophy of Germany, Italy and Russia. The fundamental differences existing between these two economic philosophies must be analyzed if we are to understand fully the monetary and banking policies which are being followed in various countries. This simply means that the activities of the credit system must be interpreted from the point of view of the entire environmental situation.

Complete economic liberalism, or *laissez faire*, has never been tried. In a world of enlightened human beings, really conscious of their long-run best interests, it doubtless would result in an ideal society. Pressure groups exerting great political influence along with the discovery that human conduct can be irrational have forced a thousand modifications in practice. In response to the political pressure of various economic groups, tariff laws have been enacted, subventions granted gold and silver producers and farmers, and monetary and banking systems have been distorted from their true functions. In recognition of the short-sightedness of

mankind, factory inspection laws, workmen's compensation acts, social insurance legislation have been placed on the statute books; and the conservation of natural resources has been entrusted to the state.

Opposed to the modified economic liberalism of present day Western Europe, stand the totalitarian philosophies which as indicated dominate political and economic life in Germany, Italy and Russia. There economic activity is ordered from above. The individual is unimportant. Consumer buying is rationed, all business activity is dedicated to the interests of the state. Such sweeping control of all economic activity and personal life is incompatible with political democracy and it is not surprising that totalitarianism developed in those nations which did not know or which were only slightly acquainted with democratic processes.

To revert to the topic raised at the beginning of this paper, how does the economic philosophy prevailing in a particular country, whether it be economic liberalism or totalitarianism, affect monetary and banking policies? In the totalitarian state it is taken for granted that the banking system is to be used as an instrument of national policy. Banks are not free entities. Their operations must fit into the national plan. They have little choice in the selection of clients and in the apportionment of credit.

In the totalitarian countries the investment functions of banks are brought under a like degree of control. Under one guise or another savings are nationalized. Through legal compulsion or otherwise,

savings banks, life insurance companies and business corporations in Germany and Italy invest their funds in government obligations. The issue of private securities is strictly controlled so that the capital market may be reserved for state purposes.

Contrary to the situation in the totalitarian countries, bank credit, in a society dominated by the tenets of economic liberalism, is not granted on the basis of detailed plans formulated by a general economic staff. In the United States credit is granted locally by thousands of independent banks. Borrowers must meet the credit tests of the separate banks. In a competitive economy, the demands of the consuming public determine the goods to be produced and this in turn determines the credit to be granted and the loans to be made. Each one of the thousands of unit banks must make its own decision just as each business concern must decide its own production schedule in the light of all attendant circumstances.

In such a system, mistakes, and some of them very costly, are inevitable. Credit is not always granted on the best economic grounds. Bank failures occur. Even so, the greatest errors in credit management which have occurred in the liberal economies are not those which arise in the market place but those which are the result of an unwise government intervention in time of war and depression.

However great the errors of omission and commission in the granting of credit in competitive economies it must not be thought that totalitarian states are immune from such mistakes. The mistakes in a totalitarian state are likely to become cumulative and are likely to be the more serious since the whole people is involved.

It has frequently been suggested by the disciples of economic planning and by certain schools of monetary thought such

as by the followers of Major Douglas' social credit theories that the banking systems of the United States and of the Western European nations should be nationalized in order to achieve the alleged benefits of a planned economy without the necessity of a complete nationalization of the means of production and distribution. This proposal rests upon two assumptions: (1), that governments can manage banking systems more efficiently than competitive enterprise; and (2), that money and credit are the motivating forces in economic activity and that if they can be controlled all other factors will fall into line.

To discuss these two points in turn — can governments manage credit systems more efficiently than competitive enterprise? Those who declare that credit systems should be nationalized argue that this would mean a more efficient apportionment of credit, a more effective utilization of savings and the elimination of cyclical fluctuations in business.

Such experience as we have had has not been very promising. It would appear far better to rely on the automatic forces of a competitive market than on a political control of credit which would inevitably result from a nationalization of the banking system. The elasticity and resiliency of competitive credit markets are to be preferred to rigid bureaucracy.

As regards the second point advanced by those who would nationalize the banking system — can the banking system be used to plan consumption, production and prices? Can the banking system in and by itself be employed to direct industrial activity in accordance with the dicta of an economic staff and in the absence of complete state control of all economic activity? Can the banking system be used to fix prices and to stabilize prices without complete control of production and consumption? The raising of these various questions in itself

reduces the proposals of those who would achieve their utopia through use of the banking system to an absurdity.

The experience that we have had during the past 100 years in connection with various efforts to plan credit indicates the opposite and indicates that that banking system operates best which plays a relatively passing role in the economic system. In competitive economies, as indicated earlier, industrial activity is controlled by existing and expected consumer demand. In the production of goods to meet present and anticipated consumer demand, industry must bear the risks. The banking system should not be expected to assume the risks of enterprise if for no other reason than that it is responsible to its depositors for the safety of their funds. The banking system should stand ready to finance the production of goods provided that industry assumes the risk that the goods can be sold in the markets at a certain price.

Experience has indicated that planned credit invariably spells inflation. Planned credit leads to the substitution of credit for real income and for savings. Inflation results and crises and depressions ensue.

In playing the suggested passive role in the economy, the liberal economist would have the banking system follow certain criteria of commercial and central bank operation. The first rule is that money and bank credit expansion should not be in response to governmental deficits. Fiat credit should not be used to finance governmental activities. The second rule, more subtle than the first, is that bank credit should not be substituted for savings or for consumers' income. All too often do we forget that purchasing power consists of goods and services produced and not of paper money or fiat credit. The Great Depression represented the price paid for the substitution of bank credit for savings

and consumers' income in the decade of the 'twenties.

Another empirical rule of the liberal economists is that monetary and banking systems should not be used to maintain an artificial rate of interest. Still another rule is that bank credit should not be substituted for economic adjustment. True economic adjustments can take place only through a readiness to take the full losses of our errors and through a willingness to reopen trade channels so that goods can be cleared against goods in the great markets of the world.

The criteria cited have been in the nature of negative commands, and yet negative commands often contain within themselves the distilled essence of a vast amount of painful trial and error. These exhortations can be achieved the more readily if we keep quite separate various banking functions. The commercial functions of banks should be kept apart from the investment functions. It is the function of commercial banks to concentrate on trade finance and to facilitate in a financial way the passage of goods from producer to consumer. The investment banking functions are those which have to do with the gathering together of the savings of the community and their utilization in productive employment. It is when commercial bank credit is used to supply a deficiency in savings, in taxes, or in consumers' income that cumulative forces are set in motion which terminate in those violent and painful readjustments we call depressions.

The conclusion from all this tortuous reasoning, unsatisfactory perhaps to some, is simply that a banking system cannot be used in and by itself to increase the material welfare of a people or to plan production and distribution. Material welfare is the result of a wise exploitation of natural resources by an industrious, thrifty people. It is unfortunate that these simple truths have been

lost sight of in all parts of the world through the depression, with the consequence that those cumulative inflationary forces which terminate in crises and depressions with all their attendant suffering and illshave already been set in motion.

