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Official Organ of the Special Libraries Association

# Special Libraries

*"Putting Knowledge to Work"*

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# SPECIAL LIBRARIES

MARIAN C. MANLEY, *Editor*

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## Giving Words Their Wings \*

By *M. Llewellyn Raney, Director of Libraries*

The University of Chicago

SEPTEMBER witnessed one of the major tragedies in human history. A fair little republic went down ravished and hopelessly maimed, while the three big democracies and a fourth mighty people struggling to become one, corded not a muscle in defence. England, France, and the rest of us will have bitter reason to rue that fatal decision. And what a reversal. Only last August, the 27th, we were hailing the tenth anniversary of a Pact ratified by 63 nations, pledging themselves to the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy and to the solution of all international difficulties by means pacific. The first of the original fifteen signers was Stresemann for Germany, and the last, Beneš for Czechoslovakia.

The world will find it hard to live that betrayal down. The human spirit, however, will not be stayed from rising, for its seers have descried the heights and wings are ever growing. Five hundred years ago an obscure mechanic released a power that will in time break every despotism. It was Gutenberg's device for spreading words, and words are the mightiest force ever unleashed on earth. This breath a sword hacks in vain, the sound survives a cannon's. The printing press that gave currency to words and kept them current set the nemesis of tyranny on its way.

\* A paper read before the Milwaukee chapter of the Special Libraries Association meeting jointly with the Wisconsin Library Association, in Milwaukee Oct. 7, 1938.

Church and state were quick to see the threat to absolutism. As long as it was the ancient classics and ecclesiastical documents that got the issue of type all went smoothly, but when thought got analytical and protestant about present affairs, then was time to set the brakes. Nothing should appear except *cum privilegio*. The priest would censor, the king would license. At length these licensees were chartered in 1556 as the Stationers' Company of London and only its members could publish. Authors were chattels bought and sold. In all the western stretch from Homer to the Statute of Anne in 1709, the author had no recognized property in his written word, and it was not till 65 years later that a close vote of the House of Lords set the statute finally on its base to stay — just in time for our own Constitution to pronounce soundly on freedom of the press and the exclusive right of authors to their writings for a term.

But Constitutional coverage is not enough. It must be implemented and vigilance in enforcement be sleepless. Today there are three threats to the free course of honest expression and to property therein. These come respectively from the dictators, the Tories and the proletariat. In the totalitarian state, debate is suspended and foreign comment cut off. In a society of smug conservatism, the news columns are warped to jibe with the editorial page. When at last

the underprivileged rise in revolt, their resentment and distrust are apt to trample print indiscriminately and 'coun-tenance only what they understand. There is as yet no sign of the man on horseback in America. But unquestionably there are few newspapers that mirror the times without prejudice and there are certain signs that in the leveling up of society now undertaken the privately endowed institutions will tend to-wane, those of state to wax and in the latter the voters veer to limiting freedom of research and teaching in favor of the immediately utilitarian. Thus the release of the luminous word is our steady concern and in its unobstructed course lies the world's salvation. A bridge will tremble if a violin sounds its note. Woodrow Wilson's call broke the morale behind the Kaiser's lines. Today's tyrannies, too, will fall when the key word strikes home.

Homo sapiens is a curious and talkative creature. He early fell to utterance as he was moved, and ten thousand years ago he began to write down how it seemed to him.

At least a half million years we have had in divergence from the beast but written records for only the last 2 per cent of the time. To visualize this, reduce the 500,000 years to 50. Then on this scale writing was discovered half through the fiftieth year, the first name in European literature appeared less than four months ago, the printing press would be short of 18 days old, and Darwin's *Origin of Species* published this morning. Brief indeed the period of record, but in it more progress has been scored than in all the 98 per cent before. Till men could hold what they had won, each generation had to spend most of its energies in re-winning what was lost. But from the time when discoveries without and within came to be fixed in records and be-queathed, civilization could begin a steady climb.

For half a millennium the printing press has toiled to get conclusions in print, with librarians to keep the results and marshal them at competent elbows for fresh advance. Meanwhile a flock of auxiliaries have sprung up to extend the record, especially in small edition materials and ephemera. Such are the typewriter, multigraph, mimeograph, hectograph, lithoprinting, etc. In this line has recently appeared an entrant of such extraordinary skill as to capture universal attention and challenge the printing press itself for the first time in five centuries. This we are to look at today.

What does the newcomer discern in the situation as he backs off for perspective? Two things above all else. The first is that though the record was late in starting it now rolls out in a daily volume beyond the capacity of any institution to control let alone possess. The other is that it is on a perishable medium.

When the new National Archives building, to take but a single instance, went recently into service with its 10 million cubic feet of storage space surveys showed that there were already in existence more than enough Government records to fill this area twice over, without providing for annual accumulation, and that since the war more documents have appeared than in the nation's previous history.

Under these circumstances resort has been had to various controls. The first of these is listing; the second is indexing; the third is abstracting; the fourth is special collections; and with the last is now coming more and more into play the living index — a custodian trained in the subject matter over which he or she presides. The present audience is familiar with all these devices. In fact it has had the grit to pioneer for nearly thirty years. It is cheering to note in the current number of your official organ two leading

writers recognizing the necessity of librarians knowing the literature they serve. No less proportion anyhow can in decency be tolerated than that the librarian shall be to the expert user as the pharmacist is to the physician, and if the two are merged all the better. You do not put either a day laborer or an electrician in charge of a drug store. The goal is world documentation centres and swift means of massing total records at points of likely advance on short notice.

The odd and even amazing discovery the newcomer makes regarding permanency of record is that it was the present generation that, though supposedly particularly sensible of the value of records as guides to wise action, made the peculiar decision to entrust its own records to the flimsiest of media — undiluted wood-pulp paper. We have, for example, adopted the habit of keeping diaries all over the world, diaries we call newspapers. Each one of these organs essays to set down the daily story of its own immediate region, large or small, and the chief events elsewhere. Some of these run back a century and a half. Social scientists are emphatic in their judgment that these diaries constitute our most valuable documenta for tracing social evolution. Yet for the second half of this period, the paper is going into dust before our eyes. Unless we do something about it, they of 2038 will not have the first hand account of this, our troubled century.

Fortunately we now know what to do about it, for the National Bureau of Standards has drawn the specifications not only for expelling internal deteriorative substances from paper but also for safeguarding it from external attack. We know how to make record paper and how to preserve it. The specifications are simple enough: Strip down clean to the basic fibre, whatever it is, and cut it into knittable lengths. Then store it in about

50 per cent humidity, with temperature moderate and stable, where the air is freed from the corrosive gases of combustion. The library buildings of the future will all meet these simple conditions, especially as air conditioning comes more and more to characterize both business and home construction.

Such is the world the newcomer faces. What can he do about it?

Well, he arrived at his task quite small but candid and confident altogether. In exercise he has grown in both size and caution but lost none of his assurance. As to bulk and impermanence he does have something very practical to offer.

Take the case of newsprint. The paper page measures 18" x 22½"; the film area, 1" x 1½". The war file of the *New York Times* makes a pile 12' high, occupying two double sections of book stack. The film copy takes less than one cubic foot of space, or 2 per cent of the printed area. The National Archives escapes its space dilemma by filming 90 per cent of its purely informational paper and keeping only 10 per cent for samples. The Bureau of the Census puts on film the 34,000,000 index cards of the 1900 enumeration and reduces floor space requirement from 7,000 square feet to 50. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* with its 24,000 pages would drop from 4,000 cubic inches to 200 and lower its weight from 100 pounds to 1½. It is said that a million volumes could be recorded on 5 cubic yards of film. In ordinary practice, where extreme saving is not sought, it is usual to put 16 octavo pages on a foot of 35 mm. film, but there is not the slightest reason why the text should not be set across film instead of parallel with its length and so double the number of pages per foot. The fact of the matter is that we are just at the beginning of minification. So far as the camera and emulsion are concerned it is already possible to put a book of 250 pages on a strip the size of a catalog card.

A telephone directory page reduced 50 diameters, *i.e.*, to 1/2500 of natural size is here on display. The rub is in the reading, for as yet this could be done only with a microscope and people do not want to read that way, to say nothing of the cost of microscopes. This, however, is not a permanent disqualification. All we need is a sufficiently powerful lamp to penetrate so dense a thicket of text and project it. The lamp, too, is here but it would destroy the film if applied. It is a cold white light we await, and on this experiments are under way with such types as sodium vapor, high intensity mercury vapor and high pressure quartz capillary lamps. When this goal is attained, your library would pass to card cabinets, a book per card, and projection reading would be simple. Oh, yes, the midget can undoubtedly deflate the bulk. You will have to give him something harder than that to feaze him.

And permanence? Laboratory tests of most exacting character indicate as long a life expectancy for acetate cellulose film, both base and emulsion, as for the best record paper ever made. It is non-explosive, less combustible than paper, and gives off no deleterious gas in storage — contrary in all these respects to the nitrate of the movies. The image remains fixed in all endurable temperatures and lights. All it asks is a bed clear of dust and a little water to drink. That is to say, its enemies are abrasion and drying. A bit of metallic dust can blank out a lot of text if ground down the band, and if we subject films to the 15 per cent humidity that characterizes too many American rooms, they will grow brittle and crack to ruin. Just have an open container of water where the film abides and even if away from home its tongue gets parched it will absorb what it needs when it returns to base.

