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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Vol. 20

May-June, 1929

No. 5

21st CONFERENCE

PROCEEDINGS

Part I.

Government Statistics

Recent Economic Changes

Oxford Conference Report

Acting President's Address

Convention Items Departments

Officers' Reports Library Field

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*New members joined since last issue of *Special Libraries*.

Special Libraries

Vol. 20

MAY-JUNE, 1929

No. 5

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We print as the leading article the address of Vice-President Fletcher, who served so graciously in the absence of President Cady. It was a keen disappointment to all of us that circumstances prevented the attendance of President Cady, who has so effectively conducted the association for the past two years. The formal proceedings which will appear in the next issue record the friendly message of regret which was forwarded to President Cady during the Conference.

Acting President's Address

By Angus Fletcher, Librarian, British Library of Information, New York, N. Y.

IT is a pleasure to be able to record once more that the Special Libraries Association continues to grow in stature and to develop in activity. It is not my intention to survey the progress of the Association during the year, because you will shortly hear in detail from the officers and committees immediately responsible to you in that regard. But perhaps I may be permitted to draw your attention to some matters of unusual interest to the Association as a whole, and if in so doing I refer particularly to the work of some committees and not to others, it is only because I am touching here on matters of general rather than specific or technical interest.

You will have the pleasure of hearing a particularly satisfactory report from the membership committee. I shall not

forestall the interest of that report by quoting any figures, but I desire to take this opportunity of congratulating the membership committee upon the results of their labours. The increasing membership is an eloquent testimony to the value and prestige of our Association, but let us not forget that it is also evidence of the vigour of those who go out and secure for us this most practical form of recognition. In these days there is not time to wait while sheer merit sells itself. We must advertise our Association and we must sell our Association or the great world will pass it by and it will soon become a mere relic and ruin, of interest only to the curious antiquarian or collector of extinct associations. The Membership Committee may indeed be regarded as our annual rejuvenator, preserving the Association from the

insidious onset of senile decay. Surely I need not plead with you to support a committee engaged in a task so vital to our interests.

I cannot leave this subject without referring to the question of institutional membership. This class of membership represents in an important degree the recognition by business and research of our work as an association. I believe that if we can maintain or increase our present activity and thus prove with growing conviction the great value of the S. L. A. to the business world, we shall find it in turn ready and indeed anxious to offer its support and encouragement. On our part we should regard it a great privilege to provide so essential a service as is provided by special libraries and the Special Libraries Association in particular to the great driving forces which propel the economic life of this country. It is true that the business man does not induce that state of philosophic calm, which, as an environment, we might prefer and which seems to be the happy lot of our colleagues in the academic world. He is prone to demand proofs of value received which are often difficult to give. He is sometimes suspicious that associations and conventions may be better business for those who run the former and attend the latter than for the company that pays the bill. But we can understand and forgive these limitations. We know that the business man, and especially the successful business man, is the great pioneer of our generation, who has long since learned that there are more things in heaven and earth than were dreamed of in the philosophy of his predecessor. We know that while his grandfather would have scoffed at a special library as a gew gaw, of probably feminine origin, and shunned an association as a gross irrelevancy, his successor of today cheerfully pays \$15.00 per annum for the privilege of institutional membership. So I am confident that we may look to a still greater accession of strength in our relations with the business world, and I urge upon you one and all not to rest from your labours until you shall have brought at least one institutional member to grace.

This leads me to speak of the work of another committee, namely, the Committee on Publications. The benefits of an association such as ours to its members are not to be measured solely or even chiefly by the publications which it issues. That indefinable strength and support which is born of community effort, of which we are always especially conscious at our annual conferences, ranks first, to my mind, among the benefits of association. Nevertheless, it is largely by its publications that such an organization is judged by the outside world generally. Publications are, moreover, an unrivalled means for the interchange of information and ideas. This is a field to which we cannot pay too much attention, both for our own immediate advantage and for the advantage of the association as a whole. Miss Morley's report, which you will shortly hear, makes it clear that our Publications Committee was able and ready to carry on its duties. The list of compilations suggested for publication indicates that this committee must be not merely active but discriminating in its labours, if our publications are to add to our prestige. We have had the services of a highly competent committee and this is all to the good. But, if we as members think that having appointed a committee and applauded their labours we have played our part we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. It takes very much more than a cast and an audience to make a good play. Let me say, therefore, that no communication or call for co-operation from the committees engaged in the preparation of work for publication should be laid aside or neglected for any reason whatever. Let us face correspondence on this subject, yes even questionnaires, with glad hearts, turning, if necessary, the other cheek.

I cannot pass over without reference an event so interesting to us as the authorization on December 29th by the A. L. A. of a section to be known as the Business Libraries Section. I am aware that this is the climax to a controversy of long standing, a controversy which in its time was not without feeling. I mention it now only to add the observation that I believe the S. L. A. attaches great importance to the continuance of

those cordial relations with the greater sister Association which we mark triennially at our joint sessions with the A. L. A. I cannot do better than quote the words used by our President in writing to me recently. Mr. Cady then said that had he been able to deliver this Annual Address he would have made "a strong statement on the importance of devoting our time and efforts to the building up of the S. L. A., making it so valuable and important that no Special Librarian could afford to step out of it." He deprecated as pure waste "all time and effort spent in attempting to circumvent work which looks as if it might undermine the strength of an association, for that objective, if desired, can be accomplished with far more effectiveness by attending strictly to our own business, working hard to solve our problems and extending the sphere of our activities." Finally Mr. Cady said: "We have a wonderful start and should strive to maintain and increase our already established reputation. If we do our work properly nobody can take that reputation away from us, and it will speak for itself."

Mr. Cady's words seem to me to be sound both as to the principles involved and as an expression of practical politics. I commend them heartily to the incoming President and Executive Committee.

Turning to the future, the tasks which we leave to the incoming executive to complete or carry on should be stated, though they present little that is new in substance. They are indeed the daily round of an Association such as this. We have to carry on the work of organizing locals and unifying groups in many of the large cities. We have a constant duty to help those locals which already exist with their programmes and their projects so that they in turn may extend the usefulness of the Association. We have to offer our co-operation to other associations which may include the same general objectives as ourselves, such as the great scientific and learned societies, the associations of medical and law libraries, and the organizations engaged in research in various fields. I say *offer* advisedly, for I believe we should not be backward in taking the initiative. I say it confidently because as our committee reports will show, we

can and do undertake such co-operation with complete success. We should also promote the formation of libraries in industry and elsewhere, and profiting by such experience as that of Mr. Handy's library and Mr. Armistead's library, we should stimulate where necessary the formation of joint or centralized libraries. We have always before us, before each one of us, the opportunity to assist the Public Libraries with their larger technical projects and in a smaller way with our special sources of information. Finally, we have a duty towards our journal, SPECIAL LIBRARIES. This is one of the outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace of the Association. By it we are very largely judged. Here again it is not sufficient for us to rest satisfied because in Mr. Brigham we are so fortunately possessed of an able and active editor. Mr. Brigham can do little or nothing without our constant interest, or even, for that matter, our constant criticism. He should be in a position always to pick and choose from among a mass of contributions and letters. He should find advertisements for SPECIAL LIBRARIES in every Saturday morning's mail.

Of all these obligations you have heard before, and you and I will continue to hear of them as long as we are members of the Association.

I will close with a theme which has been running in my mind ever since I have been able to observe the Association at close quarters. The status of the special library is being established before our eyes. It is being established because the library is recognized as an essential part of the equipment of the large units in which modern business and research is organized. Upon what plane is that status to rest? The answer to that question, while it affects the well being of each one of us, affects also all the ideals and purposes of our association. It calls for constant striving towards higher professional standards and attainments. It calls for all our devotion and loyalty to the Association which we have brought into being. Lastly, it calls for a deep and real sense of responsibility to each other as members of the same body.

Recent Economic Changes

By Edward Eyre Hunt, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

AS Librarians you must have been impressed with the change which is going on in the attitude of the American people toward economic information. It is not many years ago that the devotees of the dismal science of economics were looked upon as impractical if not purely theoretical. In the "good old days" Wall Street would never have heard of an *Atlantic Monthly* article by a Harvard professor, or if they heard of it would have shrugged their shoulders or ignored it, but only a few months ago such an article by Professor W. Z. Ripley won the complete attention of Wall Street, and what has been going on in the Street has been going on in the American home. The newspapers, magazines, the radio—all of these as well as books, carry an extraordinary flood of economic information to the general public.

We are seeing something of the effect of this in the interest which is being shown in the Hoover study of Recent Economic Changes, which will be published tomorrow. A week ago the publishers wrote me that 2,200 copies of the two volumes report had been sold. I think it quite likely that the entire first edition will be sold before the book appears. This, I suggest, is a new thing in America, and is to be attributed at least in part to the persistent efforts of the President to educate all of us to think in economic terms.

Secretary Hoover as chairman of Unemployment Conference of 1921 set up in 1922-23 a committee on Business Cycles and Unemployment to explore the possibilities of controlling booms and slumps in business; in 1924-25 he set up a study of Seasonal Operation to explore the ways in which seasonal ups and downs in building and construction might be controlled. In 1927 he organized the Committee on Recent Economic Changes in the United States under his personal chairmanship to survey the possibilities of stabilizing the American economy as a whole.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., was engaged to organize and to direct the research. Funds were provided by the Carnegie Corporation and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, and work began in January, 1928. The chapters cover consumption and the standard of living, changes in new and old industries, technical changes in manufacturing, changes in the physical organization of industry, construction, transportation, marketing, labor, management, agriculture, price movements, money and credit, the national income and its distribution, and a review.

This is the most important and far reaching investigation ever undertaken in this country. That the results appear in the first months of the Hoover administration is the result of chance, but a happy chance.

Foreign and domestic observers alike have been impressed with the immense advance of the last decade which many believe has made the United States the "first power in the world."

Of course this is not our first prosperous period. Thirty years ago there was a period somewhat like this. In an article called "The New Prosperity," by Mr. Ray Stannard Baker, in *McClure's Magazine* for May, 1900, the "marvels of growth, expansion and prosperity" of the year 1899 were summed up in a sentence: "And every barn in Kansas and Nebraska has had a new coat of paint." Mr. Baker wrote that after paint comes "a new front porch, the piano, and the boys off to college." The country was buying new top buggies. The top buggy, invented by Thomas Jefferson, had taken nearly 100 years to reach the American farmer!

Farm prosperity in 1900 was the key to prosperity in every line. As Mr. Baker wrote: "It is curious and wonderful to see how exactly the industries of the world tread in lock-step, and how the man of the soil, the farmer, towers huge and powerful at the head of the

line." If we contrast our post-war period with that described by Mr. Baker we see in the first place great activity in which the farmer has not towered at the head of the line. Anxiety about food has practically disappeared. There is no agitation over the "high cost of living;" no talk about the "full dinner pail." Branches of agriculture have been suffering by reason of shifts in demand for foodstuffs. Indeed, the relative position of agriculture is an outstanding difference between "the new prosperity" of 1900 and that of 1922-29.

Instead of the new front porch we see an annual construction program of 7 billion dollars.

Instead of the piano the radio.

Instead of the top buggy, the automobile and tractor.

Instead of thousands of boys off to college, one million girls and boys going in for higher education every year.

Mr. Baker's "new prosperity" was in part the result of the Spanish and American War and the South African War. It was a period of sharply rising prices. The immense wheat crop and big cotton crop of 1898 together with an increase in the domestic production of gold had set the stage for a boom. The stock market manufactured stocks for "rabid speculators." Promoters organized the trusts as they have organized mergers in our day. In 1899 call money reached 40%. There was a short "prosperity panic." George E. Roberts, Comptroller of the Currency, remarked on the great demand for smaller denominations of coins and bills. And Mr. Baker concluded his description of the new-model prosperity of 1900 "All the indications are for its substantial continuance."

We know how that prosperous period closed. What about ours?

Ours has not been a period of unprecedented production, but of unprecedented productivity. Ours has been a period of an unprecedented influx and outflow of gold, the shock of which has been cushioned by the Federal Reserve. Ours has been a period of scientific management, and has been notable for the relative scarcity of labor troubles. As Mr. Baker's "new Prosperity" matured, the purchasing power of labor and the farmers was steadily impaired; in

ours, the purchasing power of these two great groups of consumers has steadily advanced. His period prepared the way for the "trust busting" era and class consciousness; ours has been notable for social and economic solidarity.

I am not at liberty to discuss the Committee's findings in detail because the report is not released until tomorrow morning, but in the statements which have already been given to the press there is some striking information.