An Engineering Library

By *Lucy O. Lewton, Librarian*

International Nickel Company, Inc.

THE library of the International Nickel Company is neither an engineering library nor is it a special library in the strict sense of these terms. It is not an engineering library exclusively, for it serves a company whose products extend into the practice of the arts and sciences of Peace from Architecture to Photography, as well as the obvious and various fields of Industrial Technology, and the library, of course, must reflect this catholicity of interests. Likewise, instead of basing it on the generally accepted definition of a special library as a collection of books, magazines, pamphlets and manuscripts on one or more specific subjects, we use a broader and rather unorthodox definition, that it is a body of collected experience on one or more special subjects classified and organized so as to be readily available. The library of the International Nickel Company is as much a repository for the technical experience of the firm in its various activities expressed in unpublished research reports and correspondence, as it is a library of outside publications. Owing to the unique position of the company in the nickel industry and the fact that that position and its incident prosperity is mostly due to the belief and reliance of the firm on research, it can be said that practically the greater part of the world's knowledge of nickel and its many uses either directly emanates from the company or has been instigated by it. The reports and technical correspondence files of the Development and Research Division of the company are therefore very much an essential part of the library under this broad definition.

There is also, of course, a book collection, comprising 457 volumes, classified by a private modification of the Dewey System and covering such varied classes as Mining and Metallurgy, Dental Castings, Chemical Engineering, Oil and Petroleum, Paper and Textile Tech-

nology, Catalysis and Hydrogenation, etc., with an extensive group of Statistical Handbooks of the Metal Industries, Mines Registers as well as the usual Directories of Societies and Manufacturers.

A total of 276 different magazines are received by the library. All this magazine literature, aside from the well-known metallurgical journals, covers also the trade and technical magazines of the automotive, aviation, agricultural implements industries, civil engineering, chemical society and chemical industries journals, as well as journals of jewelry and textile, laundering, paper trades, dry cleaning, also yachting and boat building and architecture. One of the best technical journals in each field as well as all metallurgical magazines and the *Patent Gazette* are regularly abstracted.

The library issues a weekly mimeographed Bulletin of 35-50 pages of these abstracts from the literature and patents, divided into 9 subject classes. While this Bulletin primarily is for internal circulation in the Development and Research Division, it is also sent to the laboratories, refineries, and field offices of the firm as well as to distributors' offices. Not every individual in the Research Department receives the entire Bulletin, about one half the circulation list receiving from one to three classes of the Bulletin, covering subjects pertinent to their interests. The Technical Service group all receive a section consisting of corrosion abstracts; several dealing with the fabrication side receive also the sections on welding, others that on uses of pure nickel and its compounds, while the steel experts get a section dealing with new developments in steel making and alloy steels and their uses. The section dealing with rival metals, in the sense of non nickel-bearing alloys having the same application, is read by the entire list.

Only one half of the material abstracted is

put into the *Library Bulletin*, an attempt being made to keep it of broad, general and up-to-date interest. Articles of direct pertinency to the work of one or two individuals only are abstracted and sent out to such in the form of attention notes from the librarian. Other articles are abstracted for reference purposes, that is, to build up the bibliographic resources of the library files. All abstracts are subsequently filed on cards by author and by subject, the patents being filed by country of origin and by number, as well as by subject.

Whereas similar abstracting activities are efficiently carried out on a subscription basis by the *Engineering Index* of the Engineering Societies Library, it is to be noted here that it is the viewpoint in abstracting, i.e., pointing the abstract to the problems and interests of the company, which distinguishes this private selective abstracting service. Since a great many of the requests received by the library are for the most specific type of information such as property constants of materials, etc., it is often a matter of searching for the proverbial "needle in a haystack" unless the abstractor notes that an article has excellent tabulated data, for instance, on creep resistance at a certain range of temperature for steels of a certain composition, and that such be filed accordingly under creep-resistance of each material mentioned. As one such table may mention ten to twenty materials, the problem of the indexer may be well imagined.

The subject file of the library is based on a privately constructed outline filing system in which, among the general alphabetical subjects, are large classifications such as Cast Iron, Fabrication, comprising welding, Mining and Metallurgical Processes, Nickel and Nickel Alloys (divided into ferrous and non-ferrous), Electro Plating, Platinum Group metals, Steels, Specifications, Test Methods. Those classes dealing with materials have subheads which follow the same pattern in each, i.e., General and Statistical, Fabrication, Properties (chemical, physical and mechanical), and Uses. Under each subhead are similar patterns, for instance the various mechanical properties or fabrication methods following alphabetically. The "uses" section of each material follows the pattern of filing used in the large "Applications" class of the file, that is by

field. Articles recommending nickel materials for specific applications are filed not only under the material specified; "uses," for instance Cast Iron: Agricultural, but also under Applications: Agricultural. It is thus possible to find in one place all the applications of any nickel-bearing material whether it be a nickel steel, nickel cast iron, nickel bronze, etc., in any one field of technology. This application by field file has been found useful in compiling an annual review of the growth of the nickel industry. The applications file is also used as place for general educational references to articles giving background information on technologic practice in a particular field, and is often consulted for such background by the advertising writer or the technical service man installing plant in an industry. A special feature of the subject file is the index of trade-marked alloys, filed alphabetically but containing on the card information as to manufacture and composition. Trade-mark information is difficult to find, and only recently has a book of alloys appeared giving this type of information. The alloys trade-name file has answered many an outside and internal query of the "what-is-it" type.

As is well known, this is an age of alloys, and alloy compositions consisting of up to ten components are not exceptional. Many of these name elements, to a former generation, were known as laboratory curiosities or merely as places in the Periodic Table. Today they are entered into commercial alloy compositions. The filing of alloy compositions and patents is a problem, but has been partially solved by making nickel the reference point. If any nickel is named as a component, and if the composition is neither a steel or cast iron, filing is under nickel alloys, ferrous or non-ferrous, and under that, alphabetically by the element making up the greatest proportion of the composition. Generous cross-referencing is, of course, employed, utilizing a cross-reference for each element named. Alloy steels and cast irons are filed under their respective class, subheaded "alloy," the nickel section repeating the arrangement scheme described above.

A feature of the subject file and of the library collection is data on corrosion. Aside from the fact that a member of the firm has

just written an A. C. S. monograph on the subject which already bids fair to be a classic,¹ the International Nickel Company Library contains numerous files of quantitative data from laboratory and field corrosion tests on hundreds of metals and alloys under varying industrial conditions and with a myriad number of concentrations of corrosive agents. This data is in process of being tabulated and abstracted, and when filed under the corrosive agent will form a comprehensive index which will be able to answer the questions of the technical service group as to the performance of a metal under any condition where corrosive attack is a factor, when an installation is contemplated. Still another index covers the reports of agents' field visits, abstracts of which, on cards, are filed under material and part of machinery for which nickel alloy iron is specified. These abstracts are also being sent to the field offices in the territory where the visit was made.

