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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

"PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK"

VOLUME 24

MARCH, 1933

NUMBER 2

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

MARCH, 1933

Volume 24

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Number 2

What Do You Mean by Practical Classification?

By HENRY E. BLISS

WHEN I was asked recently why special librarians are especially interested in classification, I replied that it is because they are more positively serving definite purposes. Readers and inquiries in special libraries have indeed definite purposes. They are not playing with books or with ideas; they are working with facts and with knowledge. They know what they want; they know what they don't know but want to know.

So their librarians are put to it. These inquirers do not want catalogs and bibliographies for themselves; they want either the very books or pamphlets, or the clippings, or the facts. Sometimes they know the books they want, or just their titles — or something like them; or just the authors' names — or something like them. The librarians may take to the catalogs and bibliographies for them. Cataloging of such material for such demands is laborious and unsatisfactory. Corporate and title entries are so often baffling; subjects in a catalog are so complicated, and terms are so various. But the subject is the basis of the quest. Subject-classification and indexing of terms are the emphatic requisites. The classification, however, must be "practical"; it must fit the purposes and serve the needs. It must functionally organize the knowledge of the field, and it must function so as to furnish not only specific material for penetrating search that looks into matters, but also broad views for circumspect minds that look about and ahead.

How are these matters related to our interests, they inquire. What movements or tendencies in contiguous fields are likely to affect our undertakings? What are the indicative facts? What principles apply? What opinions dominate? Therefore special information should be systematized and related to general knowledge. This is true for the business manager as well as for the research technologist and for the director of a museum. What is the subject in the system of classification? What is the term in the schedule, and in the index? This is the first test of efficiency. To meet it the system should have the relevant subjects under the established and current terms in an order relevant to the dominant interests, with a correlative notation and with an index referring from the alphabetic to the systematic order. The system should fit the library both in size and in subject-matter. It should be neither alien to the type nor conglomerate nor over-elaborate. And of course the books and other materials should actually be classified according to the system, by their very subjects, tho adapted to the dominant interests. This is what I mean by practical classification and by functional organization. Is it what you mean, too?

Librarians have been wont to contrast practical with theoretical, or scientific, or logical classification. They have been indoctrinated with the false supposition that

the order, or disorder, of subjects matters little, provided there is an alphabetic index to the correlative notation. This "subject-index illusion" would be true only where subjects are unrelated to other subjects. Otherwise you might as well have an alphabetic order of subjects and discard the index. But most subjects are not isolated specialties, nor disconnected fragments, and they should not be so treated in classification or in subject-cataloging.

Alphabetic indexing of subjects by terms is one thing and has its place, but subject-classification of books and other materials is quite another thing. Locating subjects in a schedule by means of a notation is very different from actual grouping of books etc. If such subjects as Money, Finance, Banking, and Credit are not collocated in the schedules and on the shelves, no alphabetic index, referring from M, F, B, and C, will bring those books together in classification. Practical classification implies logical subordination and collocation for ready convenience of readers and librarians. It is not practical in the better sense to be illogical and in disorder.

Another misconception regarding practical classification for libraries is that the efficiency of standard systems depends upon their elaborateness. It does in a measure, but it depends more on whether the detail is relevant to your interests. And, even when detail is relevant, there are limits to available specification. Where subjects are discrete, minute specification may be practical indeed. In a horticultural library it would probably pay to specify for the Tree-peony (*P. moutan*), though most of the material will be in the books on Peonies more generally. But, where subjects are implicated, as are Money and Currency, and (for a better instance) as are atoms and electrons in recent physics, it may not be feasible to separate the different subject-matters. Where a subject-catalog has part of the subject under A and part under E, not to mention the other implicated terms, e.g. *protons, alpha-particles, beta-particles, negative rays*, etc., the *See also* references are indeed requisite, and multifarious. For classification they would be requisite too, and would be rather impractical. A broader caption, e.g. *Atoms and Electrons, Constitution*, etc., would be more efficient for most uses. But, if distinguished, the subjects should certainly be closely collocated.

Where detail is *not* relevant to your interests, it is just so much useless incumbrance. In a schedule made for a large library of another type much of the elaboration may be useless for your library, and it may even be needless to any library. Generally, to adopt all the expanded detail of another library is less practical than to compile a new schedule that provides especially for your own library's probable requirements. Special librarians more than others become classification-conscious. They find that adopting an alien classification does not altogether solve their problems. They must adapt, omit, transfer, refer, insert, expand, in short, compile their own schedule. So every special librarian should be somewhat of a classification "expert," both as regards methods and specialization. Where specification in schedule-making professes to serve a constituency of specialists, certain of these may well be called upon for collaboration, or at least for revision. It is well to have the revision prior rather than subsequent in fault-finding — after the books have been classified. Moreover, special knowledge on the part of a librarian should avail to gain the respect of the revising specialists and later of the criticizers. To master and adapt an elaborate classification is no less an undertaking than to make a better one, and it requires hardly less knowledge of the field. Classifiers should be trained to this ability. It would be a distinct credit to librarianship, and to library schools.

Making classifications, however, may well be coöperative. To place the "right"

subjects under the current terms in the relevant order implies knowledge of standards. There should be a standard schedule and code for each distinct field, and this should be on a cooperative basis. The term standard is relative. It implies relation and adaptation to special requirements. Standards may be special, or national, or international, or all of these at once. But in any case they should be adaptable to more special or local needs. There is a great lack of adaptable standard classifications for libraries. This statement may shock some traditions and doctrines, but consider — are the makeshifts in vogue really standards? Are they typical? Are they practical in the sense here defined? Are they economically adaptable? Are they progressive? Expansibility is not the same thing. But there is hardly any question that there should be adaptable, expansible, progressive standards, cooperatively developed.

It might be of interest to the readers of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* to present in a subsequent issue a brief outline, description, and comparison of a special classification of a most difficult subject — with regard to efficiency and applicability. This would offer classifiers an opportunity to consider what they mean by practical classification, and what this classifier means by it.

The New D. C.—A Critical Review

By ELIZABETH S. RADTKE

Queens Borough Public Library

WITH the continuous re-editing of the Dewey Decimal Classification it should gradually evolve into a nearly perfect tool. Its simple notation permitting expansion, its mnemonic features, its relative index have long been considered virtues. But each succeeding edition has its own sins of commission and of omission, and some of these, in the 13th edition, may jeopardize its ultimate salvation.

There is evident purpose to modernize and bring up to date some of the classes in departments of knowledge which have not been expanded in recent editions. The first noteworthy one is the expansion of the tables in Psychology, especially in the alternative scheme which is an entirely new contribution. This latter scheme has been approved by the American Psychological Association, and as a systematic outline of the subject it is unquestionably an improvement.