For example, radical changes have occurred in our consuming habits. In the use of food stuffs, manufactured goods, the dramatic growth of the automobile and radio, the volume and quality of housing, changes have been most sweeping. Indeed, the chapter on "Consumption and the Standard of Living" is an extraordinarily interesting picture of American life and progress.

Turning to another factor, the chapter on "Management" by Henry S. Dennison, says that there is today not only more production per man, more horsepower per man and more wages per man, but that there is also more management per man as well.

The section on industrial research shows the huge volume and variety of work in this field. As to the ratio of profits to the amount of expenditures, numerous estimates range from 100 to 300 per cent. One firm reported its profit as 1,000 to 1.

Contrary to public impression, the report shows that manufacturing is becoming less concentrated in particular centers and there is at the same time an increase in the movement of plants away from larger cities to smaller centers or rural areas. First, there has been development of the backward areas, second, the development of rural sections and a decline in the cities, and third, a breakdown of local concentration in the most historical centers of specific industries.

The Committee has endeavored to discover a simple pattern for our economic life; something analogous in simplicity to the globe which any child can hold in his hand and which pictures the world in which we live. To make that globe thousands of explorers had to spend their lives in mapping strange countries, in observing and recording

what they found. The wisest geographer on the earth a few centuries ago knew less than many a little child today about the world we live in. The Committee on Recent Economic Changes and its experts have made only a beginning towards the simplicity which the toy

globe so beautifully illustrates. But we believe that a beginning at least has been made, and that popular interest is so great that this beginning will help us all to a clearer understanding of our economic life.

Government Statistics*

By Dr. Lawrence F. Schmeckebier, Institute for Government Research,
Washington, D. C.

IN the classical world all roads led to Rome, but in the special library I am sure that all roads lead to statistics. Whether the library is devoted to banking, to industry in a broad sense, to a particular industry, to education, to religion, to railroads, or to any other subject, the first request as well as the last one is for statistics.

The demand for statistics is to be expected from the careful student of any problem, for good statistics represent the total of knowledge on the subject expressed in numbers instead of in words. You will note that I have said good statistics. I do not know of any polite word that adequately describes bad statistics. I will restrain myself and merely say that they are a delusion and a snare.

The earliest statistical compilation of which I have any knowledge is one of the most available I know of, but I doubt whether it will be found in many special libraries. In the first chapter of the Book of Numbers you will find the instruction "Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families." This injunction was obeyed and there follows an enumeration of the adult males of eleven of the twelve tribes.

This was apparently an actual count of the population, and according to the annotation in the copy in our library it was made in 1490 B. C. So far as I know there elapsed a period of 3,200 years before another real count of an entire nation was made.

During this interval numerous estimates were made but the United States

Census of 1790 was the first actual enumeration of an entire people. This collection of statistics was also the result of an express mandate, as the Constitution provides that an actual enumeration of the population "shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years."

The purpose of these statistics was purely political in that they were to afford the basis for the membership of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the fact that the Constitution provides that representatives "shall be apportioned among the states according to their respective numbers," no apportionment was made after the Census of 1920, and the membership of the House is still based on the Census of 1910.

The import and export statistics were started in the same year as the first census, although some figures on exports are available as far back as 1697.

For many years the foreign trade and the census statistics were the only series collected regularly, although there were isolated collections on other topics. Some statistics of manufactures were collected at the censuses of 1810, 1820, and 1840, but the first comprehensive attempt to collect this class of material was made in 1850. They were then collected every ten years to 1900, every five years from 1904 to 1919, and every two years beginning with 1921.

The history of the statistical work of the government may be divided into three well defined periods:

*Address before the Special Libraries Association, Washington Conference, May 13, 1929.

1. From 1790 to the establishment of the permanent Census Office in 1902.

2. From the establishment of the permanent Census Office in 1902 to the outbreak of the War in 1917.

3. The war period and thereafter.

Although the statistical work of the government had many developments during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, they were in the scattered bureaus or establishments dealing with particular phases. For twelve censuses a new organization was set up at the beginning of each decennial period and new personnel was recruited for the planning and management as well as for the routine work.

The creation of the permanent Census Office in 1902 insured continuity in organization and resulted in the creation of a staff of supervising officers as well as of trained subordinate employees who served as a nucleus for the greatly expanded force required for the decennial work. It also gave an opportunity to collect statistics periodically at various intervals during the intercensal periods. For some series the interval is ten years, for some five, for manufactures it is two years. For some time the only series collected annually were those on births and deaths; recently statistics on a limited number of other topics have been collected not only once a year, but also quarterly and even monthly.

When the permanent Bureau of Census Office was created in 1902 it was wisely decided not to transfer to the new unit all the statistical work of the several bureaus of the government. It is no reflection on the Census Bureau to say that specialized statistics can be better collected and interpreted by an organization in immediate and continual contact with the industries or the social phenomena for which figures are desired.

The war gave a great impetus to statistics, in fact it resulted in a veritable orgy of statistical effort in Washington. The country was flooded with questionnaires good, bad, and indifferent, until the tired business man began to wish that statistics had never been thought of.

But statistics did have an important part in the successful prosecution of the war. Books have been written on how food won the war, and how ships won

the war, and I do not decry the important part played by these agencies, but no one has described how statistics won the war. The rationing of neutral powers, the allocation of raw materials to the industries, the granting of priorities in transportation and a host of other acts were dependent on knowledge of conditions, and such knowledge of conditions was best expressed by statistics. The war organizations that were most efficient were those that had good statistics on which to base their decisions; those that depended on scientific guesses and figures evolved from their inner consciousness were not so successful.

The push for markets to absorb the surplus capacity created by the war gave an immense impetus to the use of statistics, and the realization that statistics had an economic value undoubtedly had its part in obtaining legislative sanction for such post-war activities as the biennial census of manufactures and the quinquennial census of agriculture.

Statistics are of varying degrees of accuracy and the table headings are necessarily generally so condensed that they serve merely as a rough guide to the significance of the figures. The favorite method of using a statistical report is to find the subject in the index or table of contents and then turn to the page and obtain the figures. If you are familiar with the ramifications of the statistics this is a safe method, but if you are not it is essential that you read the accompanying text or the introductory matter which explains the terms used and the scope of the compilation.

There is considerable variation in the extent to which definatory matter is given. The Census publications generally are excellent in this respect. Others are not so good. Several months ago a delegate to an international statistical conference was giving an account of the work of the conference in planning for comparable statistics for different countries. I asked him what steps the conference had taken to furnish definitions so that a person who had not been tutored by an expert could obtain some idea of what the figures represented. I mentioned that the statistics of his own bureau were

particularly bad in that respect. He replied that he was then engaged in revising the definitions and preliminary matter. So we have some hope of advancement in that direction.

I will give a few illustrations of how this works out. One day a former Cabinet officer came into my office and asked for certain figures. I thought I would give him a word of warning so I said "You know the Bureau that compiles these statistics says that they are no good, it collects them only because it is required by law to do so, and it has repeatedly recommended that they be discontinued." All of this information was readily available in the introductory pages of the several volumes. He replied that he did not care whether the figures were accurate or not.

Of course you cannot do anything with a person in that state of mind. He was not interested in the real facts, all he wanted was figures that would bolster up a premise. If the figures supported his premise he probably used them without comment, if they did not support his premise he probably said they were no good. Fortunately such deliberate use or rather misuse of worthless material is rare, but there is no doubt an appreciable amount of unconscious misinterpretation due to lack of understanding.

In using the Census of Manufactures it should be borne in mind that the classification is by industries according to major products. Thus there are included in the candle industry all establishments in which candles constitute over 50 per cent of the product in value. The figures on the candle industry therefore include data on products other than candles which are manufactured by establishments producing candles as a major product. But candles are also by products of other industries; thus in 1921 the value of products of the candle industry, including subsidiary products was \$3,777,000. Candles to the value of \$2,492,000 however, were produced by establishments classified in the petroleum refining, soap and other industries. These facts are all brought out in the report but it is essential that there be kept in mind the differentiation between the value of the products of the

industry and the value of specified commodities.

In the field of foreign trade statistics conditions give rise to many baffling problems, due to circumstances over which the statistician has no control. For instance the export statistics show the country of destination, but this is the country shown on the export declaration and not the country in which the goods may be consumed. Thus we find cotton gins exported to Great Britain, and it is manifest that cotton gins are not used in that country. Whether the machinery was shipped from Great Britain to Egypt or to India is a matter on which every one may make his own guess.

Cotton is likewise shown as exported to Germany far in excess of the consumption of that country. The answer here is that cotton goes to a dealer in Germany, who afterwards sells it to a manufacturer of cotton goods in Poland, Czechoslovakia, or other neighboring countries.

While these puzzles in international trade are unavoidable, there are other misleading features of the foreign trade statistics which might be remedied. You will find in the monthly and annual reports figures on imports by customs districts. Do these figures indicate the customs district in which the goods are landed or the border district at which they reach the country. By no means. They indicate the district of entry. But is not the district of entry the place of entrance. Assuredly not, for the term entry as used in the trade statistics means the formal process of clearing the goods through the customs. Under our system goods landed in one district may be transported in bond to another district, where custom inspection is made and the duty if any is paid. This second district is the district of technical entry. Whether the goods are cleared through the customs in the district of landing or are transported to a second district is a matter entirely within the control of the importer, and he makes the choice to suit his convenience. The only thing these statistics show is custom house business.

In their zeal to give the public what it desires my good friends at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce

have within the last few years compiled statistics of exports by states or origin. Fortunately these utterly worthless figures have not been printed, but are available only in mimeograph form. They show neither custom house business, interest in foreign markets, movement of commodities, or anything of value to the serious student.

The so-called state of origin is determined solely by the way the goods are shipped. Take for instance two lots of Kansas wheat in an elevator in Kansas. One lot is sold to a Liverpool house and moves on a through bill of lading to Liverpool by way of Baltimore. The export declaration is prepared in Kansas and the shipment is reported as exported from Kansas. The second lot is sold to a broker in Baltimore and shipped to him. He also sells it to a Liverpool firm, either after it is placed in an elevator in Baltimore or while it is moving from Kansas to the seaboard. In this case the export declaration would be executed in Baltimore, and the shipment would be reported as an export from Maryland. Here are two identical lots of wheat, grown in the same state, moving on the same railroads, loaded on vessel at the same port, and having the same foreign destination, but reported as of different states of origin.

These so-called statistics may furnish good copy to local papers, but I have never been able to ascertain their real value. They furnish about the only examples of utterly worthless government statistics that have come to my attention.

I shall not go further into the pitfalls of statistics, as I could probably spend the rest of the day on this topic, and even if I told all I know there would probably be some points uncovered.

To the librarian who is dealing out books, the most important thing is the identification of the books containing the information desired. I do not suppose that you have many requests for a red or green book containing statistics, but you probably have many requests for statistics old or new on a particular topic. As government statistics have been and are published by a number of organizations it is not always easy to tell where to look. In 1925 I prepared a volume on the Statistical Work of the

National Government which was published by the Institute for Government Research. This volume covers primarily current statistics, but it contains also reference to earlier series and special individual compilations. As this is the only book on the subject I think I can say with becoming modesty that it is the best, by the same token it is also the worst.

There has been comparatively little change in the material that was being issued when that book was published but there have been some important additions, and the librarian desires to obtain new material as soon as issued.

The issues of the Monthly Catalogue of Public Documents published since 1925 will give references to what has been printed since that year. To keep in touch with new printed material the libraries should be on the mailing list of the departments for both the reports and the announcements, and a check should be made against the weekly list of the Superintendent of Documents and the Monthly Catalogue.

These methods will enable the librarian to keep in touch with the printed material, but during recent years there has appeared an increasing number of mimeographed statements. Many of these are advance summaries, but an appreciable quantity presents material that is not available in any other form.

I read somewhere that librarians formerly despised pamphlets, but that now they only hate them. If the librarians despised and then hated pamphlets I dislike to think of what their feelings are toward mimeographed material. It is hard to obtain, difficult to file, and easy to lose.

The growth in the volume of mimeographed material is due to two main causes. The first is the fact that a mimeographed statement may be issued much quicker than a printed one, and as timeliness is a desideration in the case of many statistical statements, the use of the mimeograph is justified.

The second cause for the growth of mimeograph material is the fact that money is available for mimeographing, but not for printing. Under the present system of making appropriations all printing must be paid for out of an appropriation for that purpose, but

mimeographing may be paid for out of appropriations for making investigations.