As previously mentioned, the technical correspondence file of the Development and Research Division forms an integral part of the library. The technical file of the library only partly approximates in value and content the usual vertical file for, although it does contain reprints and pamphlets, its chief content is the laboratory project and case reports of the company. Since these are unpublished material and represent the basis from which the original information of the company in compiling its well-known bulletins and pamphlets is drawn, it is very thoroughly indexed and filed under a privately modified numbered Dewey type of system. The complexity of indexing demanded by this material may be indicated by the fact that one laboratory report may contain data on ten different mechanical property tests of twenty alloy compositions, and cards must be made out for each alloy and cross references for each property. A list-subject catalog of laboratory project and case reports for desk use by executives is now in process of preparation.

The International Nickel Company maintains a number of information bureaus scattered throughout Europe and one in the Orient for disseminating data on the use of nickel and its alloys. Each of these has its own library and

abstracting service, and issues abstract journals and bulletins. Although most of the information contained in those foreign information bureau publications originates from the technical files, this material is also indexed and filed in the library. These bureaus are furnished with articles, abstracts and other requested data from the home office library, and it is hoped, in time, to make the library of the executive office a sort of Central Information Bureau.

Finally among the routine library services are the ordering of books, reprints, catalogs for any member of the firm wherever located, the proper routing of all outside published material including patent specifications, a translation service, and handling of society membership orders and renewals. Circulation of magazines is done through a routed reader-to-reader list for unabstracted trade journals and magazines of short-lived importance, and a weekly charged list for abstracted and research magazines. Practically all the magazines abstracted are bound, as are all the publications of the firm, although the sets of some, due to lack of space, are only two or three years old. The loaning of the company's collection of 3,000 slides, just in process of being catalogued, is another busy activity.

The library of the International Nickel Company is a part of the Development and Research Division, and the majority of its clientele are the members of that division. The librarian sits in at the weekly conferences of the division and is thus enabled to keep *au courant* as to the subjects and problems of pressing interest, thereby helping to keep the abstracting work pointed in the most useful direction. However, the work of the library is rapidly extending to that of a general service department.

In fact a typical day from the calendar of the librarian would read as follows: Mr. X of D & R is giving a talk before a student's engineering club and wants some information on the most antique iron castings. Mr. Y wants to know what nickel heat-resistant alloys are used in glass making. Mr. Z is looking for electrical resistivity constants of steels at 300° C.; Technical Service would like a flow-sheet on the paper-making process showing where the Fourdrinier machine is used; Public-

¹ McKay, R. J. and Worthington, R., "Corrosion Resistance of Metals and Alloys," 1936, A. C. S. Monograph No. 71, Reinhold Publishing Co.

ity Department has some extra space in their popular magazine to fill in and wants cuts of old pumps; Sales Department is looking for recent statistics on production of Canadian copper, and Advertising "saw somewhere" a description of a Ford 4 high rolling mill. In between trying to fill these requests to the best of her ability, the librarian answers an outside phone call on "what is 'Xaloy'?" and an executive file query, "under whose auspices is given the Campbell Memorial Lecture," while at the same time she is ferreting out for the laboratory any existing outside published references on the allotropism of nickel, cherishing any time left over to collect data to substantiate her own private "hunch" on the directional crystal arrangement in rolling as a factor in corrosion.

I know it has been the fashion to decry the fact that many technical librarians are merely

retired chemists and researchers who have strayed into the library field as a sort of pensioner's activity. As one who herself came into library work by a similar back door, may I say that actual research experience, the researcher's patience, intuition, imagination, and objective orderly habit of thought are assets invaluable in helping the special librarian to understand and collaborate with investigators. The formal technique of library work can be acquired by study of methods, but the research viewpoint is something to be cultivated and maintained through conscious practice and attitude to one's work. Let us as technical librarians remember that besides librarians we are also scientists, let us learn to critically evaluate material we offer the investigator, and let us extend our research functions and status, so that our firms will know that, "Research begins in the Library!"

The Library's Function in a University Bureau of Government

By Ione Ely Dority, Librarian

University of Michigan Bureau of Government

THE Bureau of Government of the University of Michigan was established by the Board of Regents on July 1, 1914. It is an old bureau, as such bureaus count age. It has survived the major catastrophes of the Great War and the Great Depression, and the minor disasters of inadequate financing and changing personnel. For a quarter of a century it has been a force in the promotion of good local government.

Originally the Bureau was an agency of the Political Science Department of the University. It is now an independent unit, affiliated with the Institute of Public and Social Administration as a part of the Graduate School. It has a Director and an Advisory Board, a Budget, a Research Staff and a Special Library. It possessed only one of these appurtenances in the beginning. It has always had the library.

In the beginning it was anticipated that the Bureau's library materials would consist mainly of correspondence, typewritten lists, pamphlets, reports and clippings. The collection was to be supplemented by an extensive card catalog and index to all materials on local government in the campus libraries and a separate bibliographical

catalog of materials not available but to be borrowed or purchased should necessity arise. Duplicate copies of the *American Political Science Review* and the *National Municipal Review* were purchased for clipping and mounting down to the most minute details.

The plan was nobly conceived, but poorly nourished. The extensive card catalog never developed, for no staff was available to carry out this ambitious project. The indexing and mounting of any considerable amount of material from the *Reviews* soon became unnecessary, for Public Affairs Information Service improved rapidly as an index to periodical information in the municipal field.

At the time the Bureau was established, the University of Michigan was one of two universities offering a curriculum in municipal administration. Trained city managers and research workers were in demand, and the University experienced some difficulty in keeping its small group of municipal administration students in school until their course was completed. The sponsors of the Bureau and of the curriculum proceeded cautiously, however, and rigidly re-

stricted the number of municipal administration students accepted. It was not until 1918 that it was recorded that the experimental stage had passed.

With the establishment of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research in 1916, an arrangement was made by which municipal administration students at the University received their field training in the Detroit Bureau. This arrangement permitted the University Bureau to concentrate on research and training in research methods.

Few reference aids appeared for a decade or more. In 1915 Professor Munro published his comprehensive bibliography on Municipal Government. No other comparable bibliography appeared in the local government field until 1926, when Miss Greer's Bibliography on Public Administration was published. However, a number of special treatises and several textbooks were published in this period, and a considerable amount of research resulting in publication was undertaken throughout the country. The Bureau of Government at the University of Michigan published some slight studies, but the results of much of the research conducted in the Bureau at this time were never made public, due to lack of publication funds.

From the beginning, the Bureau had planned to proceed from consideration of city problems to studies of county and state problems. In accordance with this plan, the scope of the library collection was widened. The library developed somewhat slowly and unevenly, however. The Bureau was understaffed and the collection, like many office collections, was a necessary but troublesome encumbrance, always in need of funds. Nevertheless, its importance to the Bureau's undertakings was never questioned, however, and even in lean years an effort was made to insure the continuity of the collection. Sometimes a research assistant was placed in charge, at other times a secretary or librarian.

By 1931 the rising importance of the field indicated that the time had come for the library to be adequately financed and supervised. A generous grant was made for the purchase of library materials and a full-time Secretary-Librarian was placed in charge. A survey was immediately made of collections in other libraries in the University and in Detroit for the purpose of determining the effective limits of the collection. The library was then placed in a position to operate efficiently as a specialized, technical service of the Bureau.