The chief objection which has generally been raised to this scheme since its issuance is the length of the notation which makes it almost prohibitive for public library use. Since the editors of the present edition state that the alternative scheme is for those libraries "preferring to use a scheme based on current lines of thought," they evidently did not intend that the two psychology schemes would be used at one time in the same library. It would, therefore, have been possible to develop the alternative scheme on the basic number 15 instead of 159.9, as suggested by Miss Rathbone in the recent panel discussion of the N. Y. Regional Catalogue Group. This would reduce the notation two figures at once. For example, the subject of the possibility of choice relative to the question of the freedom of the will would be:

159.124	Old scheme
159.947224	Alternative scheme
154.7224	New scheme on basic number 15

The last number is one figure longer than the number of the old scheme, two shorter than the new, but has the advantage of being based on an expansion according to modern knowledge of the subject.

Commerce and Communication — 380 — has been again expanded so that the economic and political aspects of these subjects are now well covered. It is to be regretted that the numbers in 650 which are assigned to the technical side of these subjects have not been expanded at all. The technically important subject of Transportation is still without subdivision.

The highest percentage increase occurs in the class of Science. Miss Fellows has stated that there is a 95% increase in the expansions. Unfortunately there is not 1% change or increase in Mathematics. There are few, if any, of the new theories in Physics and Physical Chemistry that have been incorporated in the tables. Of course these theories, e.g. theory of relativity, wave mechanics, theories relating to the constitution of matter — electrons, atoms, protons, etc., are in a state of development and change. The quantum theory and the theory of relativity are given the number 530.1 in the index, but they are not given in the main tables of Physics.

One of the longest expansions is in Botany. All the sections in Systematic Botany have been expanded. In the general library the long numbers will probably not be used, but the classifications are helpful in making the proper assignment of specific subjects within the larger group.

There is a smaller percentage of increase in the classes in the Useful Arts as several of these have been enlarged in recent editions. There is, however, an elaborate expansion under Radio. This subject has become one of importance during the past ten years, and it was to be expected that its expansion would be complex. In its present form the notation is extremely forbidding. Books treating of very specific topics on radio do come from the press. To classify Balbi's "Loud Speakers" one must use the number 621.38413643. A book on the superheterodyne would be in the number 621.3841366232. It has been suggested that a letter be introduced into the notation to stand for the basic number of the subject. This was done in the Radio classification issued by the Bureau of Standards which is based on the decimal system of Dewey. To use a letter in the notation destroys its simple character, and before such a modification is made some agreement should be reached with the editors of the classification.

Two other important subjects enlarged in this edition are Aeronautics and Automobiles. The number 629.13 was taken as the basis for the new expansion in Aeronautics. For a special library that desires a very detailed classification by type of aircraft, provision is made to keep all structural and other details under each type. It would be possible to classify the shock absorbers of a heavier than air machine by using the number 629.133343844, but the classifier, himself, might have to be resuscitated if suddenly called upon to give this class number. Nevertheless, for a research library or for a library using a classified catalog and having shorter numbers for location, this provision might prove a satisfactory one.

The number for Automobiles has hitherto scarcely served the purpose of aiding in the location of material on the open shelf. Some further subdivision was desirable, and has now been made. In this expansion provision is made as in aeronautics for all material on a special type of motor, e.g. steam, electric, internal combustion or rocket propulsion, to be kept together. If this policy is followed however there results again a long classification number.

In the Business class the longest expansion is under Shorthand. A fuller expansion

will be furnished for the cost of making carbon copies. One question why this class was so minutely expanded when other classes so much more needed by a greater number of libraries have remained untouched.

One of the greatest disappointments is the omission of any expansion under 660 — Chemical Technology. The classifier is still compelled to classify many chemical industrial processes, e.g. vaporization, evaporation, filtration and filters, drying machines in the pure science numbers under 542 Practical and experimental chemistry. Catalysis has a number in botany and pure chemistry, but no place for treatises on its widely growing use in the chemical industries.

There is that same annoying number 679 "Celluloid and other" typical of the many "and other" numbers. Here one classifies buttons, flour manufacture, mother-of-pearl, tobacco manufacture and tobacco pipes, ivory supply.

The Fine Arts appear to have been entirely neglected except for some expansion in Music. The arts and crafts under 740 have not been enlarged, and as an outstanding example the Photography number 770 might be cited as a class in need of expansion. A comparison of this subject with the schedules in the Library of Congress classification will show how far short it is of present needs. Photostats is not in the index, though many libraries as well as commercial concerns have been operating photostat departments for a number of years.

Literature is also a classification problem. It is the practice of some libraries to group national literatures by their literary form instead of following the order in the D. C. Such arrangement brings 811, 821, 831, on the shelves together forming a poetry collection, or 812, 822, 832 a drama collection. This is easily accomplished in the Classification Décimale Universelle by combining the number for Literature, 8, with the form number followed by the geographic subdivisions, e.g.

8-1(42)	English poetry	8-1(44)	French poetry
8-1(43)	German poetry	8-1(73)	American poetry

An interesting scheme for regrouping literature according to form and history and travel according to countries or localities has been presented by Mr. Thomas S. Dabagh.*

In this 13th edition, the D. C. seems to have lost its equilibrium. Rather than such minute indexing in a few subjects a slower advance over a wider front would have been more satisfactory. If numbers like 656 Transportation, 792 Theatre and 770 Photography had been further subdivided, even if only one more point, there would be a better balanced scheme for practical work in a public library. It is only for the purpose of bibliographical classification that there is justification for carrying an expansion to the point of supplying a terminology or nomenclature with a number for almost every word.

The editors have announced that there is an increase of 11,500 new entries in the index. Many new terms have been introduced, but the chief increase appears to be due to the double reference to subjects in the two schemes of psychology. The simplified spelling used somewhat erratically also accounts partially for the voluminous index. For example, it takes three index lines to refer from Mythical, Mythology, Myths, to Mithical, Mithology, Miths.

The tables in the Index have been enlarged. Table 11, formerly Form divisions, now appears under the broader heading Common subdivisions. It provides for ex-

* *Wilson Bulletin for Librarians*, February, 1933, p. 358-362.

tended expansion under any class where these numbers have not previously been appropriated. This tabulation illustrates the types of new subdivisions:

000	Miscellaneous common subdivisions		
	e.g.	00038	Patents
		0004	Language in which written
00	Viewpoints		
	e.g.	001	Speculative point of view
		003	Economic point of view
0	Form divisions		
	e.g.	012	Classification
		074	Museums Exhibits
		085	Commercial publications relating to a subject

The Common subdivisions are mainly taken from the Classification Décimale Universelle.

There are some other features of the Classification Décimale Universelle which might have been incorporated in the D. C., notably, the inclusion of more explanations at the beginning of classes and subdivisions, definitely clarifying the extent and the limits of the subjects. This delimiting of each subject with examples of those subjects which should be classified elsewhere is used to some degree in Dewey, but a comparison with the Classification Décimale Universelle in any class will show that more explanatory information is given in the latter.