The obvious remedy for the flood of mimeograph material is to print more and mimeograph less, but this remedy is not easily applied as Congress is loath to change existing methods, and in some quarters there seems to be an opinion that there is already too much printing. There is no immediate prospect of additional printing, and there is every likelihood that the quantity of mimeographed material will continue to increase.

Another remedy which will at least enable the librarians to keep track of the material and to complete their files is to list all mimeographed material in the Monthly Catalogue of Public Documents. This remedy also is not easily applied. To put it into effect the Superintendent of Documents must obtain the material, and at times he has as much difficulty as the librarians. An Executive Order requiring all the departments and establishments to send to the Superintendent of Documents a copy of each mimeographed product will put him in possession of the material. Whether he has sufficient force to catalogue it is a question I cannot answer. I suggest to this body the passage of a resolution requesting the Superintendent of Documents to list all mimeographed material in the Monthly Catalogue.

The United States Daily, which is a private publication, is now listing daily all new government printed publications. I suggest that a resolution be adopted requesting the *United States Daily* to list mimeographed material, particularly that pertaining to statistics.

Your own association is also compiling a list of periodical mimeographed issues, but this will also soon become out of date unless supplements are prepared.

Each issue of the monthly mimeographed publication entitled "Agricultural Library Notes," published by the Department of Agriculture contains a selected list of the new mimeographed publications of the Department of

Agriculture. As this is not confined to statistical material it will be useful to any one interested in the many activities of that Department.

About the only way to keep abreast of all the mimeographed material is to write to the several offices and request to be placed on the mailing list for all issues. This will also make available press releases and other announcements which are not of a statistical character.

Just a few words in regard to foreign statistics. Late in 1928 the League of Nations held an international conference relating to economic statistics, and the result of that conference was an international convention prescribing in broad terms the statistics that should be collected by the signatory powers.*

It is gratifying to note that the United States is already collecting and publishing the greater part of the material called for by this convention, and in some fields at more frequent intervals. In the field of Agriculture and manufactures a general census is proposed every ten years; the United States is already taking a general agricultural census every five years and a census of manufactures every two years.

In only the fields of forestry, fisheries, and commercial establishments does this country fall short of the requirements of the Convention. We have statistics on forest products and fisheries, but not to the extent established by the convention.

In the field of commercial establishments we have done little. Within the last two years experimental work has been done in 18 cities by the Bureau of the Census on what has been termed a census of distribution but which is really a census of wholesale and retail trade. Mimeographed abstracts of the results have been issued by the Bureau of the Census, and the complete reports have been issued in mimeograph form of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The results were so satisfactory that plans for making a nation-wide enumeration of this character in connection with the Census of 1930 were begun.

*The convention has been published by the League of Nations under the title "International Conference Relating to Economic Statistics, November 26 to December 14, 1928."

The Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux

Report of Oxford Conference

By Angus Fletcher, Librarian, British Library of Information

AT the request of President Cady I represented the Special Libraries Association at the 5th Conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, generally known in English library circles by the initial letters as ASLIB. There was an attendance of 160, representative of the leading special libraries and research organizations of Great Britain.

The Conference was held at New College, Oxford, from September 14th to 17th. New College, I might explain, was "new" in the fourteenth century. It was founded in 1379 by William of Wykeham, who also founded Winchester College and bequeathed to both a motto which might with advantage be adopted internationally: "Manners Makyth Man." The College and its lawns are singularly beautiful even in "that sweet city with its dreaming spires," that "needs not June for beauty's heightening." Whether surroundings so rare in beauty and restfulness are suitable to the hurried deliberations of a modern convention is a point on which I am not satisfied. The temptation to forsake the meetings for a corner in the ancient city wall that bounds the gardens was often irresistible.

At the opening dinner, which was held in the venerable dining hall of the College, I was invited to deliver a greeting from the Special Libraries Association. This I did with great pleasure, taking the opportunity to congratulate the Association on the production of the ASLIB Directory, a copy of which I have brought back for your inspection. My message was warmly applauded, and the courtesy I was able to pay to the Conference on behalf of the S. L. A., greatly appreciated.

The proceedings are available in printed form from the Secretary, and I have two sets which I shall gladly lend to anyone interested. The discussions included the following topics:—

Patent Law Reform with special reference to the Search for Novelty.

The Direct Reproduction of Books and Manuscripts.

Certain Aspects of Agricultural Research.

The Literature of Scientific Management.

Existing Types of Indexes to Technical Periodicals.

Cartography and the Research Worker.

The Librarian as Archivist.

Vocational Selection and Guidance.

Unification of the Library Resources of London.

Scientific Abstracts.

Civic and Regional Surveys: their relation to Information Bureaux.

A Book Review Digest.

The Durability of Paper.

Information on Accident Prevention.

The Necessity for the Standardization of Bibliographical Methods.

Like ourselves, the British association was much concerned with the scope and character of future activities. They recognize that their work is only just beginning. The Directory, of which they are justly proud, must be kept up-to-date or the organization for the collection of sources of information which they have built up will be wasted. The financial burden of this task is a problem in itself, though I may say that the Directory has had a good reception in England, and I believe when it is known will be appreciated also in the United States. I understand that over a thousand copies have been sold and distributed. The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, whose generous help has made the undertaking possible, was responsible for a large free distribution. The cost of preparing and printing the Directory was about \$15,000—the price 1 guinea, with a cheaper edition at half a guinea for the benefit of students.

Among the outside activities in which the Association had been able to cooperate to good advantage were:—

The World List of Scientific Periodicals. Central Library for Students and its Outlier system.

The Science Library: notably the great increase in its supply of scientific periodicals.

The Report of the Public Libraries Committee: The first movement towards a Central Building for kindred library bodies.

Dr. Hutton pointed out that the two problems of common interest among the members which most frequently recurred were (a) the task of securing reasonably complete information for some specific purpose, and (b) the presentation of the information so secured in useful form.

England is not supposed to be given to conventions, so that the following tribute to the Annual Conference was an interesting confirmation of our own point of view:—

"The Annual Conference has become quite an important fixture in the life of many of our members. We look forward to it because it forms a unique gathering of individuals engaged in the most diverse professional occupations."

May I now remind you that ASLIB was formed in England in 1924, just fifteen years after the S. L. A. was formed in the United States, and it is significant that immediately before Mr. J. G. Pearce, Director of the British Cast Iron Research Association and Chairman of the first British Conference had attended the S. L. A. Conference at Atlantic City, there can be no doubt, to my mind, that Mr. Pearce derived great encouragement and inspiration in the work of forming ASLIB, which was then under way, from what he saw of our Association, and it is interesting to observe that at the beginning our British friends had to answer the questions which are sometimes asked even today, "Why special libraries?" and "Why a special libraries association?" How did they answer them? I shall quote Mr. Pearce.

"Unquestionably these agencies have an economic value. The ordinary technical officer, in industry or elsewhere, is frequently a highly paid specialist, and it is an obvious economy to integrate the informational needs of

an organization, and have a small expert staff to keep in touch with the various channels through which information is received, and to know to whom it should be distributed. Loss of time occasioned through every member of an organization seeking his or her own facts is, in the aggregate, enormous, not only on account of the time waste involved, but because the average person only dimly appreciates the technique of information searching and information recording."

As to the need of an association, Mr. Pearce continued:—

"Varied as is the scope of such intelligence services, it is obvious that they have much in common such, for instance, as the methods of purchasing and collecting of fact information and its treatment, methods of staffing and staff training. There is considerable scope for mutual co-operation."

They were also confronted with the problem of the relationship of the special library to the public and municipal library. They recognized, as we do, that the special library is not a unit unto itself. To quote Mr. Pearce again:—

"The special library or intelligence bureau extends and supplements, but does not replace the municipal or national library. . . . It must make systematic and organized use of all existing information services. . . . It is complementary to the Public Library, which aims at the provision of material, whereas the special library aims primarily at circulation for a particular purpose. It does not cater for the casual reader, but for the specialist, and it forms in vital sections of the activities of the community an important link between the Public and other great libraries at one extreme and the actual prospective reader at the other."

The same point of view was adopted by the Public Libraries Committee appointed by the British Government, whose report in 1927 refers in the following rather generous language to the rôle of special libraries:—

"Special libraries can, if they are willing, greatly advance the common cause of the advancement of civilization by co-operation with the Public Libraries and taking their place in the

national organization of the library service which we desire to see established."

The special librarian, this report pointed out, was able to acquire an intensive bibliographical knowledge of the material in the library, and by virtue of constant association with the subject matter was enabled to deal with enquiries with great rapidity. The Committee proposed to grapple with the obvious need of co-ordination which seems to be felt by special libraries everywhere, through a national central library operating as a bureau of exchange for all libraries.

My object in drawing your attention to these British views of the question is not because there is anything new to us in them, but rather to show their similarity to views expressed on this side of the Atlantic.

As Mr. Dana has said—

"From the field of business itself has come an insistent demand for all the aid that the art of librarianship, the mastery of print, can give. In this country now we find several thousand libraries devoted almost solely to the promotion of business wisdom."

Or as Miss Rankin has put it.—

"The business man, the scientist, the manufacturer, the public administrator, all seem to have realized quite abruptly that printed information or experience crystallized in print is a tool—and if he used it in his business success was apt to attend him."

As to the relationship of the special library to the Public Library, I cannot do better than quote Mr. Dana and Miss Rankin again:—

"Public libraries," says Mr. Dana, "will never be able to gather and arrange for ready use, all the material that every great business must use daily if it is to keep ahead in the new international competition."

Miss Rankin, speaking at Oxford, England, pointed out that—

"The special libraries supplement the general and public libraries of the country, particularly in the field of research and reference. We are often dependent upon the resources of the public libraries and make use of them constantly.

"The usefulness of the special library would be handicapped without the

public library, and we co-operate very closely."

The special library, it has been suggested, enlists the sympathy of the business man for his public library, a sympathetic understanding which is, of course, of value in the formation of business branches in public libraries. If this is so, the special library is playing a larger part in the community than is at first apparent.

But even if we agree that the special library is an accepted unit in the modern library world the problem of co-ordination still remains. This is certainly the sphere of the two associations represented at this conference. President Cady has already pointed out that the constant growth of the special library departments of the larger public libraries make the closest co-operation desirable, and he indicated the S. L. A. as the medium for this work on the special library side. I understand that there are many smaller industrial centres where the public library might be expected to develop a technical or scientific department or service to provide for the particular industrial interest of the community. This seems to be a field of activity in which existing special libraries, with their unrivalled resources and experience could perform a great national service.

It is not for me to carry the subject further. The fact is that we are still on the threshold of our work of coordinating library resources though many valuable suggestions have been made and some epoch making works have been undertaken. Those suggestions are matters for careful and detailed consideration by those competent for the purpose, of whom I do not pretend to be one. The undertakings now under way claim our support, one and all, as a matter of principle, if not on grounds of self-interest.

The task of co-ordinating the vast resources which modern civilization has opened to us is staggering in its immensity. But if my observation of the American character is accurate, we may console ourselves with the knowledge that on this side of the Atlantic the greater the undertaking the keener the zest with which it is tackled and the more faithful the application with which it is carried to a conclusion.

1909 Special Libraries Association 1929

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General Office

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY—Miss Mary H. Brigham, 11 Nisbet Street, Providence, R. I.
Phone, Plantations 0789.

Our Second Twenty Years

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION has completed its first twenty years of existence. The little group of librarians who met at the A. L. A. conference in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in 1909, and who there voted to organize an association to discover and develop special libraries, "built better than they knew." At the end of twenty years the association has a membership of 1,129, serving in forty States of the Union, and in Canada and fifteen other foreign countries; local associations or chapters have been formed in populous centers from the Atlantic to the Pacific; librarians of particular interests, like those of civic-social, commercial-technical, financial, insurance, museum, and newspaper libraries, have been brought together in co-operative groups of vigor and value. For these twenty years the association has published a magazine that has made an enviable name and place for itself in the library and business worlds. The association has become incorporated, has established permanent headquarters, and now employs a paid secretary.

When one considers that the American Library Association, with a membership now exceeding 12,000, at the end of its first twenty years had a membership of 512, the position of S. L. A. is more impressive.

In the business library field S. L. A. has been especially active and successful. The first president of the association was that pioneer advocate of the business library, John Cotton Dana of the Newark Public Library, and in the year just ended one vice-president of S. L. A. was in charge of a business library in a large mid-western city, and the secretary of S. L. A. was the business research librarian in one of the most progressive public libraries in the United States.