In the following years student service decreased in importance and research assistance increased. Special assistance was given the University Tax

Committee, the Michigan Commission of Inquiry into County, Township and School District Government and the Michigan Civil Service Study Commission. When the curriculum in Municipal Administration was temporarily discontinued, the Bureau and its library were already established as instruments for practical research in public administration and finance. Recognition of this change was made when the Bureau was reorganized in 1934 as an independent unit. A research investigator in taxation was added to the staff of the Bureau and the Bureau librarian was directed to place the emphasis of the collection in the field of Public Finance.

In 1933 the Secretary's title was officially changed to Librarian, in recognition of the changed nature of the position.

The grant of funds to the library coincided with the establishment of a number of well-subsidized national organizations interested in the promotion of good local government and with a considerable increase of interest in local government's affairs. Both the field and its literature became relatively important. A little later, with the New Deal, the Federal government began to deal directly with the local governments. This departure from precedent greatly increased the scope of local government collections everywhere.

From 1930 on, new reference and bibliographical tools developed with astonishing rapidity, considering the slow-moving record of the previous decade. Although much of the important current information on local and state government is still issued as near print, and is exceedingly elusive even to those skilled in the chase, there is no question but that the literature of state and local government administration now includes a considerable amount of historically important material. In addition, official municipal and state reporting is greatly improved in character.

The Bureau library now has 18,000 shelved cataloged items and about 30,000 uncataloged pieces of material housed in an information file, filed by subject. A recognition of the temporary value of the greater part of the data in the Bureau's information files places a premium upon the use of simple inexpensive methods to make it available. Most of the material from this file can be discarded without formality, once its usefulness is passed. Permanently useful material routed to the information files is entered in the catalog under author, series, place and, when necessary, subject. Economy and convenience are the factors that determine whether certain materials go to the book shelves or the information files. No regularly published serial publications are placed in this file, however.

The Library of Congress classification is applied to the book collection, since this is the classification in general use at this University. The Bureau has not only an author, title and subject catalog, but a place catalog as well. The place approach is very useful in seeking detailed information on administrative methods, and is little additional expense, since in a collection made up largely of documents, the author entry is often a place entry as well, and a double entry need not be made.

Orders for books and pamphlets are placed daily. In this small organization it is possible to subordinate technical library processes to research needs. Materials needed at once are available for use as soon as they reach the library.

A considerable amount of informal indexing is done in connection with subjects of current importance. These index slips, or informal notes, are placed in envelopes pasted on the backs of the individual information files, under the correct subject, and are intended to supplement printed indexes. After a brief time, these slips can be destroyed, or cumulated into a bibliography. This method of indexing protects the more formal catalog from uneven, scattered references, many of which may have only temporary value. It also serves as a quick approach to a subject of current importance.

It should be emphasized that this library does not attempt to collect completely, but usefully. The intensiveness with which it collects either information or materials on any governmental subject depends upon the Bureau's interests and the research method applicable to studies in the subject. It also depends upon recognition of the subject under consideration as of major interest

only to the Bureau of Government and not properly within the province of other campus libraries.

Important subjects in the government field on which no research is under way in the Bureau are guarded by (1) purchase of such basic materials as are not readily available in other campus libraries, (2) knowledge of current developments in the subject and of sources from which bibliographical data and materials can be quickly obtained and (3) acquisition of such ephemeral materials as may be of importance but go quickly out of print. Certain broad subjects which in some aspects fall within the Bureau's field, such as social security, are of such wide interest that the general subject is well protected in more formal university libraries. The Bureau's sources of information on pamphlet materials, however, vary somewhat from those of other interested university agencies. The Bureau, therefore, maintains a small, supplementary collection of ephemera on such subjects, and obtains certain news letters and series that keep it informed of progress in the field. The library is then in a position to assemble a working collection very quickly, should the need arise.

A conscious effort is made to keep the Bureau library organization highly flexible. It seeks the tools and techniques to place before the scholar or investigator, quickly and adequately, the information he needs. The library substitutes for expensive hours of library research by a highly paid scholar or an untrained investigator, the efficient, economical services of a librarian trained to the task. In short, its services are the usual services of a special library, and its methods are standard methods adapted to the needs of a special collection.

Events and Publications

Contributions from Margaret R. Bonnell

THE *Book Notes* contributed by Adeline Macrum to *Industrial Arts Index* review publications which are timely and important to special librarians, especially to business librarians. The November issue of the *Index* contains eight pages of these valuable annotations, classified under subjects as Airplanes and Aviation, Business, Career Biographies, Economic and Social Problems, Finance, Labor Problems, Railways and State, Retail Trade, Salesmen and Salesmanship, Science, Ships and Navigation, Success, Technology.

Guides to Traffic Safety, a report outlining methods suggested by experience for dealing with

current pressing problems of street and highway safety, has been published in revised form by the Bureau of Roads of the U. S. Agriculture Department (price 10 cents) Contents: Accident Statistics; Legislation; Administration; Accident Records as the Basis of Accident Prevention; Engineering; Education; Law Observance and Enforcement; Traffic Safety Research.

An Index to Business Indices, which should prove an extremely useful reference tool to special librarians, has been published by Business Publications, Inc., Chicago. It is the work of D. H. Davenport, Associate Professor of Business Statistics, and F. V. Scott, Research Assistant, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

The volume consists of a Finding Index and a section in which are classified and described the various index numbers and indices of commodity and security prices, general business activity, production, distribution, labor, and finance. Indices showing yields, as well as prices of both stocks and bonds, are covered.

The following information is given for each group: Title, Compiler, Frequency of Publication and Period Covered, Publication of Current Data (listing all sources where it may be found, as in the case of the Retail Prices compiled by the U. S. Labor Statistics Bureau—the official

monthly bulletin of the Bureau, *Monthly Labor Review*, *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, *Standard Statistics Bulletin*, *Survey of Current Business*, which is mentioned as listing total only, *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*) and a rather complete description as to how computed, history of revisions, scope of data etc.

One of our members, Leona Powell of the Research and Information Bureau of the American Management Association, reviews for us *Significant Literature on Labor Relations* in a very informing article published in the November issue of the Association's magazine *Personnel*.

Library Magazine Articles of Interest

Bulletin of the American Library Association, Proceedings 59th annual conference October 1937.

Cross, J. E. Sources of information about foreign affairs and foreign countries, p. 757-761. An excellent discussion of the librarians needs and the material already available for his use.

Downes, Olin. Musical journalism and musicology, p. 677-682. Comprehensive account of the help given by libraries here and abroad.

Ferguson, M. J., Melcher, F. G., and Savord, Ruth. Discussion of similarities and differences of S.L.A. and A.L.A., p. 685-692. Informal talk covering many Association activities.

Hering, H. W. Some important religious books of the year, p. 846-849. An annotated list with bibliographical data.

Manley, M. C. What business men do in seeking information, p. 726-730. A discussion of the part played by well organized special and public libraries.

Microphotography round table, p. 808-813. Informal discussion of progress here and abroad.

Predeek, Albert. Some recent trends in German scholarly libraries. Devotes particular attention to a consideration of some documentation problems.

