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Special Libraries, September 1924

Special Libraries Association

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Vol. 15

September, 1924

No. 7

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Fifteenth Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, June 30-July 5, 1924

First General Session, Tuesday, July 1.

Mr. Edward H. Redstone, the President, announced the omission of the formal President's Address and introduced Dr. David Friday, of the National Transportation Council, who spoke on "The Plight of the Prosperous."

This, said Dr. Friday, was a title under which he was sometimes tempted to write a book, a book based on statistics, which as he went on, he used in a masterly way to show that those from whom the plight is coming are indeed prosperous,—banker, farmer, business man and laborer.

The first chapter he proposed to call the "Banker's Lament," and here he cited the complaint of a prominent banker who said that his business was going from bad to worse. This Dr. Friday answered with the statement that that particular bank last year earned 12 per cent on capital and surplus, or about 25 on capital alone. This he finds to be not unusual in the banking business.

The next chapter heading, "Worthless Gold" he borrowed from his favorite Wall Street journal. Here he quoted figures to show that the United States has accumulated the largest stock of gold in the history of the world, through selling surplus food and manufactured products in foreign markets, products for which gold must be paid because our customers have nothing else with which to buy. Thus gold, which in the 1890's was sorely needed to redeem notes, has become a drug in our market.

"The Taxpayer Bled White," would make a most entertaining chapter. Curiously enough the criticism of taxation is largely against Federal taxes, which constitute less than three and a half of the seven and a half billions of taxes. Of this over a half is being used in the payment of interest and principle on our

war debts. The constant increase in the standard of living requirements he finds responsible for heavy state and municipal taxation, expensive education for an increasingly large proportion of the children and thousands of miles of automobile roads in every state were two items especially mentioned. Apropos of the automobile he noted that while five million people pay the much complained of income taxes there are fifteen million automobiles for which we are demanding the best of roads, as well as spending our private resources. We are spending a billion a year on roads, purchasing machines at the rate of three and a half billion and spending more than four and a half to run them. As long as we demand these things we must pay for them.

One great difficulty he finds in economic investigations is that we do not know economic history, there are insufficient records of the past, even of twenty years ago, and people have forgotten even the things which they knew personally. This Dr. Friday found to be especially the case in agriculture. Having been a farm boy himself he sketched some of the gains in comfort farm life has made in the last twenty years, the rapid strides socially. Then turning to the economic situation he stated that with an increase of less than 10 per cent in the number of farm laborers in the last twenty years the farm products have increased 40 per cent and predicted a like change in the next twenty years, chiefly through the use of scientific methods. The prices of agricultural products he finds are now rising faster than in any other field and predicted \$1.25 wheat before the election.

The increase in the value of agricultural products has been about as follows: 1897, 4 billions; 1900, 4.7 billions; 1910, 8.5 billions;

1914, 9.8 billions; 1921, 12.4 billions; and in 1923, over 16 billions.

Swinging to statistics of farm land values he finds in 1900, 13 billions; 1910, 28 billions; 1920, 56 billions and in 1924, 40 billions. These prices made by people who believed the price bid was fair and profitable for them.

Very briefly and interestingly he showed the economic changes made when, for instance, a man who had been left a legacy of \$20,000, invested it in a farm costing \$40,000, and gave a mortgage for the balance, and how the money used in that transaction went to help, not the farm, but possibly a distant town where it might be invested in new building enterprises.

"But what does it all come to?" he abruptly asked. "We are facing a situation of fact. We have added enormously to our food supply; we have increased our total population and our working population; we have doubled the number in industry; we have doubled the number engaged in transportation; we have trebled the number engaged in electrical industry. We have increased our manufactured products two and one-third times. All this has been done, not by grinding the people, but by constantly improving the conditions of labor, by shortening the working hours, and by increasing compensation. Out of the present economic situation, from which emits the plaint of the prosperous, we may yet see a cultural strength and advance of much value."

Dr. Bostwick's paper on The Business Library as a Phase of Group Service, which followed, will appear in the October number.

On Wednesday evening there was a preliminary discussion of matters to come before the business meeting next day. The President made the statement that the Executive Board had received several requests as to the future policy of the Association. He had, therefore, asked Miss Rankin and Miss Rose to present their views of the subject. (These will be found on pages 165-68 and 168-70.)

There followed this a clever skit acted by the Boston librarians under the direction of Mr. Alcott. Miss Edith Guerrier and Mr. Howard L. Stebbins taking the leading rôles.