Throughout these two decades S. L. A. has constantly devoted its energies to the interests of special libraries and special librarians. It has pursued the policy enunciated in one of its earliest publications to undertake no work already undertaken by another library association. That is still its policy. The special library field is large and distinct and worthwhile, and the task of developing it is big enough to challenge the best effort of every member of S. L. A.

As the association enters upon its second twenty years, it will continue to devote itself, as in the past, to making the special library more useful, and the special librarian more efficient and more valuable.

WILLIAM ALCOTT,
President.

The Convention in Retrospect

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION has gone into the annals of S. L. A. as a conference with a high record. In three busy days were compressed twenty meetings, including the general sessions, the gatherings of the various Groups, breakfast conferences, special dinners and joint meetings with affiliated associations. Many remained for the meeting of the Commercial-Technical group on Thursday morning. The pressure of the week was greatly intensified by the fact that the A. L. A. and its various Sections and affiliated organizations were also meeting in Washington during the week.

We were fortunate in our speakers. Leaders in economics and government work all presented interesting addresses, which aroused keen discussion after their presentation. The brief remarks of Mr. Bowker and Dr. Hill were a pleasant surprise. The dinner was a notable success with Miss Eastman's gracious greetings as president of the A. L. A., Mr. Haskin's laughable recital of his experiences in the lecture field and in information service duties and finally the genial remarks of Senator Capper, who as farmer, publisher and statesman had accumulated a fund of interesting facts gleaned from many sources.

The national capital was most attractive and the rare charm of the city impressed everyone. The magnificent parks, the Tidal Basin with its beautiful vistas, the Lincoln Memorial best seen at twilight with the figure of Lincoln seated as if enthroned, and the long shaft of the Washington monument completed a picture which is not easily forgotten. Washington was at its best in spite of a sharp shower which nearly interrupted the photograph taken with President Hoover.

HERBERT O. BRIGHAM,
Editor.

Impressions of the Conference

THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL seems to me to be one of the best places we have yet had for our sessions, and particularly good for sitting out and holding informal talks; and it would seem to me worth while for our association to write the Hotel concerning its advantages with suggestions for still further improvements.

The Commercial-Technical Group is the one I belong to, and I felt that it was making progress in solving its complex problems caused by the variety of its sub-committees. Notable is the tendency to have these meet separately, which should be encouraged in seasons to come. How about a "Petroleum" Breakfast, an "English" Tea and an "Illumination" Supper? Otherwise some of our committees are likely never to meet in groups, though they abound in enthusiastic memberships.

The general sessions (apart from the joint sessions, which would seem to me very satisfactory) are what we need in order to know one another and see one another as members of the same association. The two that we held separately brought out various individualities and enabled us to see, if not to know, who's who in the organization. The fact that the Superintendent of Documents was present at our first session and gave us a chance to talk with him was worth a great deal. The fact that various representatives of the Government, for example, Mr. James of the Department of Commerce, came before us in the general or special sessions, gave personality to organizations with whom we have to correspond. The more we can see in the flesh of these representatives of the Government and of large organizations the better, and when we have a chance to quiz them, that is better still.

How many of the members of our association were able to take advantage of the invitation to see the movie and talkie "The Bridge of San Luis Rey?" This was an inspiration to me, and I hope it was to others that saw it.

GEORGE W. LEE.

Chatting About the Convention

THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE made a special effort at the Convention this year to see that every special librarian should feel at home and enjoy meeting and knowing his fellow-librarians. An air of comradeship prevailed at all our meetings. As one member, Mrs. Alice F. Fitzgerald of the National Life Insurance Company, Montpelier, Vt., writes: "I have come to have a speaking acquaintance with many of the members of S. L. A. and found them invariably cordial. The members of our insurance group are especially congenial, and I always look forward with pleasure to our meetings." Mrs. Louise P. Dorn of the Detroit Edison Company, tells me that despite the fact that her time was so occupied—"I did renew most of the acquaintances I already had, however, and everyone with whom I spoke seemed to be having a wonderful time."

Perhaps the kernel of the matter of hospitality is as well said as it can be by Mrs. Geraldine Carlisle, librarian of the Air Corps Tactical School, Langley Field, Va., when she says: "It really is up to each one of us to get as much as one can, and to meet everyone. I met a few whom I especially enjoyed and hope to see again. The dinner was pleasing and I enjoyed my dinner companions." And did you notice that practically everyone assumed this responsibility of introducing people—not only the hospitality committee? Everyone was cordial and socially inclined.

Miss Margaret Locke, librarian of the College of Business Administration of Boston University, says: "Special librarians are surely a live energetic group. I hope another time to get acquainted with more of them." We are sorry you did not do it this year, Miss Locke, but be sure not to procrastinate at our next convention. The adjectives "live" and "energetic" were applied by many librarians in speaking of our Convention, and we appreciate this good opinion of us. Miss Marie C. Brace of the Newark Business Branch, referred to the special librarians in just that way. And weren't we delighted to greet Miss Marian Manley, librarian of the Newark Business Branch, at Washington, this year? She has played "hookey" from a number of conventions lately and we missed her.

One of the main concerns of the Hospitality Committee is to see that new members, or members attending a convention for the first time, should have an opportunity to get acquainted with the old members. This is a bit difficult unless the new members present themselves to the committee. We received a few suggestions along this line: "I'm wondering if it would help any if the new members were to wear some distinguishing label? Or perhaps a special reception for the new members might help to make them feel that they do belong," writes Miss Minnie W. Taylor, librarian of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, that energetic person who helped so much to form the new Museum Group.

I remember several years ago when the Newspaper Group had so much business to attend to that some bright person proposed "breakfast" meetings, and they became a fact. And some of us laughed at the idea! But did you notice how contagious the idea has become? The Civic-Social Group had a breakfast meeting this year and the Federal Reserve librarians adopted the same idea. Now comes this suggestion: "An extension of the group breakfast idea might be pleasant. It seems that if a table were reserved for each group to which members of the group might come, it would promote a lot of contacts in a most informal way."

Bernice M. Foster, librarian of Keane, Higbie & Company, in Detroit, who attended S. L. A. for the first time, also feels that some opportunity might be given to meet the librarians in your group socially. Here is an idea for all the Groups. We might relax from our business of librarianship in these Group Meetings occasionally and have a good social time.

Our dinner, under the able direction of Elizabeth Wray, as chairman, was a huge success, to which everyone will attest. But Mr. Hyde's afterthought of a dance, while a good idea, did not run "to dizzy heights" for lack of the stronger sex as partners. One of our alert newspaper librarians has the temerity to suggest: "Those of us who enjoy dancing do bemoan the fact there are not enough dancing partners to go 'round. Perhaps the only solution would be to have co-operation given an even broader scope and get the Chamber of Commerce of the cities where the conventions are held, interested prior to each convention. (A nice broad smile right here—comma—pause.)" Here is an idea for K. Dorothy Ferguson to use when she and her cohorts entertain us next year in California, where we have always heard the stronger sex prevail—in numbers, too.

Mr. Angus Fletcher, our Acting-President, did himself and us proud. He seemed to meet and greet everyone. He breakfasted, lunchoned, tea-ed and dined with a different group of special librarians every time. He "spread" himself but not too thin. He was not only our gracious presiding-officer, but he was our social leader, our humorous host, and our diplomat.

Mr. Joseph Sheridan, librarian of the Akron Beacon Journal, has the right attitude when he says: "Attending conventions is a hobby with a relaxation for me. I always enjoy myself." And he adds: "It might have made me somewhat conceited when many greeted me, calling me by name and I was at a loss, for the moment to recall their names." He might lay that to our friendliness and good memories.

Miss Mary S. Allen, librarian of the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, expresses the general feeling when she says: "The three days while I was in Washington were so full in attending both general sessions and group meetings, and between times getting something to eat and a little sleep that it was difficult to accomplish more." Nevertheless, we all had a mighty good time as these expressions of opinion affirm.

Boston comes to the front! Mr. Alcott was busy every moment at Washington and he chatted with everyone. He knows us all, I am sure. And he has made himself familiar with S. L. A. problems and is the ideal man for the presidency this year. The Association is fortunate indeed! As Miss Louise Lucas of the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, tells me, "Our Boston group has had one interesting meeting since the national one. We are, of course, pleased to have the new president one of us and feel that it will mean much to our local group, as well as to all of S. L. A."

REBECCA B. RANKIN,
Chairman, Hospitality Com.

For the third consecutive time, Miss Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, librarian of the Standard Statistics Company of New York, served as chairman of the Program Committee, and she produced another great program.

It was a remarkable attendance for the annual dinner on the closing night of the conference, and many went direct from the banquet room to the union station for the home start. Perhaps another year the dinner will be held earlier in the conference.

The conference of the British Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, better known as ASLIB, will be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, during the week end commencing Friday, September 20th. Miss Isabel L. Towner, Assistant Librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, will be accredited representative of the Special Libraries Association. It is hoped that other librarians from the United States may be present.

Conference Notes

Mrs. O. P. R. Ogilvie of Canada, upon arriving in Washington, was unable to attend meetings, due to the serious illness of a relative. We extend our sympathy

* * *

We missed many of our old friends and standbys who were not in attendance this year—among them Margaret and Marion Reynolds from the Middle West; Helen Rankin of Philadelphia; Gertrude Peterkin and Ruth Savord of New York.

* * *

The Federal Reserve librarians were being entertained so often that it was hard to keep track of them. Of course, we were all envious of their breakfasts, oh not because it was breakfast—but some kind angel provided so many "financial researchers" that the bank librarians continued "researching" most of the Conference. Needless to say these "researchers" were not of the gentle sex.

* * *

Did any of you meet the Major? No, we did not either. We understand "he was so interesting," but it seemed to us he was interested in a certain New York special librarian.

* * *

Mildred A. Burke, director of the Research Department and Library of the *Chicago Tribune* had intended to be at the Conference, but at the last minute was prevented from coming, though her name appeared in the printed list of registrants.

* * *

Mary Louise Alexander of New York, seemed to keep that Lincoln of hers very busy in the evenings as well as the day-time. It may have been Pierce's Mill in Rock Creek Park that was the attraction for dinner.

* * *

Elizabeth Wray takes the record for short stops at Conferences. She flew down in time for the banquet, saw it through successfully and returned to New York at midnight. There is devotion to duty for you.

* * *

Two special librarians from New York seem to have a flair for doctors, especially specialists. The cause—oh, an ear-ache or a mote in the eye—but the cure necessitated several automobile rides in the doctor's Packard—and dinners oh yes—! Ask them how they turn the trick.

Nora A. Shreve of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was prevented by illness from attending the Convention. She assures us she is anticipating the 1930 conference right now.

* * *

To Mrs. Brigham, our executive secretary, goes much appreciation for the efficient way in which she handled registration and all the details of arrangement. The machinery ran smoothly, which is the best proof of no faults. Her patience must have been tried as there was considerable shifting of the registration desk.

* * *

We were highly amused over the recital of the difficulties Jane Henderson of Lazard Freres encountered with her baggage on the return trip. But we certainly admire her persistence and pluck in untangling it so quickly. She showed herself a capable specialist.

* * *

Some of those at the Conference followed it with a trip over the week-end into the Blue Ridge Mountains and the famous caverns in the vicinity. Florence Wagner of *Wall Street Journal*; Ethel Baxter, American Bankers Association; Marguerite Burnett of Federal Reserve Bank; Elizabeth Baxter of Haskins & Sells, and Rebecca Rankin of the New York Municipal Reference Library, formed one party. Miss Burnett distinguished herself by joining a hiking party and reaching the top of the trail at Skyland—and how!

* * *

Yes, a number of special librarians had a "flight" over Washington. We learned last year how much fun it was—and did it again. Miss Margaret Kehl of the New York Municipal Reference Library and Miss Isabel Cubberley of the Western Electric Company Library, even managed to have a photograph of their flight. Elizabeth Baxter had her first thrill in the air, also Miss Hilson of Trenton Public Library.

* * *

We greeted some new friends in Detroit: Mrs. Ada Mosher of the Public Library; Miss Ione Ely, Cecil Betron of the *News*; Miss Elva Clarke of the Employers' Association; Mrs. Dorn of Detroit Edison Company; Miss Hicks of the Ford Motor Company; Miss Lutz of General Motors; Mr. Pettit of the *News*, and Louise Willis of the Public Library. Grace England is an old standby that we were glad to greet again.