Shaw, C. J. Proposed cooperative clearing house for the exchange of serials. A discussion of the unsolved problem that suggests a solution.

Bulletin of the American Library Association, December 1937.

Brown, Thyra and Harmon, Eleanor. A.L.A. activities—commendable or condemnable. A dialogue discussion based on the objectives of the association as presented in the Handbook.

McCrum, B. P. College library makes its own survey plan. A discussion of the methods used, and the reasons for their developments.

Brown, Charles. New service charges for *Biological Abstracts*. An analysis of the problems raised by the proposed plan of financing of *Biological Abstracts*.

Library Association Record, November 1937.

Drewery, R. F. Patent collection, p. 575-578. A fairly comprehensive description of English patent literature.

Headcar, B. M. Current government publications (*British Empire*), p. 588-591. Descriptive list by subject emphasizing library values.

Library Journal.

Orenstein, A. L. Institutional librarian and his staff. December 1, 1937, p. 901-903. The Junior Librarian at Fort Leavenworth discusses the relations of prisoners to the library.

Reece, E. J. College and university library news, 1934-1937. December 15, 1937, p. 945-949. A summary of the changes, endowments and other news of institutions and a note on the various articles prepared by college librarians.

Classification Committee—Beatrice Hager, Chairman

Tabulation Showing File Holdings and Current Work

Subject (All Holdings: Classifications, Subject Headings, Surveys, Etc.)	Number in File	Number of Subject Heading Lists	Acquisitions 1937	Number of Requests 1937	Subject (All Holdings: Classifications, Subject Headings, Surveys, Etc.)	Number in File	Number of Subject Heading Lists	Acquisitions 1937	Number of Requests 1937
Accounting	3				Mental diseases	2			
Advertising	8	1		1	Mental tests	1	1		
Aeronautics	3				Metallurgy	2			1
Agriculture	3				Military art and science	2			
Americana	1				Mining	1			
Animals	1				Motion pictures	1	1		
Architecture	10			1	Municipal reference	5		1	
Art	14			1	Museums	16		1	
Automobiles	2				Music	3	1		
Bacteriology	1				Naval architecture	1			
Banks and banking	1				Negro	1	1		
Biology	1				Newspapers	3	1	1	1
Botany	2				Nursing	1			
Building	1				Oils and fats	2			
Building and loan associa- tions	None				Paints	1			
Business	8		1	3	Painting (art)	2			
Chemistry	3	1	1		Paleontology	2			
Clothing industry	None				Paper	1			
Commerce	2		1		Patents	1			1
Consumers' research	1				Petroleum	1			
Cotton	1				Pharmacy	1			
Criminology	1				Philosophy	1			
Dancing	None			1	Photographs	1			
Drama	None			1	Photography	2			
Economics	1				Physics	1			
Education	2				Power	1			
Electrical engineering	2				Printing	1			
Electricity	1	1			Psychology	2			
Engineering	10		1	3	Public health	3			
Finance	4	1			Public utilities	4			
Fire prevention	2				Public welfare	2	1	1	
Foreign trade	1		1		Radio	3			
Forestry	1				Railroads	1		1	
Fuels	2				Real estate	1		1	
Furniture	1				Religion	5	1		1
Gas	4	1			Rubber	2			
Geography	2				Safety	1	1		
Geology	1				Science	1		1	
Government (general)	3				Sculpture	1			
Government (municipal)	3	1	2		Shorthand	1			
History (including local)	8			1	Social insurance	2	1		1
Health	2				Social work	3	3	2	3
Illuminating engineering	1				Socialism	2	1		
Imports and exports	1				Sociology	1			
Indians	1				Sports	1			
Industrial relations	12	2	1	3	Subways	1			
Industries	3				Technology	3			
Insurance	14				Telephone	1			
International relations	None			2	Textiles	5			1
Labor	15	2	1	3	Theatre	None			1
Land	2	1	1		Thermodynamics	1			
Landscape gardening	1				Trade associations	1			
Languages	1				Trade catalogues	1			
Lantern slides	7				Transportation	3		1	
Law	5	1	1		Travel	1			
Leagues of municipalities	1	1	1		Tuberculosis	3	1		
Legislative reference	1				Water supply	1			
Maps	1	1			Wildlife conservation	None			1
Medicine	7				Zinc	1			
					Zoology	1			

S.L.A.'s 1937 Publication*

"GUIDES to Business Facts and Figures," first published in 1933, is one of S.L.A.'s "best sellers," and a new edition is welcome. While the first edition covered 176 entries, the second lists 236 publications giving full order data and a descriptive annotation specifying the important features. Each entry is noted under appropriate headings in the index of 114 subjects. This subject index has been expanded to include new headings demanded by changing conditions.

The material listed in "Guides to Business Facts and Figures" consists of bibliographies, compilations of statistical data, glossaries, guides to methods of handling information, yearbooks, directories of sources, and other special tools in the business field listed and indexed in this one pamphlet. The entries are grouped in

broad subject divisions, showing in one place the important tools on certain phases, while the subject index brings out the references in volumes on related subjects. In the chapter on markets and marketing, for instance, 23 entries are given with descriptive annotations, while the index refers under several subject headings to many references in other publications.

The use of a publication of this kind varies with the library. In some, it may be used as a general reference list. In others where the demand for such information is more continuous, it may form the basis of a special collection. One library has its telephone reference collection built around this list and adds the numbers given in the list to the volumes for quicker reference use.

*Guides to Business Facts and Figures. 1937. Special Libraries Association, 345 Hudson Street, New York, N. Y. \$1.50

From the Editor's Point of View

Whither Special Libraries?

SINCE, with this January 1938 issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, a fourth volume with the same Editor is begun, it seems advisable to take stock of progress. What does *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* represent in the production of professional aids? What are the policies guiding its development? Is there a sound long-range policy established? These, and some pertinent questions in a letter in the December issue, are points that should be considered.

Three complete volumes have appeared under the present direction. What do they represent in the way of trends and achievements? Certain policies have been consistently held. One, to open the columns of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* to the members, drawing into its columns as contributors as many as compatible with certain editorial standards.

Two, to seek articles by authoritative writers in fields of interest analogous to ours. Three, to present carefully prepared studies on professional problems. Four, to preserve the historic records of Association activities and to develop an informed membership by adequate reports and special articles. Five, to note progress in the special library world by mention of activities of individuals or groups. Six, to provide comment on the stream of publications that in one way or another contribute to a fuller development of our work.

The effort to draw contributions from many members new to the columns of the magazine is illustrated by such articles as "On Becoming a Special Librarian" by Peter Morgan, "Historical Society Libraries" by E. Marie Becker, "Work of a Labor-School Library" by Henry Black. A more intensive development is

represented by the annual symposium on the important books of the year in the different fields, and two other symposiums, on "What S.L.A. Means to Me" and "Letters to the Editor about the Convention." These symposiums have drawn into the thirty issues under consideration, contributions from twenty-nine members new to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, and have opened the way to expression of diversified opinion.