Second General Session, Thursday, July 3

. . . The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M., at the Convention Hall, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Mr. E. H. Redstone, President of the Association, presiding, and Miss Laura

R. Gibbs, Secretary of the Association, acting as Secretary of the meeting. . . .

THE CHAIRMAN: Our business session will now begin. I will ask our Secretary to make a report.*

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer-Editor, 1923-24

A report from this officer, which shall adequately tell the story of the year's work, must go back to the convention at Atlantic City in May, 1923, and begin with the discussion of finances at that time. A *budget*, quoted but not presented by the former administration, provided for the collection and expenditure of \$2800. The *balance* shown by the Treasurer's report at that meeting was \$925.14 with unpaid bills amounting to about \$500. The *assets* of the incoming Board were roughly: Cash \$400, Membership dues collected during the year \$2390 making a total of \$2790. Of this it was estimated that the magazine would cost at the outside \$2000, and the remaining \$790 was left for office expenses, travel, publication of Index, Handbook and Directory, etc.

At the meeting of the Executive Board held in September it was reported that the Directory would be ready for press in October, the Handbook immediately after and the Index, reported "completed and in the hands of the president" in May, 1923, was to be held back for these as they would produce more ready money. Thus the income producing publications should have been on the market by January. The Index was published in May at a cost of \$334, the Handbook late in June at \$450 and the Directory is now waiting for sufficient funds to warrant its publication.

Membership—In the discussion at Atlantic City Miss Rankin's statement that "we should easily get" a membership of one thousand, was challenged by Mr. Houghton as insufficient ground for basing a budget on a membership of that size. The result of the membership campaign was a total of *fifty-five* new members for the year.

The secretary's report for the two years show:

1922-23—713 members paying \$1706.00
1923-24—603 members paying 2389.75

The decrease being accounted for, in part, by the dropping of 52 for non-payment of dues

* The following report is substituted for the informal one made at the meeting.

for two years and 42 resignations. The increased income largely from payment of dues in arrears. Of the above 603, 103 are non-subscribing members. With the separation of dues and subscription the membership will again fall, as many of the more general libraries join solely for the sake of the magazine.

Special Libraries. The printing of Special Libraries was put into the hands of The H. W. Wilson Company with the understanding that the cost would be from \$120 to \$150 an issue. As the expenses somewhat exceeded Mr. Wilson's estimates, and the size of the magazine was on several occasions in excess of the estimate, the total cost of printing and mailing for the year came to \$1942.65, just within the budget estimate. It was suggested that a less expensive printer might be found, but the editor could not undertake to make a change which would involve considerable extra time spent in correction of proof and even in preparation of copy, for the Wilson Company have been far more than mere printers of the magazine.

Office and Clerical Expenses amounted to about \$400. This including the payment of 1922-23 bills to the amount of about \$50. Of the \$1200 authorized to be spent for stenographer at the discretion of the Executive Board, less than \$200 was actually used for this purpose. The motion made at the meeting at Atlantic City that the Executive Board be authorized to raise the money by "such method of assessment as may be deemed advisable," being of course, unconstitutional.

The Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year have been as follows:

Cash received from A. B. Lindsay,
Former Treasurer \$928.62

RECEIPTS

From Dues \$2,389.75
 " Methods 22.20
 " Directory 18.00
 " Handbook 11.00
 " Index 2.00
 " Miscellaneous 122.33

Total Receipts \$2,565.28

Total Receipts and Balance \$3,493.90

DISBURSEMENTS

For Publications \$1,570.16
 " Office Expenses ... 193.73
 " Clerical Services .. 204.28
 " Travelling 31.73

Total Disbursements \$1,999.90

Balance on Hand, May 31, 1924... \$1,494.00

Assets and Liabilities

May 31, 1924

ASSETS

Cash \$1,494.00
 Accounts Receivable,
 (Advertising 121.00
 Index Orders 200.00
 Handbook Orders 200.00

Total Assets \$2,015.00

LIABILITIES

For Handbook \$449.99
 " Index 334.00
 " Magazine and Miscel-
 laneous 648.76

Total Liabilities \$1,432.75

Estimated Excess of Assets
 over Liabilities \$582.25

The above estimated assets and liabilities leave the Directory out of the question.