Miss Fellows, in a recent number of the *Library Journal*, stated what appears to be a much desired policy for users of the Classification. She writes, "If demand warrants, expansions prepared for special subjects between publication of editions of full D. C. will be made available in carbon, multigraph or print (according to extent of demand) at approximate cost of making copies. Correspondence from persons interested is invited."

At the 1932 meeting of the New York Library Association held at Lake Placid there was a conference attended by representatives from the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation and those specially interested in the use of the Classification. It was decided that an A. L. A. committee should work with the Foundation with the intent of making the usefulness of the D. C. to American libraries the paramount consideration. This is a basis for coöperation which may ultimately solve all difficulties.

The present classification could be developed for the purpose of grouping literature in book and pamphlet form, leaving the bibliographical classification developed along detailed lines to the Classification Décimale Universelle.

Notes by a British Librarian On the Library of Congress Classification Scheme

By GEORGE H. BUSHNELL, Librarian

University of St. Andrews, Scotland

THE Library of Congress Classification Scheme was designed to satisfy that Library's own requirements and without direct deference to its possible adoption by and in other libraries. This fact has been emphasized by Mr. Charles Martel and others concerned in its design and also incidentally, by protagonists of other schemes. Thus I am glad to take advantage of the opportunity offered to me of writing a few words about the adoption of the L. of C. Scheme in some British University Libraries.

Until about twelve years ago my own knowledge of the scheme was purely theoretical. That is to say, I had read various accounts of it, had inspected one or two of its printed schedules, and so on, but I had never tested its value in the only really satisfactory way, by making daily use of it in a library. About the year 1920 it was decided to re-classify and re-catalog the Library of Birmingham University, and the L. of C. Scheme was adopted. At that time I was Senior Assistant in that Library, and I may say at once that I was not without qualms about the adoption of L. of C. In common with many other librarians of that day (and of this) I felt that D. C., in spite of the shortcomings which all of us recognize, was more easy of application, comprehension and expansion than L. of C. A year later I was indeed glad that we had adopted the L. of C. Scheme. More, I speedily became quite as enthusiastically in favor of it as were its keenest supporters anywhere. And this was the genuine result of daily use of those amazingly detailed, amazingly learned, yet wonderfully simple schedules published by L. of C. Time after time I compared and contrasted 'places' in the L. of C. with Dewey and 'Brussels,' and, from the standpoint of users of a University Library, the decimal classifications hardly ever provided so satisfactorily for the works with which I was dealing. That, of course, was the opinion I myself reached, and I fully realize that many librarians would not share it.

For about four years I, with others, made almost daily use of the L. of C. Schedules at Birmingham University. During that time I became so thoroughly convinced of its suitability and value in University Libraries, both by my own observation and consideration, and by the comments of many of those using the Library, that on my appointment, in 1924, as University Librarian at St. Andrews, I was able to secure authority to entirely re-classify the Library of Scotland's oldest University on the L. of C. Scheme.

The program embarked upon at St. Andrews was perhaps one of the most comprehensive ever adopted in a large and ancient library. It included building operations of various kinds, completely re-cataloging the Library, classifying the Library, allocation of the book funds, adoption of the open-access system, and complete reorganization of administrative methods; all these, with other minor details, to be carried out simultaneously. St. Andrews, by reason of its great age; by reason of the fact that it was formerly a 'copyright' library; and by reason of the scrupulous care which in the

past, as in the present day, has ever attended its book-selection, is an exceedingly rich library: rich in the sense that it possesses very large stores of periodical literature in all departments, many rarities, and most of the 'source-collections' essential to scholars, as well as the text-books needed by students. In a word, the scholar here enjoys the advantages which in some libraries, by reason of their youth or lack of funds, are the province of the student alone.

To classify such a library on any scheme would be a difficult task, so much is obvious to everyone. To classify it usefully on any scheme other than L. of C., without endless expenditure of labor and time in making new places, would, I think, be well-nigh impossible. Again I realize that my opinion, although it would be seconded by many eminent scholars and librarians, would not be upheld by supporters of other schemes. But at least it must be admitted that a scheme which can be as successfully adopted in an ancient library as in a modern, both of them aiming at the highest service to education and culture, cannot lightly be ignored, and certainly cannot be condemned, even by the most vigorous opponent, — except to his own detriment.

So much for general terms. Now for a few more specific points. In the first place I suggest that no scheme should be adopted in any library in its entirety. The librarian should be an artist, who, having the enormous advantage of a good palette of colors, should be able to produce a masterpiece, not merely an impression of the palette on his canvas. The latter is the province of the veriest tyro and is certainly not what one expects of a librarian in these days. Only by moulding the scheme — be it which it may — to the library, not the library to someone else's scheme, can the librarian hope to make the most of either. Why, then, adopt someone else's scheme at all? For the obvious reason that, having a good scheme — or box of colors, to continue the analogy, — at hand, few of us have the time, the necessary assistance, or the desire (to be quite frank), either to set about the compilation of a scheme of the detail and proportions of the L. of C. or to make our own colors and brushes.

Secondly, and this, to some extent, is critical of the scheme, there are several points in which it lacks coherence in its present arrangement, in so far as the teaching in this University is concerned. Thus BX, which is the history of special sects and denominations, we treat as a continuation of BR, General Church History, although in the tables BS-BV intervene. CN, not yet, I think, completed, is Inscriptions, but few classical scholars would be happy without their Latin Inscriptions and Greek Inscriptions in PA, which is Greek and Latin. We go further, and in PA put a selection of works on Ancient Geography, Ancient Philosophy, Ancient History, Classical Bibliography and so on. Z, which is Bibliography, is indeed ignored, except for general works in any shape or form. That is, we put the bibliography of a subject with the subject, not in Z. Again CT, Biography, is used only for general works. Provision is made in each section for biographies and is always used in place of the CT number. GB, Physical Geography, is used, but is placed on the shelves next to QE. Geology, where, from our point of view, it is of far more use. GN, Anthropology, is annexed to QM, Anatomy, for the reason that it forms part of the Anatomy course. Constitutional History is, we find, sometimes happier in D, History, than in J, Political Science, but not always. Agriculture, assigned the class-letter S in the scheme, is, on our shelves, sandwiched between QK, Botany, and QL, Zoölogy, — it has affinities with both and is not here taught separately. Some of the subdivisions of T, Technology, as, for instance, TK, Electrical Engineering, are placed on shelves adjoining QC, Physics, and so on. Some of the books, which, according to the printed tables

would be satisfactorily placed in U, Military Science and V, Naval Science, we place in D, History instead, retaining U and V for generalities. PZ, Fiction and Juvenile, is used for the latter only, it being impossible to separate fiction from literature. For many public libraries acquiring vast stocks of present-day novels (of which we have practically none) no doubt PZ is a very useful class.