On the score of scratching I am here privileged to make first announcement

of what may be a revolutionary process in the making of duplicate copies. For some months experiments have been under way on a film without emulsion to scratch, but with impregnation by a light sensitive dye. It is too slow for photography but gives exceptional definition in duplication, producing negative from negative and positive from positive. As at first offered, the base was viscose, *i.e.*, cellophane, and this was pronounced impermanent. Afterward, however, the process was applied successfully to acetate cellulose and "these results," the National Bureau of Standards now advises me in writing, with privilege of quotation, "are indicative of a high degree of stability and, in our opinion, film of this quality is suitable for permanent records." This process is known commercially as Ozaphane, and, till the recent New England hurricane, was expected to be in the market by January 1. A sample is offered for examination today.

If the new medium is thus economical of space and will last, how about the cost of it? This must necessarily vary with the condition of the material being copied. If it is frail, handling must be slow. If it is bulky or discolored, finer grained film is required and this is higher priced. But for average materials of ordinary size a national standard comes near to have been established through the virtual agreement in rates adopted by the American Documentation Institute, the Library of Congress, and The University of Chicago. This amounts to a cent a page plus a small service charge or a low minimum — this for the original negative. Positive contact prints come cheaper. Thus, in the July *A.L.A. Bulletin* a series of thirty French Revolutionary newspapers in positive film copy is priced at eight cents a film foot or, in nearly all cases, a half cent a page because the cost of the negative had been covered by a Foundation

grant. If there are several subscribers to divide up the cost of the negative, then again the positive is greatly reduced. Thus University Microfilms supplies film copies of all books printed in English up to 1550 at a half cent a page when there are as many as a dozen subscribers. Lower still was the cost of 300,000 pages of NRA and AAA Hearings on 16 mm. film to about a dozen libraries at a little over \$400 each. In a word it is already true that if only one person needs a work of 250 pages, he can have it at no greater cost than a printed copy out of an edition of 2,000.

At this unexpected point Ozaphane reenters the scene with an offer to copy 100 feet of film at \$1.50 on a thickness of .002 inch, or \$1.90 on a thickness of .003", or \$2.50 on a thickness of .005". This last is about the thickness heretofore standard but it is claimed that when the emulsion does not have to be supported no such thickness is necessary and the medium one of .003" ought at least to be sufficient. That would mean that the duplicate copy of a foot carrying 16 pages of ordinary sized text would come not to 8 cents, as in our July list or 5 cents for the Eastman newspapers, but less than 2 cents. Needless to say, we are watching this experiment closely.

But after all, can you use it after you have got it? It is to be confessed that reading devices have not kept pace with the taking instruments and that, further, nobody will read by an instrument if he

can use his eyes unaided. The same, however, can be said for motion pictures. We would not watch screen action, if we could see the same in life. It's a case of substitution. Here is not a choice between a book in hand and its projection on a screen. It's a question of whether we shall have the text in screen form or not at all and this depends upon whether we can use it so without injury to the eyes or excessive inconvenience. The reading instruments are improving and there is at least one now available in the typewriter price range for materials in medium reduction. Unquestionably enough has been accomplished in the utilization cycle to indicate that the penalty is not too great to pay for the vast increase in basic materials the new medium vouchsafes and for the great economy of space saving and the rescue of the perishing from certain loss. It is the first time that men of science have been justified in the hope that at last they might have under control the entire output of the world in their several specialties. Special collections can be had in unexampled degrees of completeness, the individual scholar even in crowded apartments can once more begin to own his materials instead of depending too much on the institutional library, and the amateur scholar away from great centres need not lose his hold on scholarship. But what one loves and lives by he will continue to hold in the form of the author's creation with no apparatus intervening to jar the tie.

## News Notes

*Chapter Activities.* . . . As the Pittsburgh Chapter has an acute interest in microfilming, the subject for their second meeting November 22nd was "Ten Nights in a Microfilm Library." The meeting was held at the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation library, and Ross C. Cibella presented the results achieved in

the use of microfilm. . . . The New Jersey Chapter had as the theme of its December 7th meeting, "Our Social Responsibilities: What Program Meets Future Needs?" T. Lester Swander, welfare director of the Welfare Federation of Newark, talked on "Experiences and Practices in Evolving a Community Pro-

gram"; Joseph P. Murphy, chief probation officer for Essex County, talked on "One Special Problem and a Method of Meeting It"; and Rebecca B. Rankin, librarian of the New York Municipal Reference Library, on "How Libraries Facilitate the Work for Social Welfare."

The November 15th meeting of the Illinois Chapter was based on a methods round table. Miss Harriette Greene directed the round table and the subjects discussed were "Organization of Periodical and Pamphlet Collections," "Bringing Information to the Attention of Executives." Some of the questions considered were: "Are printed periodical indices in your field adequate or do you find it necessary to index articles on the subjects of particular interest to your organization? Are lists of indexed articles or abstracts regularly sent to executives? What subject heading lists are used in indexing? Are clippings catalogued? Are pamphlets catalogued? What methods are used for bringing new pamphlets and reports to the attention of people who would be interested?"

The Albany Capital District Chapter celebrated November 18th by an informal meeting together with the national President, Alma C. Mitchill, and the Secretary, Elizabeth Lois Clarke. It held its December meeting on the 2nd, at which the pressing problem of book information was discussed by Miss Mary Eastwood. . . . The Southern California Chapter held its November 15th meeting at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, with the theme, "The Motion Picture Industry." Mr. Robert R. Bruce, director of the Research Department, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, arranged short speeches on the different phases of motion picture problems — sound, performance, set drawing, and wardrobe. Exhibits were brought from the different studios as illustrations of research work on different productions.

The Milwaukee Chapter has brought out a handy little directory of its members, which includes the names of the officers and the various committee members. . . . The Boston Chapter's meeting of November 28th was held at Goodspeed's Book Shop. Mr. Goodspeed talked entertainingly on the interesting contacts of his long years in bookselling, while Mr. John Holmes, of the literary staff of *The Boston Evening Transcript*, discussed possibilities in current publications. . . . The Cincinnati Chapter celebrated with a Christmas party at its meeting December 6th, which was held at the Vernon Manor.

*Heard Here and There.* . . . The Public Administration Clearing House held a reception on Wednesday, December 7th, at the Joint Reference Library. Members of the Illinois Chapter were invited. This opportunity to see the new headquarters of this famous social science library was enthusiastically welcomed by members of the Illinois Chapter and the Chicago Library Club. . . . The Boston Public Library was a more than usually busy place November 13th–20th when the 1938 *Boston Herald* Book Fair was held there and attended by 150,000 people. One hundred nine authors appeared on 18 speaking programs, and other activities were carried on in proportion, providing a thrilling if strenuous time.

*Seen Here and There in Print.* . . . The Special Libraries Association, through Rose Boots as representative, is cooperating with the New York Career Tours Committee of the American Woman's Club in connection with the New York World's Fair. A forthcoming publication of this committee, "Women at Work — A Tour Among Careers," to appear February 15th, will be a stirring presentation of possibilities in work for women. . . . *Pacific Bindery Talk*, for November 1938, had a well-thought-out

article by Margaret Buck Gledhill, librarian of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, on the "Hollywood Library." The article describes the work of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and includes illustrations of their microcards and the methods of filing them. . . . The International City Managers' Association has issued a publication called, "Recording Council Action in the City Clerk's Office," with the joint authors, Orin F. Nolting, assistant director, the International City Managers' Association, and Josephine B. Hollingsworth, librarian, Municipal Reference Department, Los Angeles Public Library. This is a guide for city clerks in preparing business for council action, recording and publishing proceedings, filing documents, indexing minutes and ordinances, and safeguarding records.

A fine, compact and stimulating article on "The Functioning of a Business Library," by Florence A. Grant, librarian of Standard Brands, Inc., New York, appears in *The Executives Service Bulletin* for November 1938. One of Miss Grant's particularly pertinent comments is, "The librarian will adapt her technique to needs and will bring two tools probably possessed by no one else in the organization — knowledge of innumerable sources of information both in and out of books, and the special skill to arrange it and make it quickly available and usable."

Katherine Karmelich, of the California State Fisheries Laboratory, Division of Fish and Game, had an article in *California Fish and Game* for July 1938 on "A Fisheries Library and Its Uses" that gives a comprehensive picture of the activities of her library and some very interesting lists of publications useful in her collection. . . . *The New Yorker* for October 29th, under "Profiles," carried an interesting account of the activities of Mr. H. W. Wilson, the moving spirit in facilitating the use of current literature.

*Groups.* . . . The Financial Group of the New York Chapter was fortunate enough to have a visit from Elsie Rackstraw, the national chairman, Monday, November 7th. This visit was in connection with a meeting at the National City Financial Library where Mary Hayes, the librarian, talked about her collection, and Miss Rackstraw talked first about the work of the Federal Reserve Library, and second, Financial Group plans for the year. . . . The University and College Departmental Librarians Group of the Pittsburgh Chapter had its first meeting at Westminster College in New Wilmington, with the topic of the evening, "The Problem of Reserve Books for Commuters."

The New York Newspaper Group has held several dinner meetings, of which the December 7th one had as the speakers, Ralph H. Carruthers of the New York Public Library, and Frank N. Gunderson of the Recordak Corporation, who discussed the various phases of the micro-filming of newspapers. . . . The Science-Technology Group of the Connecticut Chapter met in Waterbury and listened to a paper, "Digested Information as an Aid to Workers in the Rubber Industry," presented by Dr. Donald E. Cable, librarian of U. S. Rubber Products, Inc., in Passaic. . . . The Biological-Sciences Group of the Boston Chapter met on November 17th at the Tufts Medical and Dental Schools and the work of these schools was discussed.