At the first General Session on Monday morning during the discussion of the Report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, Miss Rankin made a plea for a change in the article on "Dues," arguing that the right to make a change in the amount of the dues should rest with the members, and such power should not reside only in the Executive Board. The Association responded heartily to the suggestion and the article on "Dues" was changed in accordance therewith. The Chairman, Mr. Fletcher, thereupon remarked very aptly—"this appears to be another case of 'taxation without representation.'"

* * *

The Wednesday afternoon program of the Civic-Social Group was so splendid that it was a crying shame the entire Association could not have been in attendance. Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau, under Department of Labor, made a splendid talk; Miss Harlean James, secretary of the American Civic Association, described The City Plan of Washington so vividly and attractively, and Congressman Ketchum of Michigan, gave a speech on Law Observance that was common sense and humor mixed in the correct proportions. The small room where we met was crowded to overflowing.

* * *

A number of the special librarians were enticed away from our Banquet to Miss Bess

McCrea's fascinating program at the Order and Book Selection Round Table called "Paving the Roads to Knowledge." Had it not conflicted with our S. L. A. meeting, more of us would have attended as we were anxious to do so. But mind you, when one of our special librarians, who was on the program, arrived at the meeting and heard Mr. Charles B. Shaw entertaining the audience so poetically that he even burst into song, she lost her nerve and said—"this is no program for me to take part in"

* * *

On Friday, following the meeting of the Business Libraries Section, we heard considerable comment on that meeting. The greatest interest centered about the secret meeting held preceding its regular session. As stated in the *Library Journal* of June 15, it ran: "At a meeting of the signers of the petition for the Business Libraries Section, a constitution and by-laws was adopted and the following officers elected"—No one was interested in the officers but that a meeting had been held unannounced to any except the signers of the petition was good. The general opinion prevailed that the action was at least unprecedented and it was thought to be illegal or unconstitutional according to A. L. A. constitution. R.B.R.

Treasurer's Report, 1928-29

Total Receipts

Balance on Hand.....	\$2,972.93
Dues, 1927.....	82.75
Dues, 1928.....	1,007.65
Dues, 1929.....	4,822.84
Dues, 1930.....	20.50
Spec. Lib. Dir.....	105.60
N. Y. Directory.....	55.45
California Directory.....	4.00
Boston Directory.....	2.00
Advertising.....	996.16
Convention.....	796.50
Rubber Bibliography.....	283.50
Steam Ry. Transp. Bib.....	13.80
Inf. Bulls., nos. 6 and 8.....	550.00
Miscellaneous Publications.....	107.49
Reprints.....	21.50
Miscellaneous.....	33.37
Interest from Bank.....	35.89

Total Disbursements

Printing Information Bulletins.....	\$1,279.16
Printing Special Libraries.....	2,397.92
Supplies, letterheads, etc.....	268.58
Travel.....	60.10
Salaries.....	2,062.31
Convention.....	1,062.47
Budgets, Groups, Locals.....	925.99
Secretary.....	215.11
Editor.....	300.00
Tel. & Tel. Expressage.....	41.25
Postage.....	74.42
Miscellaneous.....	104.30
Total Receipts.....	\$11,911.63
Total Disbursements.....	8,770.11
Balance.....	\$3,163.32

ROSE L. VORMELKER,
Treasurer

Secretary's Report, 1928-29

Membership

The membership on May 1, 1929 was as follows:

Institutional	121
Active	557
Associate	289
<hr/>	
Total paid	967
Unpaid	155
<hr/>	
Total	1,122

Of these sixty-six are in foreign countries.

The two previous years in which we had these three types of membership the figures were as follows:

	1927	1928
Institutional	27	102
Individual Subscriptions	524	614
Associate	15	193
<hr/>		
Total	566	910

This shows a net gain of 57 over 1928, although the actual gain is probably more as during the previous year subscriptions were included in the membership figures.

Local Associations and Groups

One new local chapter has been organized within the year in Detroit, Michigan, making a total of 8 local chapters in the national association and one affiliated local association.

An outstanding piece of work in the New York Local Chapter has been the publication of a news bulletin for its members. This bulletin has also been sent to the Presidents of all locals in the country and been greatly appreciated by them.

Two new groups are being or have been organized:—the Civic-Social and the Museum Group, making a total of 6 groups.

Co-operation with other Associations

The Petroleum Committee, (Commercial-Technical Group), under the leadership of Mr. D. F. Brown, has co-operated with the American Petroleum Institute and the U. S. Bureau of Mines in compiling a most comprehensive monthly bibliography on petroleum. Although this bibliography has been published for several years, it is only since the American Petroleum Institute and S. L. A. have been co-operating that it has been possible to cover the entire field of literature pertaining to petroleum and its uses, and to annotate the references.

A new magazine entitled *Editorial policies, plans, and methods*, issued by the Editorial Advisory Committee, has invited the S. L. A. to become a regular contributor. In the first issue about one-third of the material was contributed by S. L. A. members. This work is being directed by Miss Alma Mitchell, chairman of the Commercial-Technical Group. It may interest the association to know that Mr. Feiker, who is managing director and secretary of the Association Business Papers, Inc., considers S. L. A. on a par with the U. S. Supreme Court, and the League of Nations, as an educational factor in this new project of his.

At the Chicago meeting of the A. L. A., a business library Round Table was held, Miss Carrie Jones, librarian of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, being responsible for the program.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Perkins of the National Association of Manufacturers, it was possible for the Association to be of service in connection with the Library Session, held at the National Association of Manufacturers Convention in October, 1928.

Two of our members presented papers at this conference: Mr. Pellett, librarian of the Port of New York Authority, an unusually pertinent one, entitled "What Can a Library Accomplish for a Company?" and Mrs. Wetmore, librarian of H. L. Doherty & Co., on "How Can a Company Library Increase Public Appreciation of Industry." Miss Mitchell, chairman of our Exhibit Committee, presided over an exhibit of a "Model Library" at this conference.

For the first time in several years we are to have a joint session with the A. L. A., the general theme of which is "Co-operation Between Public and Special Libraries."

The invitation to S. L. A. of the American Association of Law Librarians to join in the discussion on the Biennial Index of State Legislation has been evidence that the contribution of this association was valued.

Another indication of this type of co-operation has been the request to have the S. L. A. represented on the National Committee on Calendar Simplification.

Exhibits

Exhibits were held at the American Bankers' Association, under the auspices of the Financial Group, and at the National Association of Manufacturers, under direction of Miss Mitchell, chairman of the Exhibit Committee.

Constitution

The constitution has been revised and will be presented to the Association for adoption at this session.

General Office

All billing for dues, filling and shipping of all orders for publications has been done in the General Office.

In connection with the bills the relations between the General Office and the secretaries of local associations have been clarified by sending the yellow copies of membership bills to the local secretary or treasurer, upon receipt of the money, thus automatically giving the local association a check upon the status of its membership.

In the absence of an active national Membership Committee during a part of the past year the executive secretary has followed up all membership prospects and has acted as liaison officer between such prospects and the respective local association or Group involved. This co-ordination between inquirer and the Association has also been applied to the Committee on Classification and that on Publications and to various other committees in lesser degree.

Through the courtesy of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution the executive secretary had a small part in the revision. This work touched upon the functions of the General Office and the executive secretary.

In the publishing of SPECIAL LIBRARIES the General Office has assisted in the editing and has cared for the billing of advertisers. The annual index was prepared and submitted to the editor for additions and corrections. During the heaviest part of the editor's legislative duties, two issues were completely prepared by the executive secretary.

Much of the detail preliminary to the convention has been worked out in the General Office. This included preparatory work on the convention directory.

A dictionary catalog and a group file of our membership have been completed.

Many requests for employment have been referred to the New York Chapter. The General Office, however, has handled some and has written numerous letters of introduction for applicants.

The correspondence and other duties have become so heavy that it has been necessary to employ a full time typist to assist with the work.

International Relations

A set of our information bulletins was requested and sent to the Science Library, Science Museum, South Kensington, London.

Missing issues of the file of SPECIAL LIBRARIES in the office of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureau of Great Britain were also supplied.

It is a pleasure to report that Miss Adeline Macrum, librarian of the Tuberculosis League of Pittsburgh, has been appointed to represent S. L. A. at the International Library and Bibliographical Congress in Rome.

Publications

Our publications are listed from time to time in the journal, but these cannot be dismissed without special mention of the monumental work of the Transportation Committee, under Mr. Pellett's direction.

Questionnaires have been sent to many agencies requesting co-operation in checking lists and making suggestions for the most comprehensive bibliography on water transportation ever attempted. (More on this will be forthcoming from Mr. Pellett.)

The Financial Group compiled and had printed a most useful list of "Books for a Bank Library," which was distributed at the American Bankers Association.

Suggested Future Projects

1. Aid to corporations undertaking organization of libraries.

By this is meant not only supplying lists of books on specific subjects, but also giving very definite suggestions concerning the administration of special libraries in business and the staff required.

The secretary has gone into great detail on this with a few corporations and the appreciation of these concerns has been most gratifying.

2. Developing the special library field by encouraging related industries in a community to unite in establishing a business library for their use. e.g. The Boston Elevated Railroad offers its facilities to all related industries in its community.

3. Closer co-operation between the National Association and its Local Chapters.

4. Co-operation with other Associations.

5. More Publicity.

We have a good product and an open market. Let's tell the world about it!

Respectfully submitted,

ROSE L. VORMELKER,

Secretary.

Editor of Special Libraries Report, 1928-29

The editor herewith submits his report for the period which has intervened since the last annual meeting.

During that period nine numbers of the magazine have been issued, the lessened number due to the fact that this year we have made the April issue the pre-conference number, while last year the May-June issue was selected for that purpose.

The nine issues sent to our members have covered a wide range of interest. The issues immediately following the conference were devoted to the proceedings, including the principal addresses, reports of officers, committees and groups. The October issue was the Newspaper Library number, with a dozen articles selected from the proceedings of the Newspaper Group. The numbers following October were varied in type with an occasional address from the Washington conference of 1928, an address before some local association, or a paper prepared especially for the magazine.

Our readers thus obtained descriptions of the Army Medical Library, the library of The Port of New York Authority, the Chase Bank Library and the library of the Maryland Casualty Company. To indicate the varied subject-matter, articles appeared on reference work in the field of sanitary engineering, work of a child welfare library, the value of bibliographies, necessity for transportation libraries, public utility libraries as information sources, the music library of a broadcasting company, foreign files in an agricultural library, selling service in an insurance library and recataloging problems in a utility library. The December number was devoted to book reviews, including such topics as "Better Business Books of 1928," "Books Relating to Foreign Countries," "New Books of Special Interest to the Life Insurance Librarian" and "Notes on Recent Scientific and Technical Books." The March issue was a Classification number and, edited by Miss Rebecca B. Rankin, assisted by Miss Louise Keller, covered the field of that important division of library work.

This brief summary scarcely does justice to the magazine as it ignores the wealth of material furnished by the department editors, the notes and brief items which complete the magazine.

There is always a surplusage of copy and constant pruning is necessary to reduce the magazine to the size demanded by circumstances.

As I stated in an editorial in the February issue:

"We realize fully the possibilities of the journal of the Association and also realize that after all, we only achieve a partial success. A casual survey of the library and research field in our specific sphere of influence indicates that it would require an extensive staff to properly cover the news developments of this cross section of the business and technical world. If our editorial staff, the chairmen of the various groups and committees as well as the research members of our organization would send to the Editor the numerous items of interest coming within their purview these items reproduced would require a magazine of twice the present pagination. In other words, we only cull here and there from the great mass of printed matter."

Each reader makes a different demand upon the magazine and the more widespread upon the activities, the greater the interest. We should appreciate comments upon the policy of the magazine and suggestions for its improvement.

We have been printing the magazine in Providence for over a year and have found the connection satisfactory inasmuch as we are enabled to proofread and examine the magazine with more facility during the process of printing.

The editor has continued to act as business manager and has kept in touch with advertisers through correspondence and personal calls. During the winter months, on account of professional duties, he was unable to continue this work, but in preparation for the pre-convention number he sent out over two hundred letters soliciting advertisements. The results were most gratifying, over one-eighth of the correspondents answered in the affirmative, and over one-third of the entire group responded. If the canvass of the city of Washington is excluded, practically one-half of the correspondents responded. From this appeal will also come favorable results for the future, several correspondents promising advertising copy for the fall issues or early in 1930.

The magazine is slowly taking its place as an advertising medium in spite of handicaps which are evident to any trained advertising expert. The reorganization of the mailing list, mentioned in last year's report, has been

accomplished and there is now practically no wastage in the mailing.