In about six out of every twelve doubtful cases L. of C. provides alternatives, thereby considerably reducing one's work in selecting most suitable places. Personally I regard no classification as final, but only as the best possible arrangement in the circumstances and at the time. Thus, just as it is impossible to reply to the absurd question, "When will your Catalog be finished?", so it should be realized that classification is never finished. Already some of the schoolbooks of our grandfather's days are almost purely of interest as a literature-group rather than as educational works. Some of them even now should be classified in PR or PS, English or American Literature, and not in L, Education. Scholarship and learning do not stand still for an hour, — how, then, can any classification either of books or knowledge be final and permanent? Some of the great scientists of today, whose works we regularly (and reasonably) place in the Science groups, may, in less than half a century, be regarded rather as men of letters than men of science. Will Darwin ultimately take a place in GN, Anthropology and Ethnology, instead of in QH, Biology? Will the biographies of many of the leading statesmen of today be classified, in twenty years' time, with the history of their respective countries, or together as humanitarians and peace-promoters? By that time or not long after, we may have an International Country, or rather State, the combination of many of our present nationalities, — so who can say? The radio receiving set of today may only be a child's toy in the next generation.

It is clear, then, that, whatever scheme of classification one may adopt, its application is a purely tentative affair, not a final assigning of a book to a certain place. I may be wrong, but I think it is precisely in this respect that L. of C. stand head and shoulders above some of the other schemes. It seems to me that in its tables I see a very definite realization of the vagaries and developments of that ever-turning wheel of learning. It is not, it could not be, a perfect scheme, but if it has absorbed the lessons of human history a little more thoroughly than have other schemes, if it is likely to prove, as the years roll by, less and less a 'dated' scheme and more and more, like the world itself, an affair of almost infinite and unlimited possibilities, are we not wise in welcoming and utilizing it?

What Is Classification?

CLASSIFICATION is something very different from, and much wider than notation; indeed, as Richardson said, classification is a microcosm of all knowledge, and notation is only a shorthand abbreviation of classification terms. In simpler words a classification system is a map of things which have being — that have existed, will exist or may exist — and which may therefore form the subject of books or any other material which it may be desirable to arrange

— From "Cannons of Classification."
by W. C. Berwick Sayers

Building a List of Subject Headings

By HARRIET D. MacPHERSON

School of Library Service, Columbia University

LIBRARIANS, and particularly librarians of special libraries, as well as compilers of standard subject heading lists, are often confronted with the problem of building lists of subjects to fit the needs of particular institutions. Even with as many excellent lists as exist at the present time, any but the very small public, school, or special library must be constantly in need of some special headings, some new cross references, or adaptations of terms already included in one of the standard lists. Thus most libraries virtually build their own lists in time, and for this reason it is important that there be kept somewhere a complete file of the subjects and cross references in use in each institution. Sometimes this is done by checking in the standard list which has been followed most closely, but generally a separate list on cards is found to be more practicable. This can be added to, changed, and depleted without troubling the looks of any printed volume, and is always a clearer record for assistants to consult.

At the present time, with such satisfactory lists as the Library of Congress, and the Sears, upon which to draw, to say nothing of various indexes on special topics, it would seem foolish for any library, however special, to build a new subject list entirely of its own making. It is far better to start with a list like the Library of Congress as a basis, and to diverge from that when necessary. In a library in an extremely limited field it might seem wiser to start with a well-known index such as The Industrial Arts Index or the Index Medicus and develop a list from that. Whatever the starting point, the librarian in charge of the work will want to consult other sources for specialized subjects; often technical dictionaries, recent books in the same field, or the book in hand itself, for a term which is too new or too little known to have crept into a special index, and still less into a printed subject heading list.

In building any subject heading list, or, indeed, in diverging even slightly from an accepted list, there are certain problems which are inevitable. Of these, by far the most important would seem to be: a choice of the best term, a constant striving for consistency, and the matter of cross references. Once the policy of the library has been determined upon, the struggle for developing a good list generally centers around these three considerations.

In attempting to choose the best term possible the librarian must consider his library and his clientele. In a technical library the more exactly scientific the term chosen, the more likely it is to prove satisfactory for the persons using the catalog. In a juvenile catalog the term Coleoptera would certainly not be as acceptable as Beetles, while in the medical library Poliomyelitis would be preferable to Infantile paralysis. Therefore the most suitable term would in each case prove the best term only for that particular library; one cannot state that it would prove the best for all libraries. Institutions that are, in general, following a list like that of the Library of Congress might therefore be justified in substituting other terms than those given. Whether these would prove more or less technical would depend entirely upon the nature of the institution.

The striving for consistency is one difficulty which confronts any subject header. It is not entirely confined to so-called builders of subject headings. Sometimes the problem goes back to the printed list which is being most closely followed; for under a particular heading the compiler may have neglected to state whether or not the subject may be divided geographically or in any way whatsoever. The subject header searches in vain for a possible clue, and finally has to make up his own mind. Very often the final decision rests on whether or not a term of equal importance, probably in the same field, has been indicated as a possibility for subdivision. Another trying situation is in regard to direct or indirect geographical subdivision of any term. Generally the point is covered by a rule, but often examples have to be searched for which may be deemed similar, and the final decision rests with the individual subject header. It is to be hoped that the next person handling a similar subject will think and decide along the same lines. Then in the case of voluminous subjects like Education or Engineering, a large special library devoted to that particular field will undoubtedly have several drawers with the subjects Education or Engineering and their subdivisions. This is also true of the very large general library with a more or less equal distribution of material in all fields. Here the filer and subject header must be on their guard to make sure that subdivisions are consistent throughout. It is so easy to have similar material scattered when there is more than one drawer.

Perhaps cross references, however, present the greatest difficulties. During the past few years a decided change has taken place in the relative value of the *see* and *see also* reference. The *see also* reference has been losing ground, chiefly for two reasons. In the first place, it was always an inexact reference, since one can seldom think of all the other headings to which one might refer from a particular subject. The standard subject heading lists help out, but generally additional subjects have to be added to suit the needs of individual libraries. Then the list grows and grows until it is ungainly and of doubtful value, since the subjects referred to are often only remotely related to the subject referred from. In one large library the subject header lately produced a stock case in which a subject classifying in the 100's actually had a *see also* reference referring to sixty-four other topics. Some of the latter were so far removed from each other as to be laughable, and yet each in some manner or other was connected with the subject referred from. The trouble is that even in an extreme instance such as this, there is always the possibility that there may be other useful topics, just as closely related to the *refer from*, which may have escaped the subject header. And there is no way of safeguarding absolutely against such a state of affairs.

The second reason why the *see also* reference has lost much of its popularity, is that its actual use is on the wane. Many reference librarians confess that they seldom make use of a *see also* reference, and frequently readers complain that they get lost in the maze of references, or else do not find suggested all possible topics to which one might be referred. There are certain cases, however, where the *see also* reference is indispensable and will remain so. Such an one is the reference from a general subject to a specific, such as United States — Foreign population *see also* U. S. — Immigration and emigration; also Chinese in the U. S. and similar headings.