Employment. The employment records have been in the hands of the secretary this year. There have been several applications for positions and a few inquiries, but no position has been filled. In two or three cases where we had no one to recommend the inquirer has been referred to the local association in New York or in Boston.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Secretary-Treasurer's report; are there any questions to be asked or any discussion? If not, the report will stand as read and placed on file.

As stated last night there were two plans to be proposed at this morning's session, two or three plans. This communication has been received from Miss Rankin who is unable to be present. She writes as follows:¹

¹ See pages 165-8.

THE CHAIRMAN: Miss Rose, have you a plan to suggest in addition?

MISS ALICE L. ROSE (Director, National Business and Financial Library, Babson Park, Boston, Mass.): To a great extent my plans are like Miss Rankin's alternative.¹

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any others who have any further plans to suggest?

MR. DORSEY W. HYDE (Chief, National Civics Bureau, United States Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.): Mr. Chairman, I would like to state merely as a matter of information in preliminary discussions there has been one suggestion brought up which has not been elaborated since I have come in. And that was that the Association continue to function as at present for at least a year and during that time make a complete study under the jurisdiction of a committee appointed by the members to go into the whole problem to find all possible forms of organization and to recommend back to the next meeting for action. I don't think that suggestion has been made yet, that there be no fundamental change right now, the Association continue as at present and study the problem. I am not recommending that. I am simply stating that that point has not been brought out since I came in.

MISS ESSELLE L. LIEBMANN (Librarian, Technical Library, DuPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del.): Mr. President, there have been two contradictions in this discussion—first, that they point out the wonderful progress of the Association as Mr. Hadley stated last night, and after it has all been done why drop it? Second, if we are an independent organization with dues, which as I think as a member of the A. L. A. we would have to do, there would really be no difference as far as that is concerned, because we could not do the activities we are doing without some income outside of what we give the bigger organization and I think I would like—I see Mr. Milam is in the back of the room—to have Mr. Milam tell us exactly what it would be to be a part of the A. L. A.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Milam, will you come forward and tell us about the A. L. A. and your feeling in regard to this whole matter?

MR. CARL H. MILAM (Secretary, American Library Association): Mr. President, I don't know whether it is safe for a member of the A. L. A. to come into this electrified atmosphere or not.

I was before the Medical Library Association the other day to make an innocent talk, as I thought, about the American Library Association and the cooperation between all library associations and I talked for ten or fifteen minutes on the general subject and found when I got through that the thing had been staged, that there were about half the people there who were real librarians and the other half who were real doctors and that for five or six years they had devoted a large part of their meetings to arguing as to whether they should affiliate with the A. L. A. as a section or should not, and I did not know what a dangerous ground I was on, but I got out of it, I think, pretty well and I am going to try to save my neck this morning by saying the same thing, which is that I have no authority whatever to speak for the Council of the A. L. A. I don't know whether the members of the Council would say, "We want you to become a section," or "We want you to stay what you are." Personally, my opinion wavers.

When I hear the fine things that you have done I wish that you were closer to us than merely affiliated with us. On the other hand, I wish that you might go on doing these fine things and fear that if you were only a section you might shift too much of the burden to the shoulders of the Secretary and his associates and that I might have to work even harder than I do if I assisted you to carry on as you have done in the past. So I don't know what is wise for you to do, or what it is wise for me to say under the circumstances.

If there are any questions I will try to answer them but, first, let us look at it from a general standpoint, and I wish all the time while I am talking you would believe that I am telling you the honest truth, that I don't know what I myself think is best.

In any case there is an opportunity for cooperation between the two groups for carrying cooperation further than we have in the past. During the last year the American Library Association has made some interesting contacts and has begun to get results from them. We have found it possible to finance the Survey by Dr. Bostwick and his committee, and now there is a paid man in charge and a small staff being organized with the hope that it can be completed by 1926. That is to be a Survey of Library Practice and Methods. I very much hope that the members of the staff and the members of the

¹ See pages 168-70.

committee will not be entirely ignorant of the special interests of the Special Libraries.

We have a committee or board now on Education for Librarianship with an income next year of more than twenty-five thousand dollars for a paid staff, for visits to library schools, for publications, for study of the whole field, not simply of training—I want to take the chance to say that—but a study of the field of library service. What do the libraries of this country need in the way of trained people, on the one hand? On the other hand, what are the agencies now doing to provide the people to meet the needs of the library group, of the librarians, and how can it be improved? I hope that the Board of Education for Librarianship, succeeding the Temporary Library Training Board, will not be ignorant of the needs of special libraries and that they will not forget that there are not only public and university and agricultural and engineering and medical libraries but also this group of so-called special libraries which to most of us is coming to mean particularly the business and financial libraries, although not exclusively that.