The search for articles on topics of related interest by authorities has brought such articles as "Microphotography for the Special Library" by Vernon D. Tate, "Work in the Science Museum Library" by H. Philip Spratt, "Business World and the Special Library" by Fred C. Zeisberg, "University Press and the Special Library" by Joseph A. Duffy, "Better Guide to Government Statistics" by Aryness Joy.

Developments in professional techniques and intensive studies in the special library field have been treated in the series of surveys of special library fields and such articles as "Statistical Reference Work" by Linda H. Morley, "Technique of Library Searching" by Carter Alexander, "Solving the Problems of a Pamphlet Collection" by Margaret G. Smith, "Training for 'Specials'" by J. H. Shera.

Constructive thought on the progress of S.L.A. as a professional association has been encouraged by such treatments as the organization chart and outline by Dorothy Bemis, "'Unaffiliated' Member and S.L.A." by J. H. Shera, and such articles as "Can S.L.A. Operate a Self-Supporting Program of Publication?," "S.L.A. Looks at Itself," and "S.L.A. and the Future." Besides these major studies, continual information is carried on Association activities in such departments as the "President's Page," "Board Meeting Notes" and in other places.

Progress in the special library world is

recorded briefly through the news items and in some letters, — and the all-important feature, book and pamphlet notes and reviews is covered by such regular departments as "Publications of Special Interest" and "Events and Publications" and occasional special treatments.

In the past three years the magazine has reflected the experimental method that seems appropriate to a growing publication. In the early issues of Volume 26 appeared regularly three departments on collections — "The Business Book Review Digest," "New Books Received," and "Publications of Special Interest." As time went on, experiment proved that the interests of the readers as a whole would be better served by the elimination of "Business Book Review Digest" and "New Books Received" and concentration on "Publications of Special Interest." Later developments have shown that a welcome addition to "Publications of Special Interest" is "Events and Publications," with its contributions by members on the special reports and pamphlets that they have found useful.

"Events and Publications" is produced through contributions of the members without editorial supervision or corrections. Another department based on spontaneous contributions is "Letters to the Editor," begun in September 1936 and including in the issues through December 1937, letters from thirty-two members, and seven letters from people outside the ranks of the profession.

While articles from qualified authors are much desired, the handicaps of limited space and the accumulation of conference papers and proceedings limit the number that can be printed. Including the special convention papers and feature work, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has, in its 26th, 27th and 28th volumes, published articles by seventy-two different authors. Of these, twenty-eight were people outside

the library profession. Of the whole number contributing, nine had articles in more than one issue.

One of the debated points in connection with *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has been the amount of "news" that should be covered. Some members have felt that too much space has been devoted to frivolous and ephemeral notes, while

others have pined for a light touch and more general gossip. The Editor has felt that the magazine should provide the history of any developments in the special library field. As "history in the making" is mainly news and gossip, some of it has been included in "News Notes." That department has been omitted from this issue. Is its absence to be deplored?

Letters to the Editors

Some Sound Suggestions

ALTHOUGH I do not agree with the letter in the December issue on all points, I *have* felt that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* was, to me, lacking in certain necessary fields. Checking back through our short file, since we are members of only about one year's standing, I find that I turn first to:

1. Events and Publications.
2. Publications of Special Interest.
3. Articles such as those by Miss Cooper and J. K. Wilcox.

Lastly I search, usually in vain, for what I call a thought-provoking, creative article of special interest to the library executive who is constantly seeking new methods to increase her department's services to her particular industry. To illustrate my rather intangible point, such material as might be found in the following "spur-of-the-moment" titles:

1. Interesting and unusual services rendered by the library.
2. How to enliven the "library bulletin."
3. Interesting the new employee in the library's services.
4. Are library bulletins as interorganizational advertising mediums, successful?
5. Unusual sources consulted by some libraries?
6. Contact by the librarian with her clientele.

To take up Miss Pruden's points specifically:

1. Yes, I agree. I feel that business and convention reports might be valuable if issued separately, rather than take up *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* limited space with material already reported at conventions.
2. Yes, these personalities might be better introduced through personal contributions and comments.

3. Obviously a good idea.
4. Yes, with reservations. I should still like to continue to find method articles in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

These suggestions are my own and may be too specific to be of general value.

KATHRYN E. PEOPLES, *Librarian,*
Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation.

Keep Proceedings Out of Special Libraries

WOULD it not be possible to publish the proceedings of the Association as a separate item or as a supplement to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*? Convention reports and papers should certainly be put in some permanent form, and such a procedure would be both convenient for reference and of interest to members unable to attend the convention. This might also solve the probably difficult editorial problem of reprinting papers read before group meetings and of interest only to a small section of the membership.

JEAN MACALISTER,
School of Business Library,
Columbia University.

Why No Museum Articles?

WHEN I took out a five-dollar membership, I did so, thinking that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* would offer from time to time articles and information in the field of fine arts. I may be mistaken, but I do not recall any leading articles touching this field in the past year. Are you planning any such articles for 1938? I notice in the current issue under the heading, "Important Books of the Year," that the art museum is not represented; possibly this continued omittance is the fault of the art museum library. I should like to know about this.

I feel that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is confined to

business and scientific libraries, rather than the field of art. Each has its place, but I think the art library should be included.

CYNTHIA GRIFFIN, *Librarian,*
Cincinnati Art Museum.

Special Libraries — Again!

AFTER reading the provocative letter in the December issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* and the editorial, and re-reading the Annual Report of the Editor in the July-August issue, my feeling is that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is already consciously trying to do the very things that Miss Pruden is asking for. If there is a dearth of stimulating articles, letters or discussion, it must be because the members of the Association (other than those who "simply cannot write") are unable to solve the problem, inseparable from the post of librarian, of finding time for all the "musts," let alone the "should-like-to's." But — *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is there, its four objectives set out in the last report, waiting and asking for the type of contribution that will best serve and advance the profession.

MARGARET S. GILL,
National Research Council, Canada.

Meeting the Readers' Needs

I HAVE just read with interest a letter in the December issue of the magazine, by Miss Pruden, on the policies and contents of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. While I agree with Miss Pruden in some of her suggestions for future conduct of the magazine — providing the means can be found to put them into effect, I should like to enter a protest against the particular criticisms which Miss Pruden has advanced.

In the first place, I am surprised at the statement that "articles are written year after year by the same people." I have been reading *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for a number of years and it never fails to astonish me that there are so many people in such divergent types of libraries who are willing to give the time to the preparation of those articles which form the basis of literature in the special libraries field.

As a matter of checking this impression, I have gone through *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for the past three years and I find that only several of our leading authorities had more than one feature article in the magazine during that entire period.

Before leaving this point of repetition, I should like to add that, personally, I welcome an issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* which contains an article by any one of a number of members of our Association — specialists in their field, who have contributed so generously over a period of years from their knowledge and experience.

In the second place, I do not see how any professional group which hopes to develop with the changing times can fail to reconsider at frequent intervals those practices which are of common interest to every special librarian. Certainly to those of us who are pressed for time, new ideas in the handling of these problems are stimulating whether they can be adopted in our own particular library or not.