The *see* reference, on the other hand, is destined to stay with us as long as we have library catalogs, or, at least as long as we decide to employ one specific term to express a certain subject, instead of entering under a variety of synonyms. It is a reference from a term not used to the form of subject which has been adopted. The main difficulty with the *see* reference is the tendency to rely too absolutely on a

standard list for suggested references. In a large library thousands more such references will in the long run be necessary, for the compiler of the printed list had in mind only the obvious needs of an average library. New subjects and new angles of subjects develop almost overnight, and the printed list, even with the aid of supplementary lists cannot keep up the pace. Nor if it could, would it ever supply all the special cross references which an individual library might need. It is the public that should be considered in the making of *see* references, not whether such and such a reference has been included in any list. Sometimes I feel that there cannot be too many of these extra *see* references in any library, and that they cannot be too specific. For, after all, do they not furnish the open sesame to the catalog for the average reader in interpreting his concepts into the language of the catalog?

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

CLASSIFICATION is a subject of great and continuing interest to special librarians. For that reason our Magazine has devoted a department to it and related phases of work for the past three years, and now issues this special number. Although we talk a lot about this subject at Classification meetings and round tables, S. L. A. has never yet attempted to formulate any classification principles for the special library as opposed to the public library, nor recorded the policies and methods that reflect the best practices in outstanding libraries of various kinds in our Association. We should do this soon, to help our members and be able to advise companies that plan to organize libraries. Before we undertake such a task, however, we must have experience records and especially must we know the classification schemes now being used to organize information in all the important fields.

I am glad to report that this latter activity is now well started under the very efficient direction of Paul Vanderbilt of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art in Philadelphia. As our "bibliographer of classification" Mr. Vanderbilt has devoted untold time and energy to building a record of classification schedules in existence as well as assembling samples of some of the more important. We already have a record of about 1,000 classifications and a file of more than 200 different samples. These are loaned freely to anyone requesting help. We hope that you will use this service offered by S. L. A.

You can cooperate with Mr. Vanderbilt in several different ways: — by sending him a copy of *your* special classification scheme, or your list of subject headings. Or by telling him of persons who are especially interested in classification problems and of outstanding contributions to this subject in your particular field. As former chairman of the Classification Committee, Miss Keller of Philadelphia bore the full burden of this work for S. L. A. for many years. Mr. Vanderbilt is carrying on the Philadelphia classification tradition. Since this is a problem which touches all of us let us give it the full support of S. L. A.

MARY LOUISE ALEXANDER

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Across the Secretary's Desk

A Question

Dear Miss Rankin:

After some consideration I have decided to continue as an Associate, rather than an Active member of S. L. A. This decision has been made, of course, because of the fact that our library is an Institutional member.

In this connection, I have been wondering about the interpretation of the wording of the privileges of an Institutional member. Is the librarian the only person authorized to vote in a national election, or may any representative of this library who is attending a national convention be authorized to vote?

Instead of one Institutional and one Associate membership for this library, another alternative would be two active memberships. We would then have two copies of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, using one for clipping, and could buy S. L. A. publications of special interest to us. This is a possibility for next year. Perhaps this same point has been brought up by other libraries. Your suggestions for the best method of serving us and S. L. A. will be appreciated.

Very cordial greetings and best wishes for 1933.

Sincerely,

Assistant Librarian

The Answer

Dear Member:

I am delighted to answer your questions of January 6 concerning membership.

An Institutional membership is our most professional type of membership. It indicates that a special library, and the institution back of it, really appreciate what S. L. A. has done for the profession. Do you realize that the devoted members have been struggling constantly for almost twenty-five years and have succeeded in raising the standards of special librarians and of putting our profession on an equal footing with other professions? If S. L. A. had not existed probably today we should all of us special librarians still be file-clerks. As an Institutional member you receive from S. L. A. all the financial benefits as well as professional it has to offer; however, we must admit that in dollar and cents' value to you that is probably not as much as the cost of the membership.

Of course, at any meeting or at any convention where the librarian cannot attend, she may appoint a representative for her Institutional membership. In fact, we urge that procedure because we much prefer that every such member have a strong influence in our councils.

From an economic standpoint, of course, it is

cheaper for you to take an Associate than it is to take an Active membership. But if you do that, individually you have no vote on any Association policies. You are, in fact, an *active* member and it is too bad if you do not take out that type of membership. The Associate membership was created with the idea of allowing the youngsters in the profession, the library student, the newcomer in the field to be a member of the Association; but when that individual librarian becomes established and has a place in the special library field, we assume, of course, that she or he has a professional interest which compels an Active membership.

The more financial support the Association receives, the more it is able to produce professional tools of use to the special librarian, the more it gains recognition of the business world and increases respect for our usefulness, etc., etc. Did you read Miss Manley's article in November 1932 *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* wherein she proves conclusively that each member is receiving actually \$9.00 worth of service from the Association for each membership. So you can readily see that neither an Associate nor Active membership really pays in dollars and cents for the amount of service it receives.

I appreciate that these times of economic stress force these problems upon each individual. But I sincerely hope that our members are so well founded in the professional ideals we have worked for that even the necessity of saving a few dollars will not deter us from maintaining those ideals.

Cordially yours,

Rebecca B. Rankin,
Secretary

* * *

"The glamour of knowledge to be attained constantly calls out new reserves of energy . . . and on the day on which our ardor for investigation shall grow weak . . . humanity will automatically end."

— "In the Evening of My Thought,"
by Georges Clemenceau.

MARY HOLTON BRIGHAM

IT IS with genuine regret that we report the shocking news of the death of our former and first Secretary, Mary Holton Brigham — news which reached most of our members before this issue was sent to press. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Herbert O. Brigham, and record our warm appreciation of her many generous contributions to our Association. For many years it was the volunteer work of these two indefatigable people who sustained publication of this Magazine, and it was impossible to tell where the interest and effort of the one ended and the other began. It is a matter of pleasant reminiscence that the marriage of the Brighams in 1920 was an S. L. A. romance resulting from their meeting at our 1919 Convention at Asbury Park.

Mrs. Brigham was born in Steubenville, Ohio, July 13, 1892, graduated from Vassar College, was librarian of American Aluminum Company, Pittsburgh, was married in 1920, and served as our Executive Secretary 1927-1931. She died of pneumonia February 3, 1933, at the Homeopathic Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island.

CHARLES ALEXANDER NELSON

CHARLES ALEXANDER NELSON, dean of American librarians, died at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1933. From 1881, when he joined the Astor Library in New York City, until 1909, when he retired from the library of Columbia University, he was engaged continuously in library work. From 1913 to 1926 he was on the staff of the Mercantile Association of New York City. He was the author of many books, including several notable catalogs and indexes; after his 90th birthday he completed a translation of "Vindictae Typographicae," a Latin book first published in 1754 to prove that John Gutenberg was the first printer to use movable type.

He was born at Calais, Maine, April 14, 1839, the son of Israel P. and Jane (Capen) Nelson.