We are organizing now a commission on the Library and Adult Education with L. L. Dickerson in charge as the executive assistant. We are to make a study lasting perhaps two years of that subject, the library and adult education. What are the functions of the library in this case, especially the American library, the American public library, as we know it, in the field of informal education? What more can the library do to enable an individual who does not wish to enroll in a class or for some reason cannot enroll in a class what more can they do to give him the individual, personal guidance that he needs? And there again, although the application in this case is particularly to the public library as it is not in the others, there is a connection, a very close point where that study ought to touch the special libraries group.

There are some other things that I don't think of at the moment. We have an income of next year from the Carnegie Corporation of \$108,100 for the year beginning October 1st for such things. We have recently received gifts of considerable sums, not so large as that, from other sources, for things not perhaps quite so closely connected with all of our activities.

I hope very much that in the expenditure of these sums, in the enlargement of the activities of these committees and boards,

because the work is largely de-centralized throughout the Association, I hope that in these activities the special libraries group will not be unrepresented. Now, I suppose there are two ways of looking at that. Some of you would say, "If we were a section we would have a right to a share of the interest of those groups; we would be a part of the American Library Association." I suppose there is another group who would say—and perhaps they are right, I don't know—that, "as an independent Association we are in a position, well, not exactly to use the big stick, but to bring more influence to bear because we are an Association and when we speak as an Association nobody can answer, 'Why, you are just one of our children, you are just a little side issue, you are a colleague of ours,'" and they have got to listen.

I don't know which is right. I only know this—and I have said it two or three times and I want to say it in conclusion and it is this—that I believe that the library profession which undoubtedly will be nearly twice as large in ten years from now as it is now if we adequately meet what is coming, I believe that the library profession should stick together. Maybe it is through affiliations, maybe it is through sections, but in any case let's all of us remember the rest, because we have a lot of ground to win yet and we can win it better by unified leadership, whether that unified leadership comes from an association or allies or united activity in some other form.

I should be glad, Mr. President, to answer specifically the questions of what the A. L. A. will do if those are in anybody's mind. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate these remarks from Mr. Milam. Are there any other plans?

MR. HERBERT O. BRIGHAM (Librarian, Rhode Island State Library, Providence, R. I.): I am afraid the committee in charge of this have their ear to the wrong ground for the simple reason that last night the sentiment of the body, meeting informally, was entirely contrary to the opinion just expressed. Now, I am not speaking of this in any way of antagonism, but simply to bring forward that you first present to this body the situation in equal fairness. The statement made last night was that it come before the organization in a proper form and in a proper way and until that does come before you you haven't an adequate presentation of your problem.

I cannot discuss this any further because I have already expressed my opinion, last night. I would much rather see us wait a year and get a tangible study of what we are doing before us than to rush headlong into a discussion, at a time when our finances are not involved but might be said to be—what word shall I use?—shaky. At least, we should not go into any organization when we are apparently in some debt, when we cannot come at least solvent. At that time it is all right to go into the other Association. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the sense of this meeting?

MR. RICHARD H. JOHNSTON (Librarian, Bureau of Railway Economics Library, Washington, D. C.): I have been wondering as I have listened to these various papers what the occasion for all the blues was about. We seem to have been doing very well for fifteen years and I think perhaps the main trouble is the last few years instead of continuing to walk and walk a little faster we have started to run. Now, if there is any uneasiness on the part of the present committee as to the future of the Association, I think the sentiment that was expressed at the meeting last night should be put before this regular meeting and let this committee hold office until next fall when this committee can have a chance to turn in a report.

As I said last night I would be very sorry to see an organization that was built up by toil and sacrifice for a number of years sacrificed now by some who don't know the early troubles through which we went and as I listened to a great many remarks it occurred to me that it was thrashing over the same old straw that we have been thrashing for a good many years and magnifying the troubles we have had with us since the very beginning. I feel too that in this age we have reached the limit of size of organization. I feel that we would be doing the library profession a greater good by dividing our efforts into smaller organizations with a greater independence but still under the central control and business administration of an organization like the A. L. A. You all know how difficult it is now to keep in touch with the meetings of an Association lasting a week and scattered over such a large area as we are today.