The advisory and department editors have rendered valuable assistance, but the departments have been seriously handicapped by want of space. New projects which have been planned in Transportation and Government Documents have not been accomplished for that reason, but in the coming year we hope to have

better success in increasing our departmental features.

The editor again appeals to the readers to offer suggestions and comments concerning the conduct of the magazine. If our readers want a larger, better magazine, they must themselves help by giving us advice and counsel.

HERBERT O. BRIGHAM,

Editor

Resolutions, 1929

Be it Resolved, That the Special Libraries Association, now assembled for its 21st annual Conference, in Washington, D. C., express its appreciation

I. To the distinguished speakers who honored the delegates present, by giving their time in welcoming the convention, and also for their highly instructive addresses.

II. To the program committee and the District of Columbia Library Association, who helped to make this conference such a success, we express our heartfelt thanks and especially to Miss Elsie Rackstraw, librarian of the Federal Reserve Board, chairman of the District of Columbia Library Association Committee on Arrangements, for the S. L. A. Convention.

III. To Mr. R. R. Bowker and to Dr. Frank P. Hill, our very sincere appreciation for their friendly visits and our warm thanks for the many good wishes which they, as members of the A. L. A., extended to us on our 21st conference.

IV. To the management of the Mayflower Hotel, its appreciation of the excellent service and splendid accommodations for the various group meetings.

V. To the officers and members of the National Press Club, its gratitude for the kind invitation to hold our annual banquet in their spacious club quarters.

VI. To Mr. Angus Fletcher, who so willingly and graciously took over the burden of carrying on the convention, the Association wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the diplomatic and successful manner in which he conducted the meetings.

K. DOROTHY FERGUSON,
Chairman,

ELIZABETH CULLEN,

JOSEPH SHERIDAN,

Resolutions Committee.

Mail Bag

D. C. Numbers in the Code for Classifiers

The attention of the compiler of the Code for Classifiers has been called to a possible misunderstanding of the function of the D. C. numbers printed in the margins of the pages, namely; these numbers may be mistaken to indicate the classification in the Decimal Classification of the topic discussed in the rules to which they are attached. Nothing could be further from the intention of the author than such an interpretation of these numbers.

In the foreword, after saying that the alphabetical arrangement, used in the mimeographed edition of the Code in 1914, had been changed to a systematic one, the author says: "The sequence of topics now follows the sequence of classes in the Decimal Classification of Dr. Melvil Dewey so far as the character of the topics has permitted." The sole purpose of the Dewey number is to enable the classifier to locate readily the topic of which he is in search, without recourse to the index. Nothing is implied, or should be inferred from the Dewey number, as to the disposition that the D. C. system makes of the topic in question. In many cases—e.g. poetry (both poems and criticism), individual authors, wars,—topics are grouped together for comparison that in any system of classification would be scattered all through it. The Dewey number for the general subject is added to keep these groups in intelligible order. If the D. C. ruling is mentioned at all, it is either in the text of the rule or in a note.

In discussing some points of classification reference has occasionally been made to possible expansions of Dewey numbers; or a decimal figure has been used as a brief way of designating the ruling followed in the library reporting upon it. These numbers are not official rulings of the D. C. Office.

WILLIAM STETSON MERRILL.

The Newberry Library

Executive Board

The new Executive Board held its first meeting on Wednesday, May 15th, at the Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C. The newly elected members were all present with the exception of Mr. Bostwick and Miss Reynolds. In addition, the retiring Secretary, the retiring Treasurer, the Editor, the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Publications Committee were present on invitation of the Board. The following persons were appointed chairmen of the following committees: Classification, Miss Louise Keller; Continuation Reading, Miss Grace D. Aikenhead; Co-operation with the Library of Congress, Miss Elsie Rackstraw; Exhibits, Miss Alma C. Mitchill; Publications, Miss Linda H. Morley; Training for Librarianship, Miss Rebecca B. Rankin; News, Mr. Ford Pettit. Other appointments on committees were deferred until the next meeting of the Executive Board. In addition the following committees were selected: Resolutions, Mrs. Jennie Lee Schram, Mrs. Ada M. Mosher, Miss Lois Heaton; Auditing, Miss Ethel L. Baxter, Miss Alta B. Claffin, Miss K. Dorothy Ferguson.

The place for the next annual convention of the Association was discussed by the Board and a tentative decision reached that the conference should be held on the Pacific Coast. The 1930 conference committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. Angus Fletcher, Miss Elizabeth O. Cullen, Miss K. Dorothy Ferguson and Miss Mary Louise Alexander. It was voted that this committee should prepare a communication to be sent to the executives of corporations having jurisdiction over libraries, stating reasons why a meeting on the West Coast would be desirable and the benefits to be derived from attendance at such a meeting. Transportation, routing and costs were left in charge of Miss Cullen.

The duties of the Treasurer for the ensuing year were discussed and a method of approving bills adopted.

Miss Morley, chairman of the Committee on Publications, presented a list of manuscripts submitted to her committee. The Board authorized the sale of all remaining copies of the 1925 Special Libraries Directory at half price, and also authorized the disposal of the surplus stock of the *Handbook on Commercial Information Services*, 1924 edition. The Board also recommended that the Committee on Publications consider a new edition of this latter volume.

The desirability of a closer supervision by the national Association of possible publications by the Groups and their sub-committees was discussed and it was voted that the President write to the chairmen of the Groups with a view to effecting closer co-operation in this matter.

It was voted that the President appoint at his convenience a Committee of Ways and Means to study the finances of the Association.

Sections or Round Tables

Conference week, states the *Library Journal*, for June 15, 1929, included not only sessions of the A. L. A. and affiliated or sister organizations, as Special Libraries, the Institute, the Bibliographical Society, the League of Library Commissions, the State and Law Associations, but also those of eleven sections of the A. L. A. and thirteen Round Tables, now thus become a thirty-ring circus, holding in total 77 separate meetings, not inclusive of dinners, luncheons and "pink" teas. There seems to be some danger lest the forest cannot be seen because of the trees for these meetings of sub-divisions are likely to become confusing and exhausting. The Council gave its approval to the petition of those asking for a section on periodicals, as in the previous year it had sanctioned a Business Section. The College and Reference Section, the Children's Librarians Section, the Catalog Section, all cover such fields of work as to afford special reason for the existence of such sections. Sections under the A. L. A. constitution receive a charter for well-nigh independent existence, with authority for limiting their membership, collecting dues and printing publications. The Periodical Section now increases the number to twelve, and *it is fairly debatable whether this division into sections has not already been carried too far. Certainly there should be two limitations, that sections should not invade the field of existing organizations, as the Business Section is in danger of doing with reference to the Special Libraries Association, or make a cross-section of membership in a field where all librarians are interested, as in the case of the new Periodical Section. In such cases Round Tables with their interested groups gathered in close discussion of specific topics seem preferable and less open to criticism, and this word of caution may not be out of place before division and subdivision are carried to still further extremes.*

(Italics were not used in original article.—Editor.)

Government Publications

Mr. L. F. Schmeckebier, of the Institute for Government Research, Washington, D. C., delivered an address before the Public Documents Round Table of the A. L. A., May 16th, on "Distribution of Government Publications to Libraries." Mr. Schmeckebier said in part:

"Radical changes in the method of distributing government publications to libraries are desirable if the public is to obtain the full benefit of this activity and the government is to be protected against waste. For many years the law has provided that one library may be designated by each Representative and each Senator as a depository to receive all government publications if it desires them. This places the distribution essentially on a population basis, which is not a true guide to library needs, as library development is the result of all the social and economic forces at work in the community.

The present distribution of depositories is defective because some important centers have no depositories, in many states the depositories are not well distributed geographically, and college libraries are designated in places where public libraries are in existence.

To remedy this condition it is proposed to establish three classes of depository libraries as follows:

1. Twenty central depository libraries which shall agree to keep two copies of each publication—one for the use of readers and one to be circulated as needed through other libraries.
2. Five hundred general depositories which shall have the right to select in advance the classes of publications to be received.
3. One thousand restricted depository libraries which shall be entitled to receive publications on application.

Definite requirements are recommended for each class as regards the budget for professional services and hours of opening. Libraries of Educational institutions of the grade of colleges and lower should be omitted as it is assumed that the purpose of depository libraries is to make books available to the general public. If it is deemed desirable to subsidize scholastic education to the extent of allowing colleges to select government publications for their libraries, that purpose should be frankly recognized in the law, and there should be set up a separate class known as 'educational depositories.' "

Municipal Reference

The report of the Municipal Reference Library of Chicago, Frederick Rex, librarian, for the past year, indicates a sturdy growth. The collection now numbers over 126,000 volumes and during the calendar year served 23,000 persons, including over 6,000 requests by telephone. The library distributed over 16,000 municipal documents and rendered aid to city officials and departments. A special bibliography was prepared on smoke nuisance for the use of a City Council committee. A type-written report on the abatement of noise, with special reference to building construction, was also prepared for a member of the Council and a study made on the use of electric welding in place of air riveting machines in the construction of skyscrapers. Copies of the report of the Municipal Reference Library may be obtained upon application to the librarian.

Population Problems

The Journal of Political Economy has been printing a series of articles on population problems since the World War, by A. B. Wolfe. In his concluding article, appearing in February, 1929, Mr. Wolfe presents a list of organizations concerned with population research and adds:

"One would like to look forward hopefully toward the establishment in the United States (and Canada) of a centralized research organization of American workers, adequately staffed and financed for comprehensive work on all aspects of the population problem. If such a project is chimerical, we might at least propose a central clearing-house of research work in progress, a central office to help coordinate the work of individual investigators and specialized research institutes, and to map out the whole field with a view to securing advance where advance is most needed. Population research is as yet too much at the mercy of individual slants and interests

"The Social Science Research Council's Committee on Population has been making a survey, under the direction of R. M. Woodbury, of population research projects now under way in this country. It may be that this is the much-needed preliminary step which will lead to a productive co-ordination of research projects. It would seem, however, that the present Committee should be enlarged to include a representative of agricultural and soil science and a more liberal representation of the economic aspects of the problem."

Anniversary Dinner

The annual dinner was held on Wednesday evening in the beautiful hall of the National Press Club, and the attendance reached 150. The guests included Miss Linda A. Eastman of Cleveland Public Library, president of A. L. A.; Hon. Arthur Capper, senior senator from Kansas, and publisher of several newspapers, including *Capper's Weekly*; and Frederick J. Haskin, Washington correspondent for 100 newspapers throughout the United States. In addition, the former presidents of S. L. A. during the twenty years of its history were invited to be the guests of the association, so that the head table had a distinguished company.

Angus Fletcher of the British Library of Information, New York, who, in the absence of President Cady was acting president of S. L. A., presided at the dinner. Apart from the head table members were seated at oval tables with places for six, with a hostess at each table, and everybody was made to feel at home. The beauty of the banquet room with its arched ceiling and its gilt chairs with bright red upholstery, was further enhanced by the floral decorations on every table.

Messages by wire and mail were received from John Cotton Dana, the first president, who was in Europe; Guy E. Marion from Los Angeles, Calif.; C. C. Williamson, director of the Columbia School of Library Science, at New York; R. H. Johnston, director of the Bureau of Railway Economics of Washington, and Francis E. Cady of Cleveland. Those who were present and responded to the roll call were Daniel N. Handy of Boston, librarian of the Insurance Library Association of Boston, the only man who has served four terms as president; Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., of the Washington Chamber of Commerce; Miss Rebecca B. Rankin of the Municipal Reference Library of New York; Edward H. Redstone, librarian of the Massachusetts State Library of Boston and William Alcott, the president-elect.

Col. C. Fred Cook, librarian of the *Evening Star*, Washington, was toastmaster, and he put the company in good humor with his happy wit. There were only three addresses. Miss Eastman brought the greetings of A. L. A. and congratulated S. L. A. upon its record of accomplishment in its two decades of history. Senator Capper spoke of his work as a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and as chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, which has much to do with the

municipal development of the city. Mr. Haskins spoke of the reference department of his correspondence bureau, but that was only incidental to an opportunity to tell a fund of good stories which threw his audience into peals of hearty laughter.

The dinner arrangements were in charge of Miss Elizabeth B. Wray, librarian of the U. S. Rubber Company of New York.

Adult Education

John Cotton Dana, of the Newark Free Public Library, introduces his annual report of the library for 1928, with a telling discussion of adult education, after which he writes—"All this has, perhaps, no proper place in the Annual Report of a Public Library. My excuse for its presence here is that it is in a measure an advertisement of the uneasiness of mind that has led me, in all these years in Newark, to try out new lines, in the hope that among them may be found a few which will permanently broaden the library's field and enable it to be of more value to its community. Hence our 'Picture Collection,' and our 'Fine Prints,' and our 'Framed Lithographs for Home Use.' Hence also, our 'Business Branch,' our 'Engineering Index' and our 'Lending Map Collection' and other innovations on conventional library activities. I wish I had been, in these library years, more inventive and more revolutionary.