The Boston group of catalogers and classifiers met November 15th and listened to a talk on recent developments in cataloging by Miss Margaret Mann. . . . The University and College Departmental Librarians Group has brought out its Bulletin for November. This contained an interesting list of basic reference books for a departmental law library. . . . A joint meeting of the Insurance and Social Science Groups of the

New York Chapter was held at the Russell Sage Foundation Library on December 12th at which Miss Mary E. Hurlbutt, instructor of cultural studies at the New York School of Social Work, spoke on "Reminiscences of a Social Worker in Czechoslovakia."

*News of Our Members.* . . . Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, librarian of the Works Progress Administration, has been invited by the American Association of International Law to resume her index to United States Documents Relating to Foreign Affairs, 1828-1861. Miss Hasse has been authorized by Works Progress Administration to accept the invitation. Administrative details are being worked out. . . . Dr. Arthur H. Cole, librarian of Baker Library and Professor of Business Economics of Harvard University, talked on "The Kress Library of Business and Economics" at the annual meeting for members of the Business Historical Society and their guests at the Faculty Club of the Graduate School of Business

Administration, Harvard University. . . . Lee Ash, Jr., formerly with the Associated Press Library in New York, is carrying on special studies at the Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical College at Stillwater, Okla., doing historical and bibliographical research in Indian materials and the Southwest, and noting special library conditions in that region.

*Committee Activities.* . . . The Duplicate Exchange Committee of the national association for the season 1938-39 plans to send monthly lists of available free material to the presidents of Chapters or to a local representative in every chapter. Members are reminded that individual copies can be obtained by a \$1.00 subscription for a year. Institutional members this year may receive free copies of the exchange list. Those who wish to be put on the mailing list for this list should notify the Duplicate Exchange Committee chairman, Miss Beatrice Howell, Insurance Institute of Montreal, 410 St. Nicholas Street, Room 503, Montreal.

## S.L.A. Drive for New Members

**M**EMBERSHIP in the Special Libraries Association: just what does it mean to you? We all know that no organization, professional or otherwise, can exist very long without those members who are always ready and willing, no matter what other duties they may have, to give of themselves to keep that Association alive. It is a true saying that we receive from any Association in proportion to what we ourselves put into it. What I, as your President, am asking of each and every S.L.A. member for the next four months is to give herself or himself wholeheartedly to helping the National Membership Chairman in the drive for new members.

Past Presidents in their messages and articles appearing from time to time in

SPECIAL LIBRARIES have reiterated the statement again and again, that this Association needs money to carry on its program of development. Where is this money to be secured? The answer is from dues. The idea of increasing dues does not meet with approval by some of the members, although eventually this may have to be done. If dues are not raised, how then is this increased revenue to be obtained? The answer is either from new members or from transfer of membership from Associate to Active or from Active to Institutional.

At the Board and Council Meeting held November 5th, the question of a Membership Drive was discussed at length, with the result that the Board voted unanimously to launch a Member-

ship Drive beginning December 1, 1938, and extending for a period of four months from that date. It was also decided that certain S.L.A. publications be given as an incentive to these new members. SPECIAL LIBRARIES for November outlined the proposal.

Suppose we stop to consider for a moment just what would be the increase in the revenue if during this period the Association were to add 100 new institutional members, 250 active members and 500 associate members. The net result would be \$3,750 additional annual revenue. With this increased revenue it would be possible to pay the salary of an Editor of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, to increase the apportionment for traveling expenses so that the President and other members of the Executive Board would be able to visit more Chapters, and to set aside a definite sum for Association promotion.

It has often occurred to me that membership in S.L.A. under the classifications of Active and Associate should be more specifically defined in the Constitution. The annual dues for both these classes are low in comparison to dues in other professional organizations — \$5.00 for Active and \$2.00 for Associate members — and because of this fact, it seems to me that Active Membership should include all librarians other than junior assistants and library clerical workers — while Associate Membership should embrace the junior assistants and members of the clerical force.

Considering the fact that there are many firms which have libraries but which are not Institutional Members, here is another lucrative field from which to draw new members. It has been

asked at times just what value does a company derive from this type of membership. Institutional membership includes a subscription to SPECIAL LIBRARIES as well as a copy of every publication issued by the Association. The question has been raised that there are many publications sponsored by the Association which are of little or no value to an Institutional member. A chemical company, for instance, would have no use for a "List of Subject Headings in Social Work and Public Welfare." This is true, but although a list such as the one mentioned may not be useful to a chemical firm it shows the chemical librarian how wide the field of activity is in S.L.A. It is because of this wide distribution of knowledge within the Association that membership is so valuable and necessary for institutions. Through this membership it is possible for a librarian to obtain whatever information she may need outside of her field. It is through membership in S.L.A. and attendance at annual conferences that the wheels of companies having libraries run more smoothly. A librarian from the West Coast may discover from these contacts that a library in the East has just the report for which her chief has been searching. In this way a common bond is established and an Institutional membership more than pays for itself.

I am looking for excellent results from this drive and I know that the members of S.L.A. will stand back of it 100 per cent.

A Merry Christmas and a most prosperous and Happy New Year to you all.

ALMA C. MITCHILL,  
*President.*

## We Do This

**W**HAT do you do that will be of help to your fellow librarian? Surely you have some unusual trick that is used in your library which is time-saving! Won't you share it with others?

As special librarian you know how handicapped we all are for time and assistance to accomplish the things we wish. How often have I struggled to get a label to stick on certain types of binding! A suggestion was given me by a bookbinder which I will pass on to you. Instead of glue use ordinary nail-polish, and the label will never come off. A longer

method is to remove the sizing from the spine of the book with a wash of alcohol. Haven't you come across some helpful idea?

The success of this column depends solely upon you and your coöperation. It will appear as frequently as I have enough material gathered from YOU to make up a column. Please send any contributions or suggestions to me at the Philadelphia Company Library, 435 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

VIRGINIA L. GARLAND, *Chairman,*  
*Methods Committee.*

**F**OR ages we've been trying to find a neat method of attaching posters and notices to the plate-glass partitions which separate our reading rooms from the main library. Quite by accident we hit upon a pneumatic clip — the sort which is used in automobiles — and we're fearfully pleased with them. Two of them hold a poster in position. . . . These clips are about ten cents each and last indefinitely." — MINNIE ISAACS, in the *Wisconsin Library Bulletin*.

**I**N THE Sacramento City Free Library, gummed dots and labels have been replaced entirely by Duco. Duco can be purchased in many colors in very small containers and, while it evaporates rapidly and is not usable in its original package, we have solved the problem by using one-ounce wide-mouthed bottles, fitted with soft rubber corks through which we insert a long handled camel's-hair brush. This makes an airtight inclosure. When the book is once marked, the mark is good for the life of the book. . . . Duco can be had in many colors and works satisfactorily on practically all surfaces." — W. F. PURNELL, *Librarian, City Free Library, Sacramento*, in the *Wilson Bulletin*.

**B**OOKS are always being wrapped for some reason or another around a library — but when one wants to use a wrapped book it must be unwrapped — never to receive a neat job of rewrapping! Hence our use of a slip-on wrapper or cover for rare books

kept in the Treasure Room. Only those are wrapped which, although apparently in need of repair, are not repaired on account of molesting the original binding.

"Heavy brown wrapping paper seems the best to use. Cut a sheet wide enough to reach one and one half times around the book and as long as you would were you wrapping it for mailing. The book is wrapped exactly as you would wrap a package, except that when the cover is finished the top of the book sticks out about two inches at the top of the cover so one may take it from the shelf and then easily take hold of the book and slip it from the cover. Fold the top edge of the paper down about three inches, to give it double strength around the top, so as to prevent any tearing which might occur when removing or replacing the book. When this is done and the paper wrapped around the book (taking care to leave the book protruding two inches), seal it on the flat side of the book with one inch brown paper sealing tape. Then fold the bottom of the paper up over the bottom of the book as you would the end of a small package and seal with three or four short strips of the tape.

"Care must be taken not to get the wrapper too tight, and to allow for a little shrinkage, so that when replacing or removing the book the binding will not be rubbed unnecessarily.

"You may print the call number, author and title on the backbone as it appears on the back of the book itself, or in case of a very thin

book on the front as it is sometimes done. The book is then ready for the shelf.

"A cover of this sort will serve under the ordinary usage a rare book receives several years and while costing much less than a tenth of a cent may help preserve a binding which could not be replaced or duplicated for any amount of labor or money."—JOHN T. SKELTON, *Assistant Loan Librarian, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma*, in the *Wilson Bulletin*.

"WE ARE mounting all the lists we give out for use in the library on heavy cardboard and covering them with cellophane. The result is rather neat and attractive and we are sure it will do away with the too frequent copying of disreputable lists. We are also using it for the labels of our catalog drawers and for other exposed surfaces. Ten cents worth will cover a multitude of things!"—CHARLOTTE MATSON, *Franklin Branch Library, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, in the *Wilson Bulletin*.

## A SPECIAL LIBRARIES Symposium

### A Critical Summary of SPECIAL LIBRARIES

*By Mrs. Frances S. Davis, Power and Light Division*

Municipal Reference Department Branch, Los Angeles Public Library

IN the December 1937 issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, the Editor exploded a bombshell by publishing a letter from one of our New Jersey members entitled, "Are We Satisfied with SPECIAL LIBRARIES?"

The chief complaints in this letter were:

1. The articles in SPECIAL LIBRARIES are written year after year by the same people.
2. The subjects are the same year after year.

This same member suggested the following measures "to bring about a new type of SPECIAL LIBRARIES":

1. Elimination of business reports.
2. Elimination of personalities.
3. Formation of an editorial board.
4. Use of the journal as a place for debate on subjects vital to our profession.