WHO'S WHO

LOUISE KELLER

Chairman of the Classifications Committee, 1923-1932

LOUISE KELLER started her library career in the Mercantile Library, Philadelphia, and liked it so much she took the course at the Drexel Institute School of Library Science, way back in the pre-war days. Her ambition in those days was to be the head of the Circulation Department in a large library, but instead of placing herself in line for such a position she went to the library of the American Philosophical Society. Here she spent two years collating scientific transactions and journals for binding.

Having seen the works of pure science, Miss Keller became interested in seeing science applied, so answered a call from the Independence Bureau for a trained library worker. Here she labored over the adjustment of a librarian to a special library practically unaided, for S. L. A. had not yet published advance chapters of its Manuals, and its Groups and varied Committees were not yet born. About 1926, her former chiefs having gone to Brown, Crosby & Co., Philadelphia, there began a gradual shift of her services, and now her entire time is given to the Life and Pension departments of that firm.

One of the original members of the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and vicinity, Miss Keller has twice served as its Chairman, and later on its Directory Committee, where her varied reference experiences in Philadelphia libraries proved a valuable asset. She has served S. L. A. as a Vice-President and as a member of the Executive Board, but her real work for the Association has been done as Chairman of the

Committee on Classifications. Assigned to the compilation of the cataloging and classification section of the Survey of the Committee on Methods, Miss Keller advised that further work be done for classification, and was immediately drafted for it.

As a sub-committee of the Methods survey the Classifications work started with a bibliography and then a collection of classifications. It proved to be a difficult matter to keep the Committee together and at work, so Miss Keller soon found she had to assume a growing correspondence with members and others regarding classifications which were or were not available. Next came the Classification department in SPECIAL LIBRARIES, of which she was co-editor with Miss Mueser, 1930-1932, which deflected time from bibliographic work, though it broadened her knowledge of the Association's needs. She is constantly reminding her fellow members that unless the Association pays more attention to classification, and places itself in a better position to assemble and disseminate classification aids for the rapidly changing and expanding fields of knowledge, it will lose prestige with professional and technical people.

Rather surprisingly in the daily work of her Library, classification absorbs but a minor part of Miss Keller's time. This is because so little of her day can be devoted to arrangement of data. In consequence however, she has largely discarded the usual cataloging and indexing procedures in favor of her classification system.

SNIPS and SNIPES

Changes and Chances. . . . John A. Lapp, who was our Editor for a number of years is now Director of the National Rehabilitation Association, Chicago. At present he is on a speaking tour telling how his Association tries to meet the vocational and employment needs of the handicapped. . . . Edith C. Macardell is in the new Housing Bureau of the Welfare Council, New York City. The Bureau will be a center for housing information. . . . Two of the New York Specials, R. L. Morrison and Julia C. Nelson, have gone High School, at least temporarily.

Since they're both in the Bronx, they evidently don't feel with Mr. Ogden Nash:

"The Bronx?
No thonx!" . . .

Contacts, Contacts, Contants. . . . Conventions are in the air. . . . The New Jersey Library Association and the Pennsylvania Library Club will meet in Atlantic City on April 21st and 22nd. Headquarters? The Ambassador. . . . For the County Libraries of New Jersey repeat above with April 20th as the date. . . . The New York

State Library Association meets, we hear, in June at Briarcliff Lodge . . . Our Advertising Manager Gertrude Peterkin is Chairman of this Association's Special Libraries Committee. . . . And the San Francisco S. L. A. Bulletin warns its readers to plan for April 8th-11th for the annual convention of the California Library Association in Oakland.

Attention Emile Mueser. . . . From Odds Bodkin's page in *Advertising and Selling*, December 8, 1932, we lift the following: Odds, Jr, was exploring a filing cabinet in my office today and became intrigued with the science of indexing. "I suppose," he observed, annoying me as I worked, "that if you were indexing the name 'Flt,' you would index it, 'Flt, Quick Henry the'"

More Courses. . . . A calendar from the University of Denver tells us that our Harriet E Howe is giving a course in Library Administration next autumn. The Course will take up the administrative problems of Public, School, University, and Special Libraries. Professor Howe is Director of the School of Librarianship . . .

Snipes . . . We thought we knew all varieties of Snipes: our own; kind of game bird with long straight bill; kind of fish with long slender snouts, pot shots from roofs. And now the New Yorker tells us that the strips of paper with such words as "Today," "Now Showing," "Next Week," "With Sound Effects," and "All Talking" printed on them "which are pasted across the display posters in the less magnificent picture-theater lobbies are not just ordinary strips of paper. They are 'snipes'!" Well, well. . . .

Practical Praise . . . Of course you noticed that the last SPECIAL LIBRARIES was an Insurance number, but did you realize how mindful of its own the Insurance Group was? As a compliment to its two Editors, Florence Bradley and Daniel Handy, the members of the Group bought the inside front cover of the magazine. (The running line under the advertisement: "Please patronize our advertisers" seems slightly askew when in this case the advertisers are patronizing us; but we let that pass.) And the back cover was bought through the good offices of Mrs Fitzgerald, Librarian of the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier, Vt. by her Company. The Insurance Group is now waiting to have its chairman complimented by that sincerest form of flattery, imitation. . . .

Vacations. . . . Not only Broadway producers take winter vacations. There's Zeliaette Troy of

the Boyce Thompson Institute junketing to the West Indies and South America for a month's cruise, and here's Margaret Reynolds, Milwaukee, visiting Bertine Weston, of the Library Journal. . . . And then Mrs. Lucile Williams Bachman, of the Biblical Institute, is on leave for the 1932-33 school year and is spending it at Butler in Indianapolis where her husband is head of the Religious Education Department . . .

Snippets. . . . The New York S L A. January meeting, besides dining its own members, turned \$52.00 over to the City Unemployment Relief Fund. Rather neat on a 75-cent dinner fee. . . . One of our m-m-m-m members, Marian Manley, gets 100 on Good Work for S. L. A. for the first two months of 1933. In the *Directory Journal* for January 1933, she has an article on page 7 which you all ought to hunt up and read, called "City Directories in Public Libraries under Present Economic Conditions" Her February bit is a full page in *Class and Industrial Marketing* . . . After February 23rd, Ways and Means Chairman Ruth Savord will have nothing but time on her hands, for Walter Lippmann's "United States in World Affairs, 1932" will be published on that date. This is the second volume of World Affairs for which she has supplied the bibliography. . . .

Metropolitan Life does it again. . . . In the February 1922 SPECIAL LIBRARIES we found under the heading "February meeting a huge success" the news that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Library had recently moved into "commodious new quarters" and was open for inspection. And here we are eleven years later reading a similar story: "The Metropolitan Life Insurance Library moved to its new quarters on Saturday and Sunday, January 14th and 15th. They have probably set an all time record for moving a library by remaining open until 5 P.M. on Friday the 13th in the old location and opening for business in the new one at 9 A.M. Monday the 16th." — *N. Y. S. L. A. News*, Feb. 1933.

. . . Note—Lyda Broomhall of the Irving Trust Company still holds the For Moving Oftenest Record. . . .