"For I am positive that our library can be of more value than it has ever yet been to the boys and girls of our city, who have taken a job and now find that it would pay them to learn something. We have been 'adult educational' enough in our hearts, I'm sure; but we have not been imaginative enough.

"A plan I have in mind now along this line calls for the aid of the newspapers and may appeal to them and prove worth while. Mention of the aid of the newspapers leads me easily to tell that one of my librarian critics more than hints that I am 'nice to the newspapers in the hope that they will be nice to me!' I am glad to be able to say that he who so hints might have said it outright—and have thus pleased me all the more. I am a public employee, running a non-profit-making institution for the good of its owners. If ever a man was so situated as to make it wise and proper and moral for him to be agreeable to the newspapers, it is a man in my position."

Smith & Smith Reference Service

The needs of reference workers, both amateur and professional, were constantly in mind when the "Reference Service" plan was being evolved. The aim was to provide a service which would perform three major functions for users of the literature of chemical technology: 1) to bring prompt information of current developments; 2) to facilitate finding items once seen and wanted again; and 3) to provide a cumulative bibliography of selected subjects, in form for vertical, loose leaf or card index filing.

It was desired to make these aids equally available to the individual technologist or the small laboratory or library, and to the large laboratory or library, the cost to the user being strictly commensurate with the amount received. To accomplish these ends, and to give subscribers the widest possible range of choice, chemical technology was arbitrarily divided into 36 classes, chosen mainly for the convenience of specific industries. These classes have their own sub-divisions called A (abstracts of periodical articles), B (abstracts of patents) and C (list of new books and pamphlets).

A subscriber is allowed to take any one or two or all three of these divisions (A, B or C) in one or more of the 36 classes. Those who take all or part of more than one class are allowed a discount from the basic rate, ranging from 5% for a few classes up to 50% for all 36.

Extra copies are furnished for only a small charge over the subscription rate. This is for two reasons—first, so that a user who wishes to clip selected items for card indexing can still have a whole copy for reference use; and second, so that laboratories having several or many chemists can supply each with a monthly information bulletin at small expense.

This monthly information bulletin feature is the foundation of the whole idea; "Reference Service" is particularly planned to make available to all chemical industry, at low cost, the benefits of a monthly bulletin provided in such form as to perform the other functions mentioned. It was planned to bring these benefits within reach of the individual and the small organization, interested in only one or a few subjects, and to provide the large organization with a bulletin at a small fraction of the cost of private compilation. Thus, to compile all of Reference Service would take the full time of one reviewer, and to prepare it for distribution would require considerable outlay for clerical help and stationery; but the subscription cost for a year is less than a month's salary for a high class reviewer.

For the small user the difference becomes even more apparent; for instance, a subscriber can get the patent references in 3 classes for a year for less than the subscription cost of the Illustrated Official Journal of the British Patent Office; and the saving in time is of course greater still.

Personal Notes

Mary C. Parker, Department Editor

Miss Ruth Snyder has been appointed librarian of the Research Library organized by the Silberling Business Service, at Berkeley, California.

* * *

The announcement of the marriage of Miss Virginia Hanners, librarian of A. B. Leach & Co., to Mr. Spencer B. Meredith on June eighth, has been made.

* * *

Miss Wilhelmina Taylor, librarian of the New York Telephone Company, is to be married on May 11th to Mr. Murray Klingman and will reside in Albany.

* * *

Miss Dorothy M. Avery, formerly assistant librarian, has been appointed librarian succeeding Miss Taylor.

Miss Helen Kranich became a member of the staff of the First Wisconsin National Bank Library on February 11th.

* * *

Miss Mildred A. Lee, formerly assistant in the library of Ford, Bacon & Davis, is now librarian of Selected Industries, Inc., of 65 Broadway, New York.

* * *

Miss Anna Kerins has been appointed reference librarian for Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc., 39 Broadway, New York City. Miss Kerins was formerly associated with White & McGee, Inc., in the Statistical department.

* * *

Miss Sonia Wilderman, formerly of Oregon, is now librarian of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, replacing Mrs. Lois McVeigh, who recently resigned.

Associations

Related reports from the local Associations complete the year's work. Next month we print the official reports submitted at the Washington Conference.

Boston

Members of the Special Libraries Association of Boston met at the Insurance Library, on Monday evening, April 22nd, and considered the subjects of fire hazards of libraries and the matter of insuring library properties.

D. N. Handy, librarian of the Insurance Library Association of Boston, was in charge of the meeting. He announced that William B. Medlicott, president of the Insurance Library Association, who was to speak on the problem of insuring library properties, was taken sick, but had sent his manuscript for the use of the Association.

Rob. H. Moulton, technical secretary of the National Fire Association, spoke on "Fire Hazards of Libraries." Adequate protection against fire, recommended by Mr. Moulton, included elimination of all rubbish, the use of wire glass for windows, metal shutters, outside water curtains, and automatic sprinklers.

Following a question period, the appointment of a committee of five, of which D. N. Handy will be chairman, was authorized, to co-ordinate the facts presented at the meeting for the use of members of the Association.

Howard L. Stebbins presided at the business session. He announced the appointment of the following committee to co-ordinate the information sources of Boston, which were discussed at the previous monthly meeting: James F. Ballard, Boston Medical Library; Charles F. D. Belden, Boston Public Library; Edward H. Redstone, State Library; Miss Blake Beems, Boston Medical Library; Miss Blanche L. Davenport, *Christian Science Monitor*; Miss Marion G. Eaton, Federal Reserve Bank; Miss Gertrude Mcaley, Associated Industries of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Frances Rathbone Coe, chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the completion of the winter course on Library Methods, which closed successfully on Monday evening.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at a nearby restaurant.

* * *

The Special Libraries Association of Boston held its annual meeting on May 27, in the new office of the New England branch of Macmillan Company, 240 Newbury Street, with a large

attendance, and was preceded by a supper in a Boylston Street restaurant.

Miss Alma Savage, assistant trade branch manager of the Macmillan Company, the hostess, welcomed the association to the publication house and explained briefly the organization and its purpose. Reports from the recent library conferences in Washington were presented by Willard E. Keyes of the Boston Herald Library, for the Special Libraries Association, and by Miss June R. Donnelly, director of the Simmons College Library School for the American Library Association.

Mrs. Frances R. Coe of the State Library, for the committee on education, reported on the course conducted the past winter on library methods, by Miss Loraine Sullivan; Miss Marion Bowman, of the Old Colony Trust Company, reported for the committee on methods; Miss Myra E. White, of Northeastern University, announced a gain of 19 new members; Miss Susan Meara, of the *Boston American*, reported for the news committee; Miss Ethel Turner, legislative reference librarian of the State Library, stated for the registration committee that five positions had been filled during the year; Miss Ruth Hedden, of the State Library, reported for the hospitality committee.

James F. Ballard, of the Boston Medical Library, recounted the work of the special committee on co-ordination of informational sources; the active co-operation of the Boston Public Library and Harvard Business Library, has been secured and it was proposed to publish the index.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Rev. Frederick T. Persons, Congregational Library, vice-president, Miss Loraine A. Sullivan, Boston Public Library; treasurer, Miss E. Louise Lucas, Fogg Museum, Harvard University; secretary, Miss Ruth Canavan, Metcalf & Eddy; assistant secretary, Miss Dorothy St. J. Manks, Massachusetts Horticultural Society; member of the executive committee, Howard L. Stebbins, Social Law Library.

Detroit

The April meeting of the Detroit group was a luncheon meeting at the General Motors Corporation with Miss Lutz as hostess. Miss Margaret Mann, Associate Professor of Library Science in the University of Michigan, gave an informal talk on methods of preparation of material, "short cuts" in cataloging,

etc. The laboratories of the General Motors Research Corporation were opened to our inspection under competent guides—a really very unusual opportunity. There were fifty-two persons present.

* * *

The final meeting of the Detroit Chapter was held on Friday, June 7th, at the Detroit-Edison Company Library, with thirty-four persons in attendance. The program consisted of some brief reviews of the meetings in Washington, presentation of data about outstanding or forthcoming publications, and new methods discovered in library visits. It was a practical, lively and entertaining discussion. Mr. Ford Pettit, Reference Librarian of the *Detroit News*, was chosen as chairman for the coming season. Mrs. Ada M. Mosher presented her address, which had been previously given at the meeting of the Financial Group at Washington. Mrs. Louise P. Dorn was responsible for the luncheon and program and acted as hostess.

Illinois

The annual meeting of the Illinois Chapter, which was held on May 27, 1929, was a dinner-meeting at the Eleanor Club in Chicago. During the session the following officers were elected: President—Miss Mildred A. Burke, Research Department and Library, *The Chicago Tribune*; Vice-President—Miss Sophia J. Lammers, Schnaffner Library of Commerce, Northwestern University; Secretary and Treasurer—Joseph A. Conforti, The People's Gas Light & Coke Company. Mrs. Jennie Lee Schramm, of the Research Department of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, presented a splendid resume of the principal papers and features of the recent Washington convention.

New York

The May meeting of the New York Special Libraries Association was a dinner meeting, held at the British Luncheon Club. The members listened to the annual report of Miss Ruth Savord, President of the Association, which will be printed in a later issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, and afterwards the annual election of officers took place with Miss Florence Bradley, President; Miss Margaret Burnett, Vice-President; Miss Constance Beall, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Helen Craig and Miss Ruth Savord, members of the Executive Board.

Philadelphia

The annual banquet of the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and vicinity was held on Friday evening, April 5, in the Stratford Room of the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, at 6.30. This was one of the most delightful and best attended affairs given by the Council, and altogether a great success. Speakers and officers were seated at a table at the center back of the room, while the members and their guests were seated at round tables, each in charge of a hostess.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. David Lawrence, editor of the *United States Daily*. Mr. Lawrence was introduced by Mr. George A. Wiedemann of the *Evening Bulletin*, who briefly sketched Mr. Lawrence's career as a journalist.

Mr. Lawrence chose as his subject "The National Outlook." In discussing the political and economic interests of the country, Mr. Lawrence referred to the close relation between business and government, stating that at Washington, "the seat of economic interests," business had actually superseded politics in importance. Pointing out the need for original information for business, Mr. Lawrence stated that the federal government is the biggest single clearing house for the purpose. He said that great progress is being made in the extracting of this information for the use of business, and in developing channels through which it should be passed. Mr. Lawrence stated that in his opinion "the Department of Commerce is to-day the most important department of the government in its relation to business." He referred to the work done by our ministers and ambassadors in writing business reports for industries in the United States, predicting that in time the embassies and legations will be big business organizations.

"We are now in an era of prosperity," Mr. Lawrence said, "and the distribution of information is the most vital thing in preserving that prosperity."

Mr. Lawrence paid high tribute to the special library, and its important place in the business world. He foresaw a future with more recognition of its value.

* * *

The eleventh season of the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and vicinity came to a close May 3, with its annual business meeting and election of officers, held at the library of the American Philosophical Society. The visit to this most ancient and honored scientific organization was one of the choice occasions

of the year. Miss Laura E. Hanson, librarian and hostess, gave a most interesting talk on the society, the library and its many treasures. Refreshments were served by Miss Hanson, aided by her assistant

Reports of officers and committee chairmen were presented. The May meeting was the occasion of the annual banquet, held separately from the annual business meeting for the first time.

The Budget Committee appointed by the Chairman in October, 1928, to study the financial needs of the Council, presented its report, which consisted of a proposed budget of expenditures to be used as a basis for further study.

Mrs. Maxwell, in her report as Chairman of the Council, reviewed carefully the work of the year, considering the accomplishments in their turn, and making helpful suggestions for the future.

The following officers were elected for the year 1929-1930: Chairman, Miss Dorothy Bemis, librarian, The Lippincott Library of the Wharton and Evening Schools, U. of P.; Mr. Alfred Rigling, librarian, The Franklin Institute; Secretary, Miss Helen M. Rankin, Head, Municipal Reference Division, The Free Library of Philadelphia; Treasurer, Miss Laura E. Hanson, librarian, American Philo-sophical Society.