Additional letters to the Editor have appeared in the January through April issues with further suggestions and requests such as:

1. Publication of convention reports separately.
2. Inclusion of occasional scholarly articles.

The first letter of dissatisfaction caused many of us to gasp. Additional ones have made us consider. In an effort to clear away the debris of doubts, it was decided to discuss our

periodical at a joint meeting of the California chapters. Are we satisfied with SPECIAL LIBRARIES? If not, why not?

To criticize our journal we need to know the problems and policies of its Editor. While the problems can only be imagined, the policies are stated in the July-August, 1937, and January, 1938, issues of SPECIAL LIBRARIES. In her report Miss Manley states:

The publication of SPECIAL LIBRARIES by the Special Libraries Association serves four objectives:

- (1) The magazine provides information about the activities developing through the committees, groups and chapters of the national association, and a record of the actions of the Executive Board, not only at annual meetings but also during the year.
- (2) It publishes articles on special library methods and problems, and on new developments in information fields that are of value to special librarians.
- (3) It gives condensed information about publications of interest to the library world.
- (4) Through its advertising columns it provides a place for consideration of new equipment.

Aren't these objective things we need to know to be professionally alert?

In the same July-August magazine Miss Manley says, "Chapter presidents are urged to forward papers of interest that are presented at the meetings and the noteworthy contribu-

tions to regional cooperation by the California chapters is due to the cooperation of the presidents of these chapters." This would seem to silence the intimation that the columns of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* are open to only a few. To my knowledge papers presented at these joint meetings of ours by Thelma Jackman, Edith Schofield, Margaret Miller, Alberta Fish, and Marjorie Utt were printed in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, having been unsolicited and unquestioned. It would be interesting to know what percentage of papers submitted had failed of publication.

In *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for January, 1938, our Editor, answering the letters of criticism and suggestion, presents the policies which have motivated her four years of editorship. These have been:

1. To draw in as many member contributors as possible.
2. To publish authoritative articles by writers in fields analogous to ours.
3. To present carefully prepared studies on professional problems.
4. To preserve historic records of the association activities.
5. To note progress in the special library world by mention of activities of individuals.
6. To provide comment on the stream of publications connected with our work.

Miss Manley further shows that volumes from 1935 through 1937 contained seventy-two different authors, twenty-eight of whom were outside the library profession. Of this number nine had articles in more than one issue. Thus the criticism that the articles are by the same people year after year is hardly justified. Even if they were, do not all professional people prefer and pay more attention to articles by the authorities in their individual fields?

We have the criticisms of our magazine. We have the statement of the Editor's policies. Now what do we as members expect from a professional periodical?

H. A. Palmer, editor of *Traffic World*, in a talk entitled, "Reflections After Reading 300 Business Papers a Month," before the Chicago Associated Business Papers members has this to say, "the duty of the trade and business paper is to give its readers accurately, fully,

and promptly the news in their field, with such pertinent, interesting features and gossip as may seem well, and with strong editorial advice and guidance when opportunity offers."

News, news, news, local, national and international fairly presented is Mr. Palmer's first requirement. Second, a minimum of highly technical articles. Third, a vigorous editorial policy. He feels most business and trade papers fail to meet these requirements. But does not *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* meet these standards adequately with possible exception of the vigorous editorial policy?

Perhaps some feel our journal should not be expected to meet the standards of a trade paper. On the other hand can it be adequately compared with the highly technical, professional periodicals? Should it not be rather a combination of a trade and professional journal? Developments in the library world or profession are not swift and cataclysmic as in chemistry, electrical engineering or medicine. We do not change our methods even as frequently as do educators. Perhaps we should strive to keep library service more in the public eye. Until we have experimental laboratories for intensive study of special libraries methods, ways and means, and services, how can *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* publish more technical and professional articles than it does at present?

Are there not additional requirements to those mentioned by Mr. Palmer? First — we expect the format of a professional periodical to be adequate, good type, headlines, spacing, placement of articles, news, well indexed, etc. Second — perhaps most of all a professional magazine should be readable, presenting material for all classes of members. The human element is important in special library work. Personalities are important. Humor is important. Have not librarians been all too frequently criticized for being professionally and intellectually cold? Gossip and news of our neighbors, to which our New Jersey member objected, add the common touch, bring smiles, encouragement and mutual understanding.

Third — instructive articles by authorities. Fourth — new developments, fresh viewpoints. Fifth — inspiration Sixth — news of the association and its members. Such a com-

paratively small percentage of the members can attend the annual conventions that the reports of activities and business presented there make attractive reading for many of us.

Does not *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* meet all these requirements? To one who has been a "cover to cover" reader since 1934, confidently feeling that she was reading a helpful library periodical, enjoying its variety of articles, profiting by the practical suggestions offered and always

finding inspiration and encouragement, it seems that if *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* fails to satisfy the professional needs of some members it is up to them to prepare and submit to the Editor the type of articles and material which they should like to see in our professional magazine. This may encourage others to do likewise. All of us will benefit and eagerly acclaim any new and effective ways of "putting knowledge to work."

## Past Policies of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*

*By Jeanette Gormley*

Standard Oil Company of California

**T**HE first *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* dated January 1, 1910, under the editorship of John Lapp clearly set forth the purpose and the policy of the new journal: "To serve as a medium of inter-communication and to a certain extent as a clearing-house of notes and news of the Association . . . and to devote special attention to listing the more important books, official reports, pamphlets and periodical articles that are not included in the general book lists and periodical indexes."

Accordingly the new *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* gave about 80 per cent of its pages to bibliographies of importance in the following fields: Public affairs, social problems, public utilities, technology, insurance and finance. This practice of publishing bibliographies continued for some years, but the notes of new libraries and new librarians in special fields became more and more frequent, and important to the new librarians were articles describing special sources of information, the practices of established libraries, methods of building the special collection, and the relationship of the library to other units, both within and without the supporting organization.

Solidly and absorbedly developing a professional practice literature and serving as a news organ for the Association, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, in 1917, was jolted by events outside the special library field. For the first and last time, what was happening in the world determined what was published in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. War swept into its pages and war needs dictated its policy. The formerly placid pages were filled with demands for the rapid

organization of information on new questions — the European situation, world economic conditions, military problems. Columns carried appeals for donations of books, magazines, — any literature vocational or recreational, for the soldiers to read.

War thrift received due attention in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. Ways of making one small jar of paste do the work of three large ones were gravely described. Every library saved paper carefully and glue was diluted. All and any kinds of thrifty practices were recommended. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* reflected the tense efficiency which seemed to be in the air, and a super-coöperative spirit carried away all obstacles of the workaday world.

With our entry into the World War, the already increased production was forcibly accelerated, business expanded dizzily; markets developed almost overnight, and simultaneously man power was drastically cut. Man power had to be replaced by woman power, and woman power, at that time, was "largely untrained." *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* side by side with war questions considered this new problem, *Woman: Her Place in Industry*. The general topic of women in industry became one of intense interest. Bibliographers collected references on all phases of women's work, their training for industry, their wages, working conditions, aptitudes, and limitations. Both librarians and non-librarians contributed papers, as well as bibliographies, on these subjects and an effective reference tool was developed. Throughout this literature, an attitude of approbation prevailed — "she-did-it-and-she-

did-it-right." Woman assumed a place in industry.

The general expansion of business gave stimulus to the growth of many kinds of research and to new special libraries. Libraries were being established and recognized as permanently useful departments. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* in the post war period launched a program to help these new libraries and this policy contributed valuable fresh material to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

Entire issues, in 1919, were devoted to one subject, such as chemistry, or agriculture, or finance. The number on chemistry, of course, described chemistry libraries, source material on chemistry, a check-list of recent chemical publications, and an article by a chemist on library service. Mr. J. H. Friedel, who was editor of this series, was successful in soliciting contributions from men and women in types of work related to the library field. Their comments, as interested outsiders, gave *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* a different point of view. These descriptive issues given over to one subject were valuable to special librarians at a time when the Association was expanding. Not only did the articles serve to indicate the range of subjects covered by special libraries, but also were brief reviews of general source material of professional use to the librarian not engaged in that particular work.

By 1925, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* was a firmly established library journal with a 15-year record of professional service. Because the layout of a magazine is part of its policy it is well to consider what *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* looked like. During the years that it has been published, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has not altered its "physical appearance" in any essential way. Issue after issue, the limp paper cover does duty as a contents page; the familiar modest double column format is used without variety of spacing or printer's "flowers." Issues usually lack any photographs or illustrations, and quite properly so. However, occasionally simple illustrations showing cards, charts, or forms have been used and these do contribute to the clarity of the textual explanation. Painstakingly careful editing has always distinguished *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

The journal is, of course, dependent for its support upon Special Libraries membership,

and advertising charges supplement this income, out of which all expenses must be paid. This support is limited and explains the modesty of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*' appearance. Time is also a restrictive factor. The editor, and his associates, as well as most author-members, who write, edit, manage, and solicit advertising for *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* are also librarians and must add to their regular work the responsibilities of publishing. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has never been in a position to pay for the work of the staff or the contributors. To understand fully these restrictive conditions under which *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is published is to appreciate its steadfastness in the face of rather serious obstacles.

These obstacles have not deterred *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* from campaigning for the special library idea. Mr. D. N. Handy in March, 1927, states: "*SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is not only the official organ of the Association, but it is also the only publication devoted exclusively to the exploitation of the special library idea. It seems to me that it must serve a two-fold purpose. First, of course, it must print the things which are helpful to the special librarian himself. This means that it will keep in close touch with special library developments, print descriptions of new libraries in new fields, and will make use of timely book reviews.