I would be very sorry to see anything happen to the S. L. A., except to continue as we are now and I hope the sentiment of last

night's session will be put before the meeting today and that a committee will be appointed. Let us have that report and adjourn this business meeting to New York or Boston this fall and go in again with fresh confidence after the report of the committee has been returned. (Applause.)

MISS FLORENCE BRADLEY (Librarian, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Library, New York City): Mr. Redstone, it seems to me that we have had a committee for a year who have been studying our condition and our need. What more could a committee do another year than our present Executive Committee has already gathered in the way of information? It seems to me that we need to know more from that committee rather than appointing another committee to study for another year.

MISS A. A. HILLMAN (Asst. Ed., Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.): Mr. President, do we have any special committee appointed or does this member refer to our Executive Committee which is a part only of the general management of the Association?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have no special committee, Miss Hillman. I think Miss Bradley refers to the Executive Board.

MR. WILLIAM ALCOTT (Librarian, Boston Globe Library, Boston, Mass.): I would like to inquire if the Executive Committee has reported on this question under discussion of dissolution?

THE CHAIRMAN: Not as a board.

MR. ALCOTT: Has the Executive Committee made a special report on the needs of the Association and is it ready to make a report on it?

THE CHAIRMAN: They are not.

MISS ELEANOR KERR (Compton & Co., New York City): It seems to me that we have had a great many excellent plans proposed, but we have missed the whole point that we are talking about in that we are not taking up the question of our future welfare and of our future interests. I am not a librarian. The New York librarians know I am not, because they know how painfully I struggled for the two or three months that I tried to put together a library but my whole business is research work of one type and another and the using of libraries and I have had tremendously valuable co-operation from the public library and if you want to call them that the A. L. A. libraries, and also the most valuable co-operation from the various types of

special libraries. I suppose I would come under the heading of a business librarian because my interest, of course, is the analyzing of bond issues before they are underwritten by banking houses, but I have found that in doing that I touch every type of special library. I have spent many hours in law libraries. I have spent many hours in engineering libraries, and in various others of that type which would hardly come under a business library.

It seems to me that the special libraries are practically composed of research workers and if you are talking about affiliations how about the American Statistical Association, a great many of the special librarians being members of that, and many of their interests lie that way. They are interested not in handling the material, not in seeing that it is given out to the public for reading, not in promoting public education, but entirely in the promoting of the use of material which is almost never booked and in the assembling of facts in new relationship to each other, and I am sure that the most valuable of all special libraries are those which are very largely composed of that type of thing.

Now, it seems to me from what I know of public libraries—if you are going to call that the A. L. A. library—I don't see the distinction exactly, because I think that the A. L. A. libraries include all types of private libraries as well, that their interest lies in their contact with the public and in their assembling of connections. They do the most valuable type of educational work, but it is not along specialized research lines. I think there are a great many libraries that certainly belong in both groups but in our future if we merge a highly specialized technical group of libraries with other libraries whose whole interest is in serving a general public, I wonder just how long our interests are going to lie along the same road.

My own experience with the more general type of library has been that everybody wishes to do everything in their power to help but they lack the technical knowledge to be of any service beyond letting me go into their stack room. That is not due to any one person's personal defection in any way but is due to a totally different training and attitude and a totally different purpose. They could not do the work they are doing in the general libraries if they specialized on this technical side of the work. I really am on the scien-

tific side of what is contained within the collections that they are handling. In the special library, on the other hand, whether it is law, engineering, financial or public utility, the librarian knows what is within the collection, she knows or he knows the actual sources and knows how to use them and how to apply them and what is more to the point they know how to give the information wanted not from books but from their own manuscript files and collections which are totally different. (Applause.)

MISS KINNEY: Mr. Chairman, I find myself quite in a maze being a member of the A. L. A. and the S. L. A. as to just what we are trying to get at. I am in a maze as to the amount of argument we are going through and if we are really rationalizing the matter of financing I would be against going into the A. L. A. on that basis, being a member of the A. L. A., and being a member of the S. L. A. I have too much pride to go in on the basis of being broke. But where we can do the best, where we can be of the most service, if we can be an independent organization as a branch, it seems to me a parallel case with the American Paper and Pulp Association. They were one huge organization, so huge that the technical section had to draw off and be a separate organization and yet they are an affiliated body. We should not get into the reflective attitude of what the A. L. A. does, because they have done too much for us to even attempt criticism of any kind and I don't think that is what we really mean to do. I think we are doing that on the side, because we haven't gotten to just what we know or want to do.