It hardly seems necessary to comment on the other points raised by Miss Pruden. Difficult as it must be to maintain, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* preserves a nice balance in supplying information of interest to the big or small, young or old library. And since our membership is so composed, surely that is its function.

RUTH VON ROESCHLAUB, *Chairman,*
Financial Group.

Training Problems

I WAS somewhat disturbed in reading Mr. Shera's article in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for November to find ourselves listed as "offering no special library training." Since it was indicated with reference to a number of other schools that they were specially training for school librarianship, this seemed to me not to give a true picture of the field which our school is filling.

Practically half of our graduates are in school library work, and our summer session is given up entirely to training school librarians. Last summer we had an enrollment of one hundred and thirty-one; the summer before it was one hundred and nineteen, and this summer it will probably be one hundred and fifty or over. So you see we are definitely in the school library field. And I believe that we give as much attention to special libraries as any other school. I say this with the background of four years of experience at McGill where the large majority of our graduates were placed in the special library field. There I gave an advanced course in Classification and Cataloging for the special librarian. I gave this course during one session at Louisiana State University, but as yet there has been no other demand for it.

MARGARET M. HERDMAN, *Director,*
School of Library Science, Louisiana
State University and Agricultural and
Mechanical College.

Definitions to the Fore!

I HAVE been spending a few minutes at the end of a busy day looking through the December number of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, and the note on the definition of a special library, on pages 371-2, interested me greatly because I have been awaiting with hope the report of the A.L.A. Committee on Library Terminology. This

summer, teaching at the University of Illinois, I was obliged to fabricate a definition of special libraries in an administration course. I want to take advantage of the invitation for criticism to take issue with this definition on what is, perhaps, a minor point.

I think a better word than "organization" might be used in the first sentence. It is too general a term to apply to one with as limited a connotation as has "special libraries." The restriction of the group served by the special libraries, even if one extends this term to include a school, college, or departmental library in a university library system, is determined by singleness of purpose. All individuals in the group served by a chemical company's library are oriented toward the business of manufacturing chemicals. This is a pretty limited and specific objective. In the same way the group served by an engineering departmental library is concerned with getting an education along engineering lines, usually some specific line which again specializes the group endeavor. It seems to me that the clientele of a special library is characterized by a high degree of homogeneity as regards objectives.

I think the definition might be improved by eliminating the propaganda implicit in "with a staff having adequate knowledge of the field of specialization and of the activities of the clientele, as well as professional preparation." All this is implied in the forepart of the sentence, and it is not entirely impossible that experience and knowledge can be made available to a special library's clientele without professional preparation in the field. This looks like propaganda to me and not an impartial definition.

DONALD CONEY,
Librarian, University of Texas.

Another Definition

I WAS interested in the request in the last issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for a definition of a special library. It seems to me that Miss Morley's definition covers the subject very fully. However, as a definition, it seems to me it is a little long. The following paragraph does not pretend to be original but rather a condensation of Miss Morley's:

"A special library gives library service to any organization or specialized group by making available through a trained staff all information from all sources, published or otherwise, on the subject or subjects of interest or importance to the organization or group. The organization may have commercial, economic, social or other purposes and may consist of a corporation, association, institution, government office or department of a general library."

For librarians it seems unnecessary to define library service. To me it means assembling, preparing and making available for use source material in any form.

ISABEL L. TOWNER, *Librarian,*
National Health Library.

A Word to the Wise!

Life is full of interest now and we are all giving and receiving constructive criticism. Apropos of all that, these lines have their place.

BROAD MINDED

"In controversial moments
My perception's rather fine.
I always see both points of view,
The one that's wrong and mine."

A. W. G.

Publications of Special Interest

Clark, D. E. *West in American history.* Crowell, N. Y. 1937. 662 p. \$3.50.

A smoothly written, interesting picture of the settlement of the west, weaving into a colorful pattern the early explorers, Indians, frontiersmen, river travel, political dissention, war, and development of stage and rail travel through enterprise. No marked stress laid on any one feature. Bibliographical references concentrated in appendix.

Clark, H. F. *Life earnings in selected occupations in the United States.* Harper, N. Y. 1937. 408 p. \$5.00.

Detailed data on earnings in law, medicine, social

work, engineering, architecture, journalism, library work, etc., given for unskilled labor. Tables of probable earnings for different grades of clerical work included. A fund of carefully gathered material systematically handled and including a bibliography of similar references and a note of studies under way.

Craig, Alec. *Banned books of England.* Allen Unwin (Macmillan, N. Y.). 1937. 207 p. \$2.90.

A discussion of the English law of Obscene Libel and its effect on the publication of works of literary merit and scientific value. Includes much testimony from the various trials, a chronological list of the important cases,

a list of the banned books and an annotated bibliography of the important discussions of the subject

Day, Clarence. *Life with mother.* Knopf, N. Y. 1937. 250 p. \$2.00.

More of the delightful sketches that portray so graphically and tenderly the life of an earlier day when the modes and manners took a different form. Among the most acute and vivid pictures of New York family life in the 1880's and 1890's.

Devoc, Alan. *Phudd Hill.* Julian Messner, N. Y. 1937. 153 p. \$2.00.

The peace and quiet of the remote countryside is caught in its pages. Close bits of observation such as the minor note of the mole's existence add to its quality.

Dollard, John. *Caste and class in a southern town.* Yale Univ. Press, New Haven. 1937. 502 p. \$3.50.

A study of the relations between Negroes and white in the south in politics, in education, in religion and in prestige and sexual gains. The research method is described carefully, and every effort is made to follow it, consistently—but the result may indicate that the method's limitations are too great for human material.

Dunsany, E. J. M. P. *My Ireland.* Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y. 1937. 292 p. \$2.50.

All the mist, soft winds, green hills, and bird's calls that make up Irish days are found in these pages that are devoted to hunting and casual talk rather than to factual presentations. The essence of Ireland as found by a poet is caught here. Good photographic illustrations

Floherly, J. J. *On the air.* Doubleday, N. Y. 1937. 99 p. \$2.00.

Another of this author's direct, factual, well illustrated accounts of a modern marvel of efficiency. Brief but vivid descriptions of the various phases of radio communication are given

Fraser, M. G. *College of the future.* Columbia Univ. Press, N. Y. 1937. 579 p. \$3.75.

The book "presents a survey and evaluation of basic higher educational policies," but is unfortunately so lost in its own verbiage that constructive analyses and suggestions are difficult to separate from the involved discussion. As compared with the work of Hutchins or Writson, this lacks stimulating quality in spite of the conscientious labor that went into its production. Comprehensive bibliography included.

G T 99. *Twenty years a labor spy.* Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis. 1937. 309 p. \$2.50.

A supposed account of systematic labor espionage sufficiently logical in development to permit of authenticity. A strange mixture of reasonableness and contemptibility, but illuminating, if nauseating, in its presentation of possible labor problems and employer activities. Includes glossary of labor terms.

Graham, Benjamin, and Meredith, S. B. *Interpretations of financial statements.* Harper, N. Y. 1937. 122 p. \$1.00.