"Second, it must omit no opportunity to present as convincingly as possible the value of the special library in every form of organized activity. If it can interest new groups, convincing them of the value of the special library and can aid them in their search for convincing arguments, it has accomplished quite as much as if it had printed a helpful article on some phase of library methods. It should be a means of keeping in touch with other members. As a chronicle of the doings of its members, it is important.

"It seems to me that it has been developing more and more along these lines, and that what is needed is adequate financing to enable it to go much farther. . . ."

*SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has been a news organ for the Association, has amassed valuable material on library practice, and has exploited the special library idea, and these policies will be further developed or refined in the future. The new thing that the journal can do is to

look away from the details of association news, attempt to develop a critique of library science and library methods and new libraries and — an honest evaluation of what has been done.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES and Other Library Periodicals: A Comparison

*By Norma Olin Ireland, Assistant Professor, Library Science*

University of Southern California

**S**PECIAL LIBRARIES is not the only library periodical to recently receive criticism from its readers. Some of you will perhaps remember the article written last year to one of our prominent library periodicals criticizing all library periodicals in general and that one in particular. Such articles probably serve a purpose: While not always constructive in themselves, they do draw forth constructive suggestions from other readers as well as stimulate interest in the magazine itself. I do not take the attitude of a stern critic but only compare SPECIAL LIBRARIES with other magazines in the field, especially in the various points mentioned in the criticism already given to the magazine. It is only as a new reader of your periodical that I speak—only as a new member of your Association.

### MAKE-UP

The first thing we notice about any magazine is its make-up. Is it attractive? Is it modern? How is its typography? Magazines, along with everything else in this modern age, have found it necessary to keep pace with modern trends in color, streamlining and general attractiveness. Let us take a few examples from our library periodicals.

*Wilson Bulletin*, that well-known, inexpensive little magazine, has undergone many changes over a period of years. As we look at the changes which it has made in its cover alone since 1929 we see a decided improvement in color, arrangement and general make-up. It has attractive type and paper and includes many illustrations. It is distinctly popular.

The *Library Journal*, the oldest American periodical devoted to library affairs, has come a long way since 1876. It has recently adopted new colorful covers, rotating colors each issue. It, too, has illustrations and is very readable.

The *Library Quarterly*, although scholarly in tone, nevertheless has a bright yellow cover

which immediately attracts the reader. On the cover of each issue is a colophon, which adds to the dignity and style of the journal.

The *A.L.A. Bulletin* is more comparative to our own magazine as it is published by a professional association. Bright orange has been adopted as its standard cover color, more illustrations are now included in the magazine than ever before, and as a whole the bulletin has shown a decided improvement during the past two years.

Another feature about make-up is the inclusion of the Table of Contents on the cover. Very few magazines, library or otherwise, give such a complete table of contents on the cover as does SPECIAL LIBRARIES, including even letters to the editor.

And so, as we judge our magazine superficially, we believe SPECIAL LIBRARIES could do much to improve its outward appearance—to get away from that dry "bulletin look" which repels the reader more than it attracts him.

### CONTENT

The remainder of the comparison will pertain to content, which, after all, is the thing that really matters.

### *Publication of Proceedings*

One of the chief points of criticism which has been offered is the publication of proceedings and papers in SPECIAL LIBRARIES throughout the year. The *A.L.A. Bulletin* publishes a separate issue for annual reports but includes speeches from conventions throughout the year. Other periodicals also repeat speeches from state meetings, etc., throughout the year. It has been suggested that SPECIAL LIBRARIES publish its Proceedings separately but at an added cost to members, with exception, of course, to institutional members who will receive it free. I believe that Proceedings should

be reprinted separately, but feel that added cost should be taken care of elsewhere. Perhaps this issue should take the place of a regular issue; I believe that members would consider it valuable as such.

#### *News Items*

Now that news items have been dropped from *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* perhaps little need be said about it.\* For the benefit of those who may be interested in comparing other library periodicals with *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* in this regard, however, a few words may be said.

*Library Journal* has a section entitled "Among Librarians," which gives news regarding appointments, marriages and necrology. In *Wilson Bulletin* such news is found only in special departments and is mostly of a business nature. *Library Quarterly* has no such material; *A.L.A. Bulletin* includes no personalities except news regarding A.L.A. headquarters, boards, committees, etc.

I feel that because of the limited interest in news items (since it necessarily has to be a small feature), it is unessential. Local trade organs, such as Gaylord's *Triangle and Pacific Bindery Talk* (on West Coast), are much better adapted to such information than are these other more dignified journals.

#### *Contributors*

Repetition of the same contributors is a problem in every periodical, as well as just library and other professional journals. Librarians are certainly not inarticulate as a professional group, but as individuals they are not particularly journalistic. We notice the same names again and again in all our library periodicals, but is that such a bad criticism? We watch for familiar names in all magazines, do we not? Those that like to write are usually prolific; those that do not like to, seldom exert the necessary energy. If we encourage those to write who have no natural abilities in the field, would their contributions add to our magazine?

One feature, however, that is practiced by *A.L.A. Bulletin* and which could well be adopted by *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is the inclusion of a "Who's Who Among Contributors" feature. In the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, it is entitled

\* For references on this point see *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for September 1938, p. 229 "Special Libraries as a Record of Progress Edition."—Ed.

"Behind the By-Lines" and consists of thumbnail sketches for the benefit of new members of the Association, and new readers of the magazine.

#### *Type of Articles*

Some criticism has been offered that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* devotes itself to articles concerning business and scientific libraries and has very little on museum and other art libraries. As I see the problem there appears to be three possible solutions:

1. Have special subject issues, i.e., one issue devoted primarily to municipal reference libraries, another to art libraries, etc. *Library Journal* follows a somewhat modified policy, as often one issue is confined to problems of some particular kind of library (such as college and university libraries), or some special subject (such as library buildings). It does not do this regularly, however, and strikes a very fine balance when it does.
2. Establish more departments within the periodical, rotating when necessary. *Wilson Bulletin* has adopted a similar plan with its sections on School Libraries, Current Reference Books, Junior Librarians, etc. This policy is also good, provided it is not overdone.  
I think a compromise between the two systems could be used to advantage, i.e., to include some articles of general interest in each issue, combined with a definite rotation of articles on different kinds of special libraries, with sections when needed. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* does this to some extent at the present time, without the definite rotation and special section feature.
3. The third solution, which I believe to be the best one, is the increase of size of the magazine, which I shall take up in detail a little later.

#### *Special Departments and Features*

A new feature of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is the inclusion of "Library Magazine Articles of Interest." This is somewhat similar to the *Library Journal* feature published in every other issue entitled "Current Library Literature," although the latter is more comprehensive and arranged by subject.

Other columns and departments, such as "Letters to the Editor," etc., appear in similar form in all the other periodicals. I believe the Editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is to be especially commended for her good organization of departments which are readable, stimulating and up-to-date.

*Size, as Affected by Advertising and Other Revenue*

In regard to size, it is interesting to again compare our magazine with others. The *A.L.A. Bulletin*, without advertising, has an average of almost twice as many pages as *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* has had a decided increase in advertising during the past year, but has it increased its pages of reading matter in comparison? I believe not, proportionately.

It has been stated that limited revenue restrains the expansion of the magazine. Is this a necessity? I believe, with the growth of the special library field from nine types of special libraries in 1934 to fifteen in 1938, some ex-

pansion is necessary to meet the increased and varied needs of its readers. The magazine may not perhaps sufficiently represent the thoughts and growing trends of the profession.

SUMMARY

To summarize, I believe that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* very favorably compares with existing library periodicals, especially in its departments, contributors and general excellence of articles. Improvement could be made in make-up, including a definite increase in size, and in content distribution of articles.

These changes, however, are not up to the Editor entirely, but rather to the members of the Association as a whole. As Mr. T. V. Mounteer, a member of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, has stated: "No association journal can do more than reflect the collective state of mind of the membership, and no amount of coaxing and prodding by an editor, no matter how capable, can induce any different state of mind. It is the responsibility of the membership to make up its mind."<sup>1</sup>

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES And Why It Is So

*By Marian C. Manley, Editor*

**I**N Association activities, one of the most hopeful developments of 1938 has been the active interest shown in the problem of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. The Editor takes much pleasure in the fact that her suggestion, that a private letter, questioning editorial policies, be brought out of its retirement and published in "Letters to the Editor," should have led to so much interesting and constructive discussion. That a Chapter meeting should have been devoted to consideration of this major Association activity is particularly encouraging. The fine quality of the discussion there and its constructive nature as presented in the three papers preceding this, makes it feasible to take up our publishing and editorial problems in an informal and direct manner, — bringing out the minor complications that affect our work.

*Magazine income — Membership Dues.* This troublesome problem, after much spirited debate in executive sessions of the Board, has reached what seems a reasonable solution. The magazine now gets, as its revenue from the

Association, 20 per cent of the money paid by institutional and active members, and by subscribers. In other words, \$1.00 out of every \$5.00 in these classifications goes to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* and \$4.00 to the general activities of the Association. While it may seem surprising that the magazine, the most conspicuous single activity of the Association, can get along on such a small proportion of the funds, one must recall that an immeasurable amount of salaried time has been contributed annually by the organizations whose employees enjoy the professional pleasure of editing *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. Until this time S.L.A. has been fortunate in securing the coöperation of such institutions as the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and, for the last five years, the Newark Public Library, in allowing time for this editorial work and the necessary stenographic, filing, and other assistance. Whether the Association will find other organizations willing to co-

<sup>1</sup> Mounteer, T. V. It's Not Only the Magazine But the Association. *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, 29:56, February, 1938

operate on this basis or whether the time has come for the Association to assume full support of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, will be for the Board to ascertain as it arranges for the incoming Editor. At all events, at the moment, SPECIAL LIBRARIES receives from membership dues and subscriptions, \$1.00 for every \$5.00 paid to the Association, an arrangement that seems to this Editor, from an intensive knowledge of Association finances, all that is possible under present conditions.