A rising vote of appreciation was given Mrs. Maxwell, the retiring Chairman

Pittsburgh

The annual meeting of the Pittsburgh Special Libraries Association was held at McCreery's on Saturday afternoon, June 8th, with thirteen members present. The Secretary-Treasurer read a brief financial report for the year and the following officers were elected: President—Miss Jessie Callan; Vice-President—Miss Edith Portman; Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Esther Fawcett; Executive Committee—Miss Mary Lynch, Mr. J. Oscar Emrich.

San Francisco

Through the courtesy of the Down Town Association, the regular monthly meeting of the Special Libraries Association of San Francisco was a joint luncheon meeting held at 12:15 Thursday, April 18th, in the Italian room of the St. Francis Hotel.

The subject of "Changing trends in Distribution" was discussed by Dr. Frank M. Surface, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in charge of the Domestic Commerce Division. His talk was of

particular interest and value as we depend to such a large extent on the activities of this Bureau and it was a privilege to hear of them from a representative direct from Washington, D. C. The occasion afforded a splendid opportunity to co-operate with the business men of San Francisco and is in line with our 1929 direct contact publicity program.

* * *

A pre-vacation business meeting of the Special Libraries Association of San Francisco was held Thursday, May 16th. At this time progress reports were made on the various projects initiated at the January meeting and additional plans were made for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Worthington, of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, was chairman of a most successful Special Libraries section meeting, held in Sacramento, May 7th, in connection with the annual meeting of the California Library Association. The program included speakers on business research and the librarian, recent publications of particular interest, a résumé of special library development, and a brief message from the Southern California Chapter. An exhibit was prepared by the Special Libraries Association and displayed in the lobby of the convention headquarters hotel.

Southern California

The May meeting of the Southern California Chapter was held at La Jolla, on Saturday, May 25th, many of the members remaining in La Jolla or San Diego, until the following evening. The meeting gave an opportunity to visit many of the special libraries in the vicinity, including the library of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the private library of Ellen Booth Scripps at La Jolla, the La Jolla Public Library, and the Scientific Library and Museum in Balboa Park, San Diego.

Great Britain

As press run started the Editor received the preliminary program of the annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux which will be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, from September 20th to 23rd, 1929. The full text of this program will be printed in the July-August issue, but if anyone desires to examine the detailed program a copy will be sent upon application to the General Office.

Boston Group of Catalogers and Classifiers

The Spring meeting of the Boston Group of Catalogers and Classifiers was held at the Hotel Vendome, on the evening of April 11. Forty-seven members and guests assembled for dinner and thirteen more members came for the meeting.

As illness prevented Miss Cora A. Quimby from attending, Miss Mildred M. Tucker served as chairman.

After the reading and acceptance of reports by the secretary-treasurer, the officers for the year 1929-30 were elected as follows: for chairman, Miss Helen Moore Laws of the Wellesley College Library; for secretary-treasurer, Miss Ethel M. Turner of the Massachusetts State Library.

Mr. Currier, who had attended the meeting of the New York Group of Catalogers, held on April 5, spoke on the need of the extension of co-operative cataloging among the larger libraries. It was felt that the A. L. A. might help by assigning a sum of money to make an investigation. Two letters from Secretary Milam to the chairman of the A. L. A. Catalog section, were read, the first letter indicating that no appropriation was likely to be made. The N. Y. Group had passed a resolution expressing its regret at this result. Mr. Currier proposed the following resolution, which was adopted by vote of the Boston Group:

Resolved, That the Boston Group of Catalogers and Classifiers bring to the attention of the Executive Board of the A. L. A., the

importance of the proposed investigation of a further extension of centralized cataloging service and present an urgent recommendation that funds be procured for this purpose."

Mr. Lee suggested that it would be well to send copies of this resolution to the other regional groups and to the library periodicals.

On the motion, it was voted that the secretary send a resolution of sympathy to the widow of Mr. Joseph L. Crandell, a charter member of the group, whose death occurred in February.

Miss Tucker introduced the first speaker on the evening's program, Mr. William D. Goddard, librarian of the Woburn Public Library, whose subject was "The Classifier in the Small Library." Mr. Goddard has had experience with several schemes of classification and has worked out a modification of the D. C. that answers the needs of his library. In his paper, he outlined the procedure the classifier should follow in regarding the collection as a whole and in deciding on the changes needed to make the collection more easily accessible to the public.

Dr. Robert Malcolm Gay of Simmons College, gave an interesting talk on "The New Biography," contrasting the old methods with the new. He feels that the reading of biography today is due to the fact that writing biography has now become an art. An entertaining selection from Boswell's Johnson, one of the earliest artistic biographies in English literature, showed many of the points emphasized now.

Events and Publications

Rebecca B. Rankin, Department Editor

Miss Mildred B. Pressman, librarian of the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, has prepared for the Education Division of the National Safety Council, a bibliography of Camp Safety Hygiene and Sanitation. * * *

The Export and Import Bureau of the Baltimore Association of Commerce has issued a Selected List of Books on Exporting, Importing, Ports, Terminals and Shipping, prepared by the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore. A preliminary note emphasizes the value of the library to the business men of Baltimore. * * *

The Fifth Year book of the Educational Press Association of America is a useful hand-

book for persons interested in the educational field. A classified list of educational periodicals includes eight national library periodicals.

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The Municipal Reference Library of New York will continue its broadcasting of library talks during the summer months. On Friday afternoons from 5:40 to 6 o'clock, over station WNYC, talks will be given as follows: July 5th, "Staten Island," by Ralph Gossage; July 19th, "Abroad in New York City," by James Katsaros; August 2d, "Along the Piers," by Ralph Gossage; August 16th, "How New Yorkers Keep Cool," by Margaret Kehl; August 30th, "The Housing Problem," by Ina Clement.

The Editor has an inquiry for the 1928 Year Book of the Tire and Rubber Association of America and would appreciate receipt of the volume or information concerning an available copy.

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"Paramount Pictures Library" is an interesting article concerning this type of special library. It appears in the *Publishers' Weekly* of April 13, 1929, written by Frank H. Williams.

* * *

"Selected Bibliography of Printing and Allied Subjects," compiled by Utica Public Library and printed through the courtesy of Typothetae of Utica and vicinity and the Utica Club of Printing House Craftsmen, is a splendid sample of this art and of the librarian's art of selecting the best titles.

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Do you receive the *Brooklyn Botanic Garden Leaflets*? The issue of April 3, 1929, contains "A Selected List of Publications on Gardening and Wild Flowers," compiled by Miss Ray Simpson, librarian. Are not the commuters in your special library asking for such books this spring?

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The World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., issues "International Book News," wherefrom may be gleaned the titles of all recent publications on international affairs. The special librarian would do well to have these lists from which he can check those of interest in his special field. The Foundation will gladly forward specific recommendations to any librarian who will outline the peculiar needs of his institution.

* * *

Julia R. Kelly, librarian of the American Electric Railway Association, has a good article on her library entitled "A. E. R. A. Library fulfills a valuable function" in *Aera*, April, 1929, p. 199-202.

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Mr. M. E. Pellett, librarian of the New York Port Authority, announces: "The necessity of reducing the clerical work in the Library has resulted in a decision to discontinue issuing the *Bulletin* twice a month. Although some of the members of the Port Authority staff feel that it should be issued even oftener, we believe that adequate service can be rendered through a combination of the *Bulletin*, to be issued eight times a year, and a *News Letter*, to be issued as occasion requires, supplemented as heretofore

by memoranda and telephone calls, in bringing to the attention of staff members of such library material as each is known to be particularly interested in."

* * *

Commerce Bulletin is a new bulletin issued by the Bureau of Commerce of the Port of New York Authority, emphasizing the trend of commerce, changes in steamship services, improvements in port facilities, and a digest of typical activities of the Bureau with especial reference to the Port of New York.

* * *

Miss Hollis W. Hering, librarian of the Missionary Research Library, New York City, writes on "The Art of Annotating," in the *Wilson Bulletin* for April.

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The Library of the Bureau of Railway Economics has added to its valuable bibliographies a list of references on "Electrification of Railways," covering the period from January, 1926, to March, 1929.

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Mary G. Lacy, librarian of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has compiled a new reading list on the subject, "Agricultural Economics," issued February, 1929, from that Bureau.

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Another mimeographed bibliography from the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, compiled by Mildred Wilson of the Library, December, 1928, is "Partial Bibliography on Highway Finance." Though only partial, it contains 727 entries. It is classified and has an author index.

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A business branch of the San Francisco Public Library has recently been established in a central downtown location, with Miss Anita Levy as the librarian in charge. It has met with immediate success and presents a splendid opportunity for further co-operation between the public and business libraries.

* * *

The *American Gas Association Monthly* devotes considerable space to research. The April number presents an article by Mr. H. C. Abell, entitled "What Can Research Do for Us?"; and the May issue shows that the half-million dollar program of industrial research, conducted by the American Gas Association, has already produced results in the development of a new brass melting furnace. This research was conducted, under the direction of the Executive Board, by the Industrial Gas

Research Committee of the Association with Mr. E. D. Milener, of Association Headquarters, as research representative.

A valuable addition to state publications is the "Finding-List of Books and Pamphlets relating to Georgia and Georgians," compiled by Miss Ella May Thornton, State Librarian of Georgia. The listing is very liberal in the selection of Georgia imprints, but does not include routine documentary matter.

In the Classification Number of SPECIAL LIBRARIES was mentioned the approaching publication of Mr. Henry E. Bliss's new book, "The Organization of Knowledge and the System of the Sciences." It has been recently released by Henry Holt & Co. It has an admirable introduction by John Dewey. Librarians are speaking highly of it. Mr. Charles Martel, Chief of the Catalogue Division of the Library of Congress, says: "I have no hesitation in saying that it will be among the most important, if not the foremost American contribution to library science . . . The first two parts I think altogether admirable. In clearness it surpasses anything known to me in the literature of the subject."

From the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads library comes another helpful bibliography, "Highway Finance," by Mildred Wilson.

The *Alumni Jottings*, volume one, number one, which was issued in March, by the Wisconsin Library School Alumni Association, contains an article on "The Day's Work," by Margaret Reynolds, librarian of the First Wisconsin National Bank.

The Security-First National *News-Bulletin* for May 1, 1929, contains a two-column article entitled "The Department of Research and Service: A Good-Will Building Agency for the Bank Ready to Perform Many Services Within Increased Facilities." The manager of the department of research and service is J. R. Douglas, an assistant vice-president of the bank.

Social Science Abstracts is a new periodical that certainly will be needed in all social work libraries. It began publication in March, 1929, and is to be issued monthly, with a concluding index issue. It is not a magazine as we usually know that genus, but is actually a résumé or series of abstracts of the important periodical

articles of all social science literature. It is a cooperative enterprise sponsored by a board of directors, a large number of consulting editors and a central staff of eight specialists, headed by F. Stuart Chapin, as editor-in-chief, with offices at Columbia University, 611 Fayerweather Hall, New York City.

The *Mid-Western Banker* for May, 1929, contains an article entitled "Books are Working Tools for the Country Banker," by Tyler D. Barney, cashier, Bank of Sparta, Sparta, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Grace Child Bevan, librarian of the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, has a good article in the April, 1929, issue of *Hartford*, the Chamber of Commerce periodical for that city.

"The Commerce of the Pacific: A Bibliography," with short annotations, appears in the *American Trust Review of the Pacific*, for May, 1929, on pages 113-119. This bibliography will be continued in another issue.

The Home Study Courses in Library Service have been launched by Columbia University. Among these is one, "Business Library Administration, H 26," prepared by Margaret Reynolds and supplemented and conducted by Linda H. Morley.

The Library, April, 1929, has an article by Marian Manley, of the Newark Business Branch on "Leeds and Newark." Many interesting comparisons are made between the English and American manufacturing centers.

We overlooked a readable article in *The Survey*, February 15, 1929, entitled "Europe Looks at American Industry." The titles of the books reviewed might be of interest to our readers:

"Le problème ouvrier aux Etats-Unis." By Andre Philip. Paris Alcan.

"Industrial Relations in the United States." By H. B. Butler, deputy director of the International Labour Office. Studies and Reports Series A, (Industrial Relations), No. 27. Published for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, London.

"Report of the Delegation Appointed to Study Industrial Conditions in Canada and the United States of America." Presented by the minister of labour to Parliament by Command of his Majesty. H. M. Stationary Office, Cmd. 2838. London.

"Amerikareise deutscher Gewerkschaftsfuehrer." Verlagsgesellschaft des Allgemeinen Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes. G. m. b. H. Berlin.

"Daily Mail Trade Union Mission to the United States." London. *The Daily Mail*.