Clinical Notes. . . . At the last meeting of the Methods Clinic the question was asked, "After you have found your answer in one place do you still go on searching to check it?" Harrassed Librarian, *sotto voce*, "I'm damned glad if I find it at all." . . . To which we can only add that Isabella M. Cooper is working at Headquarters tabulating and classifying the material. . . .

Philadelphia Party . . . We're so impressed with the Second Annual dinner of the Philadelphia Newspaper Group that we are at a loss how to write about it in our limited space. Joseph Kwapil was the moving spirit, and Frank Donohoe was editor-in-chief of the four-page newspaper which served as place card and souvenir of the occasion. President Alexander came down from New York City for the party and former chairmen of the national Newspaper Group wrote and wired greetings. We quote D. G. Rogers: "Each Group and especially the Newspaper Group should strive to increase their membership by carrying afar the story of the wonderful aid the organization has been to those who have been fortunate enough and clear sighted enough to hold membership." Certainly the Philadelphia Newspaper Group are striving. Perhaps like young Fortinbras we other groups will be "pricked on by a most emulate pride." . . .

Very Special. . . . One of the guests at the Philadelphia Party was Alfred Rigling, who for many reasons rates a snip and snipe all to himself. He has been a "special" for 50 years, all at the Franklin Institute Library. When Mr. Rigling

took up his duties there were only 18,000 volumes in the library. Today there are over 100,000. Also, 918 technical journals instead of a mere 250. These books and periodicals, in all languages, are highly technical and specialized but Mr. Rigling can tell pretty closely what field each of his 100,000 volumes covers. These books range from magic and household kinks to the most abstract mathematics and mechanics. Mr. Rigling has one especially nice incident to relate, how a prominent research chemist required some data on soap-bark. He found that it appeared in an obscure French magazine that had long since been discontinued. He hunted in vain even in the libraries of Paris, yet it was found readily in the Franklin Institute Library. Mr. Rigling has been active in Philadelphia Special Library circles, serving for the past two years as Chairman of the Library Council. Under his leadership it has reached the highwater mark in membership and attendance at its monthly meetings. . . .

Add Pet Horrors. . . . M. S. offers three more: Ro'-mance, Ad'-dress, and — horror of horrors — cig'-arettes. . . .

GROUP ACTIVITIES

CIVIC-SOCIAL

Editor: Ina Clement

CLARENCE E. RIDLEY reports in the *National Municipal Review* that only ten cities issued reports in 1932 that were worthy of review space in that journal. The ten cities were Albert Lea, Minnesota; Auburn, Maine; Austin, Texas; Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin; Kenosha, Wisconsin; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Staunton, Virginia; Two Rivers, Wisconsin and Wichita, Kansas. The largest number of reports reviewed in any one year for the past six years was 20 in 1929. The *Review* also has as one of its "Headlines" that "The new radio period for the 'You and Your Government' series is scheduled at a particularly appropriate time — 7:15 to 7:45 P.M.— between Amos 'n' Andy and the Goldbergs. Education by radio at last comes into its own!"

Copies are still available of the "Basic List of Current Municipal Documents," which this Group worked so hard to compile. Send for a copy if you have not ordered one, as all libraries that have used it express great satisfaction that it is possible to have a tool of such constant value.

Current material of interest to the readers of this page is unusually abundant and rich in content. The "Committee on the Costs of Medical Care," after a five-year period of study, presents its final report — "Medical Care for the American People" (University of Chicago Press). Reports from minority groups are also included. The findings of this Committee will provide food for thought and perhaps action for some time to come.

Public Management states that the report of the President's Committee on Social Trends is giving "Technocracy a close race for prominence these days." The January issue of that magazine includes articles by Louis Brownlow, Carroll Woody and Leonard D. White, all of them dealing with various phases of the report. Mr. Brownlow writes: "Taken as a whole, the report represents perhaps the most notable and important attempt yet made to appraise the social phenomena of American life." A recent issue of the *Survey Graphic* is devoted almost entirely to the report, and both the *New York Times*, and the *United States Daily* issued supplements containing excellent summaries.

Committees consisting of leading specialists in their respective fields pooled their experiences

and prepared carefully joint statements of fundamental principles and methods which were reported at the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership. These principles are contained in the series of eleven volumes issued by the President's Conference — recently edited by John M. Gries and James Ford. Volume I of these final reports is "Planning for Residential Districts," and Volume II is devoted to "Home Finance and Taxation." Original research and study not previously available in print make these volumes veritable handbooks of information for the city planners, municipal engineers, realtors, insurance companies, mortgage companies, economists, tax assessors, bankers, building and loan associations, architects and landscape architects, builders, engineers, and public officials. How to plan a city or a home, how to build, how to finance, how to landscape, and how to tax are the important problems of home building and ownership discussed fully in these two volumes.

WILL YOU BUY?

It is seldom that a book can be so comprehensive that it is encyclopedic in nature and still be an intensely interesting story to read. Yet Lt. Col. Richard Stockton, 6th, has accomplished this dual object in his recently published "Inevitable War" (New York: The Perth Company, 393 Seventh Avenue, 1932, 806 p.).

Colonel Stockton does not look with favor on war but he does demonstrate in his book that the basic cause of war is irremovable and argues that no device of mankind has or can prevent war. He shows that pacifist theories of today are those which centuries have proved to be fallacious; each war is described stressing its attendant waste of life and wealth; our military policy from Washington to Hoover is studied, probable nature of future war is described, and the results of disarmament conferences all tend to his conclusions that we must face the facts as they are, in a practical way and yet avoid militarism and excessive armament costs.

The encyclopedic features of this work on national defense are noted in charts which pick out salient facts for the reference worker. It probably will supplant that old standby — "The Military Policy of the United States" by Brevet Major General Emory Upton. Its good bibliography and index prepared by qualified librarians make its wealth of material easily used for reference.

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to many and among them is Elise M. Southall, Librarian of the Personal Holding Corporation, who assisted in the preparation of this book. Through her as a member we have been given

an opportunity to take orders for the book through our Headquarters Office. "Inevitable War" sells at \$7.50, with the usual library discount and at the same time a small profit for S. L. A. Every library really needs this volume for the mass of facts contained in it. Send in your orders to the Secretary —

REBECCA B. RANKIN

COMMERCIAL-TECHNICAL

Editor: Miriam N. Zabriskie

BOOK REVIEWS — is the latest cry! This means a "Book Review Committee" in each Group. We are now in the throes of getting our Book Reviewing started, as we hope to make this an important concrete service which librarians can offer to their customers.

This is the plan — to have the committee consist of six members of the Group, representing as varied types of libraries as possible. At no regular date, but whenever one of the committee spies a book, old or new, or an article or a pamphlet, which seems an especially valuable contribution to a subject, she immediately sits down and sends me a 3 x 5 card on which is typed a brief summary of the book, perhaps with her personal opinion tacked on.