*Income — Advertising.* All of the receipts from advertising have been credited to SPECIAL LIBRARIES. For the last several years this revenue has provided 50 per cent of the magazine's income, although it has averaged but 20 per cent of the magazine content. While that 80/20 ratio is still below the 50/50 or 40/60 or more of advertising in other magazines, it is a distinct advance from earlier years and reflects the intensive attention given that feature by the Editor and the Advertising Manager. For the last year the Editor has felt that enough progress has been made to enable her to leave such activities to the Advertising Manager. The rate of growth is indicated by these records:

YEARLY REVENUE FROM ADVERTISING	
1933 . . . . .	\$ 440.71
1934 . . . . .	622.81
1935 . . . . .	1,296.47
1936 . . . . .	1,707.26
1937 . . . . .	1,700.57
1938 . . . . .	1,254.58*

\* Eleven months.

*Expenditures.* With SPECIAL LIBRARIES income a modest \$3,000 as against, for example, the budgeted \$11,212 for the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, careful attention must be paid to details of make-up so as to provide for ease of reading, convenient use, and professional appearance, all at the smallest cost. The matters of glazed versus unglazed paper, size of type, arrangement on page, all have to do with ease of reading together with the best use of available space. Experiment and consultation led to the selection by the present editor of unglazed paper, 10 point double column make-up as the easiest on the eyes for general articles. Eight point for short notes such as "Letters to the Editor" and six point for book notes were

selected as practical and economical in space. Since every printed page represents the total yearly contribution of six or seven active members to the magazine, it behooves the Editor to see that the page carries material of equal value. The fact that each issue of the magazine derives in revenue from advertising the approximate contribution of 150 to 170 active members makes it possible to publish a magazine of reasonable size.

At times the advisability of adding a cover to SPECIAL LIBRARIES comes up for consideration. It would add to the magazine's attractiveness undoubtedly. Approximately the revenue from 150 active members for the year would be needed to carry the cost. Is it worth that to the members? If so, who will pledge themselves to secure the 150 members needed to provide a cover for SPECIAL LIBRARIES when so many other possibly more constructive, professional problems demand our help?

*Editorial Policies.* With an approximate schedule established for income and expenditures, the question of how best to use available space has been given careful consideration. The readers of SPECIAL LIBRARIES comprise three groups — active and institutional members, subscribers, and advertisers. The advertisers scan its pages to see if the reading matter is interesting to purchasers of their products. The subscribers, representing in general public and college libraries and some business houses, look for material on professional problems treated in a progressive specialized manner but applicable to general uses. The members range through the ten group classifications from science-technology to museums and from social sciences to commerce and newspapers. What possible professional matters can be considered that will be at least partially interesting to such a heterogeneous group?

It is this very element that has made the editing of SPECIAL LIBRARIES interesting. To dodge the Scylla of too much attention to one subject interest while avoiding the Charybdis of monotony presents fine problems of management. The Editor has gone blithely along feeling that it was better to have something that may relate to all in each issue rather than definitely exclude many readers by devoting special numbers to certain groups. By much correspondence with what seemed promising

possibilities, and a free expression of her own views and interests, she has endeavored to draw in new writers with vigorous points of view. As she believes that some controversial discussion is stimulating to constructive thought, she has taken pleasure in encouraging it whenever possible. Remembering that many people are slow to see the relations of many discussions to their problems, the Editor is not unduly disturbed by those who say "Why do we have this?" or "Why should we have that?" She knows there must be such comment in a group of mixed interests, unless all members are consistently open-minded and alert to new ideas.

The fact that after all our readers have a common subject of interest in methods, training, public relations, Association policies, job analysis is shown by the special articles in the 1938 issues for January to November. Of the 30 articles, 20 are related to problems of all types of libraries, the other 10 are more specifically interesting to five different groups. None of the articles are definitely exclusive in their content. Certainly readers of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* do not feel that an article on indexing must be labeled "Indexing for technical li-

braries" or one on professional preparation "Training for advertising libraries," before it can be grasped by a technical or an advertising librarian.

The Editor has held firmly to the policy of presenting Association problems for Association consideration and has seen that articles were prepared so that readers might have material on such problems immediately available. Her conviction that *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* should be a vehicle for frank and open discussion (hers as well as anybody else's) has borne fruit in the frequent vigorous notes in "Letters to the Editor" and in many of the general articles that have appeared. Through the whole-hearted cooperation that has developed, the pages of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* have grown more and more to reflect the real spirit of the Association — one of constructive, vitalizing progress shown in consistent effort toward our goal of entire success in "Putting Knowledge to Work."

*These four articles are part of the series of discussions of SPECIAL LIBRARIES problems and practices, that will be presented in the magazine as preparation for the appointment of the next Editor.*

## Letters to the Editor

### A Job Well Done

**T**HE *Professional School and Departmental Libraries Survey*, sponsored by the University and College Departmental Librarians Group, and prepared by Mr. Walter Hausdorfer, School of Business Library, Columbia University, has recently been completed, and is now offered for sale at 75¢ a copy, postpaid.

The purpose of the survey is to furnish information on special libraries within colleges and universities, in the light of existing practices in more than fifty libraries. Chapters include: Place of the collegiate and departmental library in the administrative organization, quarters and equipment, personnel, financial administration, acquisition, services, promotion, publicity, etc.

The ultimate goal of the Survey Committee is the preparation of a manual for departmental libraries, based on the information contained in the survey, as well as accepted criteria for college libraries. Purchasers are invited to send criticisms and suggestions on the survey to Mr. Hausdorfer.

Orders should be sent to Miss Marcella Hassel-

berg, Business Library, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. Make checks payable to Special Libraries Association.

DOROTHY W. DRAKE, *Chairman,*  
*University and College Departmental Librarians Group.*

### The Employment Committee Announces!

**A**S THE year's activities throughout the Association gather momentum, it is of interest to the membership to know the personnel of the Advisory Committee on Employment and of the Employment Chairmen of Chapters.

Since to Chapter representatives is entrusted not only the carrying out of policies and plans formulated by the Advisory Committee with the help of whatever advice and information as to conditions the regional Chairmen give us, but active interviewing and placement work, it is important for the membership to keep in touch with them, if they are wanting jobs or if they hear of job opportunities. In New York City, where interviewing and placement is too heavy to be carried by an individual librarian, it has been

delegated to the Professional Division of the New York State Employment Service, 79 Madison Avenue. Interviews are by appointment with Miss Harriet Houghton, telephone Lexington 2-8910.

The personnel of these two groups is as follows:

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

Mary Louise Alexander, High Ridge, Stamford, Conn.  
 Elizabeth Burrage, Administration Library, School of Commerce, Boston  
 Elizabeth Lois Clarke, Secretary, Special Libraries Association  
 Ethel M. Fair, Director, Library School, New Jersey College for Women  
 Agnes C. Hansen, Associate Director, Library School, Pratt Institute  
 Mary Jane Henderson, Sun Life Assurance Company, Montreal  
 Frances H. Kelly, Associate Director, Carnegie Library School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Linda K. Morley, Industrial Relations Counselors, Inc., New York  
 Hazel Eleanor Ohman, New York State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, New York City  
 Leona Powell, American Management Association, New York City  
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MARGARET BONNELL, *Chairman,*  
*Employment Committee.*

#### The Question of Advisory Boards

I HAVE recently received a petition addressed to the Executive Board of the Special Libraries Association, asking that the Editor of the magazine, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, be assisted by an Advisory Board. The petition struck me as being impertinent, impractical and the result of misinformation upon the part of the sponsors.

The present Editor of the magazine, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, has made it one of high calibre during her five years of service. It is not only a dignified publication, but it also holds admirably to its purpose of treating all phases of work and problems of concern to special librarians.

As an editor I can say from experience that a publication is more hindered than helped by an Advisory Board, harking back to the old saying that "Too many cooks spoil the soup." I am pretty sure that an Advisory Board would not only delay publication, but in the final analysis, so edit each contribution to the magazine that by the time it appeared in print, the entire point of the original article would have been so altered that not even the author could recognize it. In addition to this, it is likely that such a project would only tend to increase the cost of printing the magazine.

As far as "encouraging contributions from among the membership or from sources without the membership" (quoted from the petition), I believe that if the sponsors of the petition were to read the magazine carefully and acquaint themselves with its contents, they would find just that very thing is being done and has been done quite consistently in each issue. It makes me question whether they themselves have taken the trouble to send in contributions. If they would do this, I am sure they would find the Editor delighted to print them. A good editor, such as Miss Manley has proven herself over and over again, is quite capable of taking care of the editorship of the magazine, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, without the impediment of an Advisory Board.

JEROME IRVING SMITH, *Chairman,*  
*National Museum Group*

#### Books on India

THIS library has recently compiled a bibliography on India — the scope is limited as to date of publication, and it is not an exhaustive study. It is rather a list, with few exceptions, of books on India published from 1932 to the present

date, on which information was convenient. Notes of reviews and bibliographical details have been added when readily available. The material is subdivided into broad classifications. The material for this list was compiled largely from the following sources: Public Affairs Information Service, 1932-1938; Foreign Affairs (Council on Foreign Relations), 1932-1938; International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs), 1932-1938; Asia, 1938; Statesman's Year Book, 1938.