One of the most useful available tools in understand-

ing actual stock values. The items in a financial statement are explained and their relation to the statement as a whole indicated. Clear and specific in style. Includes a lengthy glossary of financial terms.

Haggin, B. H. *Book of the symphony.* Oxford Univ. Press, N. Y. 1937. 331 p. \$5.00.

Designed to help the musically uneducated to enjoy symphonic music with greater appreciation. The discussions on the major symphonies are arranged for supplementing by phonograph records. Lists of appropriate records included with note of technique for their use.

Hartley, Livingston. *Is America afraid?* Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 1937. 462 p. \$2.50.

An interesting analysis of the part the United States must play in developing international democracy. The situations in all the leading countries in Europe and Asia are considered from this point of view. The author sees a strong navy and aviation policy and a much firmer foreign policy as essentials. List of sources included.

Hopkins, M. A. and Webster, Doris. *Dynamite— or what do people think about you?* Appleton-Century, N. Y. 1937. 131 p. \$1.00.

A series of character analysis questions to be used for self-examination, to provide a conversation starter, or fun for a party. A good selection of questions on characteristics included.

Iig, R. A. *Public relations for banks.* Harper, N. Y. 1937. 266 p. \$3.00.

A comprehensive, direct and unpretentious discussion of the advertising and contact problems of banks, giving considerable space to manual preparation, sales campaigns, service to customers and the public relation problems of the different departments. Many effective illustrations used for different points. A number of forms reproduced

James, Neill. *Petticoat vagabond up and down the world.* Scribner's, N. Y. 1937. 344 p. \$2.75.

The advantages of secretarial work as an adjunct to seeing the world show up in this graphic, enlivening record of living adventures in Hawaii, Japan, New Zealand, Central America, China, the Continent, Florida, all on a shoestring and to the tune of the typewriter. Superficial but gay and indicative of possibilities.

Johnson, J. R. *Rolling along in song.* Viking, N. Y. 1937. 224 p. \$3.50.

A chronological survey of American Negro music divided into spirituals, work songs, plantation ballads, chain gang songs, street cries, blues, etc., with an introduction giving the development of this musical history followed by the collection of songs with their accompaniments.

Leslie, Anne. *Rodin, immortal peasant.* Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 1937. 378 p. \$3.00.

A sympathetic, quite charming life, including many illuminating incidents showing the great artist, casual

lover and unnatural father. Beautifully illustrated. Includes brief bibliography, and detailed chronology.

Mercer, F. A. and Gaunt, W. *Modern publicity, 1937-38.* Studio, N. Y. 1937. 154 p. \$4.50.

The annual review of such forms as posters, magazine covers, book jackets, packaging, trade marks, etc., in color as well as half tones. Lists of advertisers, agents, printers and producers and designers and photographers included.

Modley, Rudolf. *How to use pictorial statistics.* Harper, N. Y. 1937. 170 p. \$3.00.

The basic rules for the use of pictorial statistics and the pitfalls to avoid as well as tests for selection and development of symbols are covered adequately. A history of the growth of this type of fact presentation and examples of its effective application are given,—bibliographies of such illustrations chronologically arranged are given for Europe and the United States.

Morrison, R. C. and Huff, M. E. *Let's go to the park.* Wilkinson Printing Co., Dallas. 1937. Unpagged. \$3.00.

A general description of the development of parks with specific descriptions of many; notes on points to consider in their planning, an account of the duties of various park officials, and many beautiful photographs, some maps and other data. Includes list of national monuments and national parks with their location, area and special characteristics.

Nolan, John and Hubbard, H. V. *Parkways and land values.* Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge. 1937. 135 p. \$1.50.

This volume XI of the Harvard city planning studies presents some of the factors to be considered and problems to be faced in making an equitable application of costs to land values. Boston, Westchester and Kansas City systems are considered in detail, many tables, plans, charts and photographs included as well as list of more important references.

Plant, J. S. *Personality and the cultural pattern.* Commonwealth Fund, N. Y. 1937. 432 p. \$2.50.

A serious study of the effect of environment on individuals, with stress on the limiting influence of poverty and insecurity. Based to a great extent on experience in connection with the Essex County Juvenile Clinic.

Robson, J. W., ed. *Guide to Columbia University.* Columbia Univ. Press, N. Y. 1937. 213 p. \$1.25.

A comprehensive description of the buildings of the University and the activities they house, together with a brief history of its development. Well illustrated. Includes many footnotes expanding certain references.

Ruede, Howard. *Sod-house days.* Columbia Univ. Press, N. Y. 1937. 260 p. \$2.75.

The life of a Kansas homesteader in the seventies is graphically portrayed in his letters to his family in Pennsylvania. The day by day problems of farming with inadequate tools, and day-laboring for very little money,

are reported with simple matter of factness, and underlying courage and confidence in the future.

Ryan, M. G. *Your clothes and personality.* Appleton-Century, N. Y. 1937. 389 p. \$2.50.

While intended primarily as a general guide to good grooming for the high school girl, the analyses of line, color and material problems, the description of various techniques as sewing, cleaning, etc., and the constructive treatment of beauty aids, all make the book useful for the older woman. Long bibliography is included, grouped by subject.

Scarborough, Dorothy. *Song catcher in southern mountains.* Columbia Univ. Press, N. Y. 1937. 476 p. \$4.50.

The words and variations of mountain folk songs and ballads, and their music were sought and recorded by a woman of fine understanding, fact, and humor. Her description of the search is delightful in its glimpses of the mountain folk. The book effectively preserves a certain phase of local history and tradition in an appealing form. Illustrated by wood cuts.

Sherman, R. W. *How some people make more money than others.* Crowell, N. Y. 1937. 215 p. \$1.75.

Another self-help book for the business novice with the usual common sense advice quite effectively expressed. A good deal on grades of salaries in different types of work. Some check lists for self-testing proficiency and growth from different aspects. Opportunities in different vocations brought out.

Simmons, Harry. *How to get the order.* Harper, N. Y. 1937. 137 p. \$2.00.

Another of the author's snappy, pertinent talks on salesmanship full of constructive suggestions for development and comments on faults to be corrected. Well arranged for quick review.

Stern, E. W. *Annotated bibliography of Robert M. La Follette.* Univ. of Chicago Press. 1937. 571 p. \$5.00.

A chronological compilation of entries from newspapers, periodicals and books with large sections devoted to the records, including yea and nay votes, in the *Congressional Record*. An introduction to the valuable source material and, through its arrangement and annotations, a bird's-eye view of the events in which he played a forceful part.

Whitney, F. L. *Elements of research.* Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 1937. 616 p. \$3.50.

One of education series edited by E. George Payne. An exhaustive discussion of the methods and objectives of research, particularly in the field of education. Innumerable references to other texts. Includes comprehensive list of available sources of educational data, and many tables and outlines of methods.

Wells, Carolyn. *Rest of my life.* Lippincott, N. Y. 1937. 295 p. \$2.75.

The lighter phases of literary and artistic history of the last forty years are skimmed gaily and with effective selection. Especially pertinent if somewhat startling are the comments on the treatment of books. A joyous, enlivening record by a connoisseur in living.