We suggested to the committee the following subjects on which to send in book reviews, but they are merely suggestions, and we by no means wish to limit the subjects to these alone: advertising, marketing, production and consumption, public utilities, sales management, taxation, trade associations, unemployment.

Eventually we hope to have a list of book reviews long enough to mimeograph and distribute every six weeks or so to all members of the Group. But until we do have enough reviews to warrant such listing, we plan to include them in this monthly department:

May we submit the following just sent in by two members of the new Book Review Committee, who are particularly enthusiastic about the plan.

RAILROADS

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

46th Annual Report, 1931-1932. Washington, D. C.

A comprehensive study of the "railroad problem." States position of railroads in the present economic situation with relation to all other transportation agencies in competition for traffic. Definite recommendations to Congress for measures of relief, such as elimination of the present recapture provisions, facilitating voluntary financial reorganizations; for investigation of motor, water and air carriers receiving government aid with regard to their

accounting and taxation; for further regulations to speed up consolidations including control over holding companies.

NOTE: The heading might just as well be "Transportation" because of the broadness of treatment. Other subjects touched: Interlocking directorates; Reciprocity in purchasing and routing; Reconstruction Finance Corporation aid to railroads; and the six-hour day.

RADIO WAVES

FASSBENDER, H., ed.
Hochfrequenztechnik in der Luftfahrt. Berlin, Springer, 1932. 577 p

A general review of radio wave propagation and radiation with special consideration of the aeronautical applications. Extensive chapter bibliographies are included.

EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION

FARADAY, MICHAEL.
Faraday's diary; being the various philosophical notes of experimental investigation . . . bequeathed by him to the Royal Institution. . . London, Bell, v. 1-2, 1932.

Interesting as showing in detail the method of attack behind the *Experimental Researches*. The whole work is to be published in 7 volumes of which these two cover the period from 1820 to 1836.

Our committee "roster" is not yet full. If any member of the Group would like to volunteer her services to contribute to the work of this interesting new committee, we shall greet her offer with a cordial welcome.

MARIAN MEAD, *Chairman*

INSURANCE

Editor: *Geraldine Rammer*

A MIDYEAR MESSAGE

SIX months have passed since the Lake Placid convention. Looking ahead we find several projects of interest for the months to come.

Comparatively few insurance libraries are "of age" and a great need is felt for uniform subject headings. A committee is hard at work now, and promises an intensely interesting report at the next convention in Chicago.

We eagerly anticipate the first bulletin to be issued by our Book Review Committee. This committee will begin to review all worth while material published on the subject of Insurance; thus promising a service that should prove of great assistance to us all.

Our pamphlet, "The Creation and Development of an Insurance Library," seems to have been a success as its readers have been very complimentary and it has more than paid for itself. We look forward to the time when a supplement will be issued by the standing committee in charge of that undertaking.

We thank Mr. Daniel N Handy, Librarian of the Insurance Library Association of Boston, for editing the Insurance issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* last month. Without him, the Insurance Group would be as a ship without a rudder, and we are indebted to his untiring efforts and willingness to help at all times.

May I use this medium to introduce some recent members who have not yet met with the Group at a Convention — Sarah Q. Slaughter, Insurance Library Association of Atlanta; Ethel R. Burkhart, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Cleveland, Mr. W. P. Cutter, Bermuda Marine Biological Research, Inc., St. George, West Bermuda, Laura Schnarendorf, North American Company, New York City; Amelia Stewart, Sun Life Assurance Company, Montreal; Dr. B. Stepanek, San Francisco; Elizabeth B. Wright, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., Milwaukee; and Mr. F. Barton Harvey, Insurance Society of Baltimore. We are delighted to welcome them and urge that they consult us and use the facilities of our libraries as freely as they wish.

The Convention at Chicago next October offers us every opportunity to meet and become better acquainted; to exchange ideas and lay further plans for greater service to all Insurance research. Let's start at once to arrange to attend — and attain our objective.

NEWSPAPER

Editor: *Joseph F. Kwapił*

NEWSPAPER GROUP INAUGURATES NEW MOVEMENT

PHILADELPHIA newspaper librarians inaugurated a new movement in the Group which they hope will spread to other cities. They formed a chapter to be known as the Philadelphia Chapter of the Newspaper Group of S. L. A. All library workers in the newspaper field are invited to participate and thus far 15 new members have been enrolled. On becoming members of the Newspaper Group they automatically become members of the local Association as well as the national S. L. A. Through the medium of the local chapter they will have direct contact with other workers in their city through monthly meetings and an annual banquet meeting. The idea of the movement is to interest newspaper library workers in S. L. A. and through this contact to broaden their horizon and make them conscious of the value of their work to their newspapers. The social feature will also be emphasized.

In carrying out this movement the second annual dinner of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Newspaper Group was held at the Hotel Adelphia

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Special Libraries Association 345 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 25th. Forty were in attendance and the President of our Association, Miss Alexander, was an honored guest and speaker. Mr. Alfred Rigling, Chairman of the Library Council; Mr. Franklin H. Price, Acting Head of the Free Library; Mrs. Ann W. Howland, Director of Library Science, Drexel Institute; Mr. John Miller; Joseph F. Kwopil and Ralph J. Shoemaker of the Public Ledger were speakers. Mr. Frank Donohoe of the *Evening Bulletin* was toastmaster, though the affair was informal with no prepared speeches. One of the features was a miniature newspaper "Look It Up News" Names were printed in the fudge box of each individual guest and these were used as place cards. Biographical sketches of Miss Burke, Chairman of the national Newspaper Group, of Miss Alexander and Mr. Rigling were featured in it with humorous cartoons and stories about the dinner.

New York Newspaper librarians have followed Philadelphia's lead with a meeting, February 6th, called by Miss Walker of the *New York Times*. Luncheon was held in the private dining room of the New York Times Building. Seventeen librarians were in attendance and all the newspapers in the city were represented, with the exception of the *Mirror*, *Journal* and *New York*

American. Plans were formulated for a Newspaper Librarians dinner to be held on February 23d at the Town Hall for all newspaper library workers of New York, Brooklyn, Newark and Jersey City. The object will be the formation of a New York Chapter of the Newspaper Group of S. L. A. with a drive for Associate membership. In addition the New York S. L. A. has arranged for a special meeting on March 15th to be known as "Newspaper Night," when the *New York Times* will again be host. An illustrated talk on newspaper libraries will be given by Joseph F. Kwopil, Librarian, *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, followed by a trip through the plant to demonstrate the intricacies of publishing a metropolitan newspaper.

Chicago newspaper librarians also have grasped the spirit of this new movement, and on March 22nd will hold a "Newspaper Night" in conjunction with the Illinois S. L. A. Detailed plans are to be still worked out.

How about Boston, Detroit and St. Louis?

Let's double the Newspaper Group membership during this coming year.

Philadelphia has set the pace. . . . Four newspapers. . . . Thirty-five workers. . . . Twenty-one members.

Pages 55-56 deleted, advertising.