I have a small supply of these available should the readers of SPECIAL LIBRARIES require any.

MARY JANE HENDERSON, *Investment Librarian,*  
*Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.*

#### Attention, Please!

**D**URING the 30th Annual Convention of the Special Libraries Association outlines of a paper on Microphotography, prepared by Mr. Victor C. Showers of the Carnegie Library School of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, were distributed. Although the Association does not assume responsibility for errors appearing in that outline, it would like to correct a typographical error which appeared therein. The statement was made, "Forty books of 100,000 pages each can be microfilmed for \$6 or \$7; even lower unit costs possible if 20 copies of each book are wanted."

"Pages" in the above quotation should have read "words." At the same time it must be borne in mind that this relatively low cost for microfilm excludes the cost of labor and overhead and was meant for use, primarily, for scholastic enterprises.

The Committee on Microfilming and Documentation is compiling a list of places where microfilms can be obtained either in short strips, as copies of articles in periodicals, or commercial places where material is microfilmed under contract. The list will include, as far as possible, a scale of prices so that the microfilm user will have an opportunity to determine the approximate cost of a proposed microfilm job.

The committee is also working on methods for classifying, cataloging, and storing microfilms in a Special Library. Suggestions to this committee would be appreciated.

ROSS C. CIBELLA, *Chairman,*  
*Microfilming and Documentation Committee.*

#### COMMITTEE

Miss Sarah B. Pruden, National Oil Products Co., Harrison, N. J.

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Mrs. Julia L. Staniland, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. Mary A. Bennett, Columbia University Library, New York City

#### The Answer to "A Big Question"

**I**N THE October 1938 issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, page 260, M. F. Behar, Editor of the magazine *Instruments*, asks "Do special librarians know how to find information on the specialties to which their libraries are dedicated?" and he infers that he believes they do not, because one special librarian in one annual conference paper failed to mention one "how-to-find-it" compilation.

As author of that single instance of omission which unfortunately led Mr. Behar to rush into print with such a sweeping and rather unscientific conclusion, I regret very much that I was not afforded the courtesy of seeing his letter prior to publication, so that my rather simple answer to his "Big Question" might have stood side-by-side on the printed page.

In the first place, Mr. Behar seems to have misunderstood the occasion on which my paper "Delimiting the Library Field" (Proceedings of Special Libraries Association, Vol. 1, 1938, pp. 43-45) was presented. It was an informal ten-minute talk at a "Beginner's Clinic" before a general session of the Special Libraries Association Annual Conference. Obviously in a ten-minute talk one does not attempt to be encyclopaedic, nor, before a general audience, too specialized. Likewise, Mr. Behar misconstrued the subject of my paper which was not "How to Find Information" or even metallurgical information (in spite of that being my field) but rather, what types of and what minimum primary technical sources to gather around one if one is organizing a small technical library, say, for a consultant's office, dealing with several fields. As it is, I feared that my paper leant too heavily on the engineering side.

Since I was not talking of a metallurgical library exclusively nor attempting to list secondary sources, Mr. Rimbach's able compilation (with which I am perfectly familiar, having been one of those who answered his long questionnaire at the time he was compiling it), was advisedly omitted. The "Metallurgical Abstracts" of "Metals and Alloys" was also advisedly omitted in preference to "Journal of the Institute of Metals Abstracts" because (1) Metals and Alloys Abstracts go only as far back as 1929, because (2) they omit abstracts of patent literature, and (3) have an an-

nual and not too uniformly catalogued subject index whereas the English abstract journal has a semi-annual, uniform subject index and begins in 1909.

I do not believe with Mr. Behar that a knowledge of "how-to-find-it" compilations makes a librarian competent to find "it." However, as a demonstration to Mr. Behar and others that special librarians do know "how-to-find-it" sources, may I offer the following partial list from the "Librarian's Library" shelf of my special library:

- The Literature of Chemistry. Crane and Patterson. John Wiley, 1927, First Edition.
- The International Repertory of Centres of Chemical Documentation. *Industrial Chemist*, 11, Dec. 1935, 131, 479.
- Consumer Technical Information. Its Preparation and Distribution. Douty, D. E. *American Dyestuff Reporter*, 24, Dec. 2, 1935, No. 24, 676-680, 685-688.
- Metallurgical Literature and the Technical Library. Roberts, A. D. *Metallurgia*, 14, July 1936, No. 81, 77-78.
- Organisation of Information for Industry. The Industrial Library and Intelligence Service. Brightman, R. *Industrial Chemist*, v. 12, Sept. 1936, No. 140, pp. 396-400.
- How to Find Metallurgical Information. Rimbach, Richard. 1936.
- The Library in the Paper Industry and Related Fields. Casper, Corienne. *The Paper Industry*, v. 18, Jan. 1937, No. 10, pp. 829-832.
- Why Indexers Turn Gray. Crane, E. J. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry*, v. 15, April 20, 1937, No. 8, p. 175.
- Government Publications and Their Use. Schmeckebier, L. F. Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C., 446 pp., 1937.
- The Transliteration of Russian. Crane, E. J. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry* (News Ed.), v. 15, May 20, 1937, No. 10, pp. 230-231.
- The Use of a Modern Scientific Library. Dreaper, W. P. *The Chemical Age*, 37, Aug. 14, 1937, 946, p. 139.
- Selected Bibliography of Engineering Subjects. Engineers' Council for Professional Development, *Chemical & Metallurgical Engineering*, 44, Aug. 1937, 8, p. 445.
- The Extent to Which Scientific and Technical Literature Is Covered by Present Abstracting and Indexing Periodicals. Bradford, Dr. S. C. Paper read at 14th Annual Conference, 1937, of Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux held on Sept. 24-27, 1937. *Chemistry and Industry*, v. 56, Oct. 23, 1937, No. 43, pp. 947-951.
- The Rôle of Technical Information in Industrial Research and Development. Homer, C. E. and Hedges, E. S. International Tin Research and Development Council, Miscellaneous Publication No. 6, 1937.
- The Library as an Engineering Tool. Dexter, Gregory M. *Mechanical Engineering*, v. 59, Nov. 1937, No. 11, 845-848.
- The Utilization of Technical Literature by the Mining and Metallurgical Engineer. Whittemore, C. R. *Canadian Mining & Metallurgical*

*Bulletin*, Jan. 1938, No. 309; *Transactions*, v. 41, 1938, pp. 28-50.

Evaluation of Periodicals for Electrical Engineers. Dalziel, C. F. *The Library Quarterly*, University of Chicago Press, July 1937; *Electrical Engineering*, 57, March 1938, No. 3, 110-113.

The Literature of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Molstad, M. C. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry* (News Ed.), v. 16, April 10, 1938, No. 7, pp. 206-214.

Library Work—A Field for Standardization. Gaillard, John. *Industrial Standardization*, v. 9, June 1938, No. 6, 141-142.

In the Abstract. Crane, E. J. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry*, 16, June 20, 1938, No. 12, 353.

The Rôle of the Engineering Library. Craver, Harrison W. *Mining and Metallurgy*, 19, Aug. 1938, No. 380, pp. 357-358.

Market Research Sources. A Guide to Information on Domestic Marketing. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Domestic Commerce Series No. 55, 1938 Edition.

Library Guide for the Chemist. Soule, Byron A. McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1938.

In conclusion, perhaps Mr. Behar should be reminded that the special librarian is frequently not only a librarian, but either is or was also a practicing specialist in the field. Thus at INCO the librarians have been metallurgists and chemical engineers who have had 10 to 15 years practical experience in the industrial research field. "How-to-find-it" sources could scarcely be the measure of competency for such, actual knowledge of the subject matter, and ability to condense and interpret it being a better yard-stick. As one boss told a beginner "I don't care *how* you find it, as long as you *find* it!"

L. O. LEWTON, *Librarian,*  
*The International Nickel Co.*

### Who Shall Be What?

NOW is the time of year when it is necessary to take stock of ourselves and consider the qualifications for leadership among the members of the Association. The Nominating Committee has a serious responsibility to select officers who will carry on the work next year.

As a Committee to transact this important business it is impossible for us to have too much information in regard to our man- and woman-power, but if we pool our knowledge we will more easily arrive at a decision which will satisfy the membership in general. Will the members, as many of them as possible, please acknowledge this SOS by sending me suggestions which will help the Committee make up a new slate of officers to be voted upon at the next annual meeting?

MILDRED B. POTTER, *Chairman,*  
*Nominating Committee*

## Publications of Special Interest

**Brittain, Vera.** *Thrice a stranger.* Macmillan, N. Y. 1938. 435 p. \$2.50.

A discerning and sympathetic observer grows through homesick, thwarted loneliness to an informed understanding of the variations in the American temperament and the reasons therefor. Enjoyable account of country-wide travels on a lecture tour with some pungent and pertinent comments on "Rules for Chairmen." Delightful record of many contacts.

**Brown, C. and B.** *Salads and herbs.* Lippincott, N. Y. 1938. 274 p. \$1.75.

That something different needed by the garden and culinary artist. The intriguing descriptions of specific herbs and their possible uses are supplemented by groups of recipes for vegetable, fish and meat salads and stimulating suggestions for garnishing or other appetizing procedures.

**Carroll, M. J.** *Key to League of Nations documents placed on public sale 1934-1936.* Columbia Univ. Press, N. Y. 1938. 188 p. \$4.75.

With meticulous care and scholarly technique, Miss Carroll increases the ease with which the valuable source material in the extensive studies of the League of Nations may be available. Her introduction is a stimulating approach to the subject.

**Cary, A. L.** *Liners of the ocean highway.* Appleton, N. Y. 1938. 128 p. \$2.50.

Pictures of fifty or more liners in the 14,000 ton class, accompanied by condensed notes covering owner, construction and historic data. Includes brief description of several important steamship lines.

**Disher, M. W.** *Music hall parade.* Scribner, N. Y. 1938. 147 p. \$5.00.

The gay colorful story of English singing comedians from the early days of music clubs in many taverns through the Alhambra and Christmas pantomime period. Well illustrated with photographs and with colored reproductions of song sheets. Dan Leno, Vesta Tilley and countless others are mentioned in the sympathetic appreciative evaluation of a passing phase of entertainment.

**Downs, W. S.** *Who's Who in New York.* Lewis Historical Publishing Co., N. Y. 1938. 1325 p. \$10.00.

Another well-edited "Who's Who," that by virtue of its location gives needed information about many people and adds to the ease by which essential data may be located. Includes geographical but no occupational index.

**Fishback, Margaret.** *Safe conduct.* Modern Age Books, Inc., N. Y. 1938. 208 p. 75¢.

A little book that with wit, gaiety and understanding suggests the accepted ways of "polite society." The author writes of other books on etiquette with breezy frankness and shows the sensible yet thoughtful way to treat a thousand different social episodes.

**Fuller, C. A.** *Air conditioning.* Henley Pub. Co., N. Y. 1938. 577 p. \$4.00.

A clear, well-edited and specific treatment, that will help in a real understanding of a term blithely tossed about with little actual comprehension. Definitions are carefully worked out. Good illustrations and charts are used. An appendix

discusses city building codes and their relation to this development. A sound and useful book in its field.

**Greenwall, H. J.** *Face of France.* Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y. 1938. 268 p. \$2.50.

A delightful book, full of the underlying color and spirit of France and not burdened with factual data. Paris to Marseilles, Mont St. Michel or Avignon, the author wanders and comments with understanding and appreciation.

**Halsey, G. D.** *How to be a leader.* Harper, N. Y. 1938. 219 p. \$2.50.

Another book on self development well arranged, and analyzed with many suggestions for further reading. Specific and practical in treatment, on the whole a good workman-like job if not too inspiring.

**Hambidge, Gove.** *Six rooms make a world.* Whitelesey House, N. Y. 1938. 338 p. \$2.50.

A philosophy of living related to the spiritual significance of the functions of different rooms. Thoughtful essays touching on many human relationships, with a particularly satisfying note on the fundamental companionship of marriage in "Twentieth Anniversary."

**Horvath, A. A.** *Soy bean industry.* Chemical Pub. Co., N. Y. 1938. 221 p. \$4.00.

The remarkable growth of the industry in the last 30 years makes this book by an expert in the field particularly useful. The various chemical changes produced in soy bean oil manufacture and needed for its use are noted at length. The wide range of opportunity for development are indicated. A bibliography is included.

**Howes, Durward, ed.** *America's young men.* American Publications, Inc., Los Angeles. 1938. 654 p. \$10.00.

By the exclusion of all over forty, this third edition conforms more strictly to the title and makes the publication more thoroughly an indication of the man power to come. The occupational index shows closer subdivision, all in all, this continues to be an excellent tool for many uses.

**Kahn, H. S.** *New business opportunities for today.* Harper, N. Y. 1938. 136 p. \$1.50.

An enlivening little volume full of practical suggestions based on more or less need for capital. Suggestions are in related groups under household services, education, business service, book field, etc. The idea of selling business information is only one of the many that would have possibilities.

**Kurtz, R. H.** *Public assistance worker.* Russell Sage Foundation, N. Y. 1938. 225 p. \$1.00.

A condensed approach to the problems of the novice in public assistance work, giving an excellent brief résumé of the development of public assistance work, a good discussion of the psychological problem faced in dealing with individual cases and a fine bibliography for further reading.

**Lathrop, Elise.** *Old New England churches.* Tuttle, Rutland, Vt. 1938. 171 p. \$3.00.

Charming pencil sketches of the earliest churches with piquant selections from historical records giving the details of establishment, notes on the relationship between clergy and the laity and incidents of parish discipline. List of sources included.

Lingenfelter, M. R. *Books on wheels*. Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y. 1938. 147 p. \$1.50.

An entertaining sketch, which slips a good deal of library terminology and activity into a mild love story. Indicates the fascinating possibilities of one kind of library work. Includes glossary, list of library schools and short list of suggestions for further reading.

Lord, Russell. *Behold the land*. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. 1938. 310 p. \$3.00.

A stirring, disturbing yet hopeful book in which the vital importance of land conservation is made clear to laymen and through which its fundamental place in our future may be fully grasped from country-wide presentations. Fine illustrations. Good reading list included.

MacCampbell, Donald. *Selling what you write*. Crowell, N. Y. 1938. 221 p. \$2.00.

A most satisfactory book on writing for sales. From self discipline to contracts with agents, it covers the factors involved in a writing livelihood in a sane, invigorating manner. Excellent lists included of markets, agents, and well-selected texts on writing. Its treatment of editorial problems and practices is particularly good.

MacKay, Ruth. *Money without men*. Farrar & Rinehart, N. Y. 1938. 239 p. \$1.90.

A witty but extremely practical and pertinent little book in which the whys and wherefores of wills, insurance, investment policies and the general machinery of personal finance are presented ably and graphically. One book that should be required reading as soon as individual responsibilities are assumed. Many definitions are included.

McLaughlin, G. E. *Growth of American manufacturing areas*. Bureau of Business Research, Pittsburgh. 1938. 358 p. \$3.00.

While primarily a study of the relations of Pittsburgh's growth to the growth of other industrial areas, the excellent charts, tables and text present valuable data in a clear and practical form. A fine picture of growth. Bibliography included.

Moore, Jane. *Cityward migration; Swedish data*. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1938. 140 p. \$2.00.

An erudite study based on Swedish statistical records, including many compilations. The methodology might be a model to be followed for studies here, were such data ever kept. The preface by Dr. Ogburn stresses the value such studies will have in the long run.

Newdigate, Bernard. *The art of the book*. Studio, N. Y. 1938. 104 p. \$4.50.

The period from 1928 to 1938 considered carefully for type faces, page design, papers and binding. Many beautiful illustrations from examples by fine printers included. Some notes on recent presses and leading figures in the world of print.

O'Brien, E. V. *So I went to prison*. Stokes, N. Y. 1938. 282 p. \$2.50.

An engrossing yet restrained picture of prison life by a cultivated woman of exceptional background. The objective way in which she treats her own experiences and those of others helps to show the various effects produced by prison life and the detrimental or advantageous results of certain phases.

Ormsbee, Helen. *Backstage with actors*. Crowell, N. Y. 1938. 343 p. \$3.50.

A fresh yet selective record of acting history on the English and American stage particularly skillful in presenting the actor's psychology and using outstanding leaders of different generations to illustrate developments. Includes much interesting material on theatrical techniques of different epochs. Many fine photographs included.

Reis, Claire. *Composers in America*. Macmillan, N. Y. 1938. 270 p. \$3.50.

A biographical dictionary of contemporary composers who live and have done much of their work in America. Gives many degrees, awards and notes on principal productions. Compositions are listed, giving playing time, publisher and date. The arrangement brings out the marked effect radio production and film music can have in offering opportunities. A valuable and well-prepared handbook.

Shanks, Edward. *My England*. Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y. 1938. 307 p. \$2.50.

A meditation on England that dwells on the idiosyncracies and special phases that go to make up the English psychology. The obvious and the factual data are excluded, but their place is taken by much incidental material that throws light on English character. Well written and illustrated.

Slater, J. R. *Recent literature and religion*. Harper, N. Y. 1938. 237 p. \$2.00.

A series of lectures in which a fine understanding considers the extent to which some sense of religion exists in current literature. Works by Walpole, Galsworthy, Wells, Virginia Woolf, Thornton Wilder, Edward Arlington Robinson are noted for their implications. A fine sensitive and strengthening study.

Straus, M. W. & Wegg, Talbot. *Housing comes of age*. Oxford Univ. Press, N. Y. 1938. 259 p. \$2.75.

A comprehensive discussion of the government's housing program with details on its growth, procedure, methods of discovering needs and values, and problems that must be met. Includes a list of PWA Federal Housing projects with descriptive data including rents. Gives forms used in gathering needed information. A straightforward and clear study well illustrated.

Walker, M. L. *Urban blight and slums*. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge. 1938. 442 p. \$4.00.

A fine and comprehensive study of the problem including chapters by authorities, such as Henry Wright. Analyses of data already assembled, surveys of cities to discover extent of actual work to stop blight, tables, charts, studies of European approaches to the same problem and detailed considerations of all phases involved distinguish this noteworthy text. Bibliography included.

Wigmore, J. H. *Panorama of the world's legal systems*. Washington Law Book Co., Washington. 1206 p. \$6.00.

A one-volume reprint of the original 3-volume set that gives an illuminating and impressive picture of the development of the world's legal systems from early Egypt to the present English law. Fine illustrations and many references to further reading.

Wiseman, Mark. *Before you sign the advertising check.* Harper, N. Y. 1938. 115 p. \$2.50.

An engineering approach to advertising problems, lucid, analytical and with excellent illustrations of the various points.

Woytinsky, W. S. *Labor in the United States.* Social Science Research Council, Washington. 1938. 333 p. \$3.50.

An exhaustive analysis and reclassification of 1930 census figures to serve as an example whereby 1940 census figures might be better adapted to the needs of the Social Security Act. Tables, charts and special studies included. A revealing and impressive attack on this problem.

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