MR. CUTTER: Mr. President, do I understand that this Association is broke. I just came in a moment ago and I'd like to know what the subject of conversation is. If the Association has a cash deficit it would seem to me that in an Association of five hundred members, librarians of business firms largely, we could raise it. I might say that as far as affiliation as a group with the American Library Association goes, I am entirely and utterly opposed to any such action. This Association was founded, as I understand it, to segregate those people who are doing just such work as has been described—that is, research work—and to be able to compare their work and the various resources that they had without having it all mixed up with children's work and work for the blind and work for

the lame and halt and for the French and the Indians and the other people and the public in general.

We are talking, as I understand it, for the business people who are trying to uplift the people as a whole and make money at the same time. We are not working except indirectly for the one hundred and ten million people in the United States to try to educate them so that they can read or anything of that kind. We are trying to, as I understand it, work for the people who are trying to civilize the United States of America by a more direct method than the method of the public library.

I think it would be a very grave mistake, especially for financial reasons, for this Association to disband. I am pretty confident that a committee could be organized that would get money to wipe out any minor deficit that the Association might have. I see no reason why it couldn't be done, if that is all that is the trouble.

I must explain, of course, that I came in late and I don't know what the subject of conversation is but the first time that I heard it intimated in a meeting of this Association that it should disband and become the tail on the big dog, A. L. A. (Applause.)

THE SECRETARY: I want to say, for the Executive Board, and as Mr. Cutler has asked for information I think that perhaps this is the best time to say it, in last night's discussion and again in this morning's discussion we have heard used again and again the term "disband" and the term "broke." This Executive Board, as it has presented the propositions which have come to it, has had no word of disbanding the Special Libraries Association. In the report of the Secretary there is no word of this Association being broke. There are finances in the treasury to pay our bills as they stand now. There are enough finances in the treasury and there are enough finances coming into the treasury to continue to carry the program of this Association as it has been carried for the last two years. Now, that doesn't mean being broke. If we should by any bare possibility decide to become a section of the American Library Association we are not disbanding. (Applause.)

MR. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, there is one further point. Miss Gibbs will correct me if I make an error, but as I understand it the Index to Special Libraries, ten year Index, has been paid for. That money when the copies are sold will come back into the Association and means that actually we have some money now tied up in this publication venture, which will be returned to the treasury.

THE SECRETARY: May I interrupt Mr. Hyde because that was all stated in the Treasurer's report before you came in and I think that everybody has it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It seems to the presiding officer that we have discussed these various plans sufficient so that we are now in a position to hear the report of the Constitution Committee. Mr. Brigham.

The CONSTITUTION and by-laws were read section by section, amendments were made and they were adopted as printed on pages 163-5.

The ELECTION OF OFFICERS followed.

Miss Juliet A. Handerson, reported for the Nominating Committee and after stating the impossibility of getting two slates presented the following.

President—Alice L. Rose.

Vice-presidents—Claribel R. Barnett, Linda H. Morley.

Secretary—Laura R. Gibbs.

Treasurer—Gertrude D. Peterkin.

Executive Board—Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., Juliet A. Handerson. Mr. Redstone, ex-officio member

Miss Rose regretted that without some plan of reorganization it would be impossible for her to serve, and withdrew her name

After considerable discussion officers were elected as in the directory on the inside front cover of the magazine.

Third General Session

This was a joint session with the American Library Association and the College and Reference Section, at which the Special Libraries Association was represented by Miss Margaret Mann, whose paper will be printed in full in Special Libraries for October and in an early number of the Library Journal.

Constitution of the Special Libraries Association

As adopted by the Annual Meeting, Saratoga Springs, July 3, 1924

Name

Sec. 1. The name of the Association shall be the "Special Libraries Association."

Object

Sec. 2. The object of the Association shall be to promote the collection, organization and dissemination of information, to develop the usefulness and efficiency of special libraries and other research organizations, and to encourage the professional welfare of its members.

Officers

Sec. 3. The officers of the Association shall consist of a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and two other persons to be known as members of the Executive Board, one of whom, whenever practicable, shall be the retiring president. Said officers shall be duly nominated and elected at the annual meeting, and shall hold their office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 4. Officers thus elected shall constitute the Executive Board and shall administer the business affairs of the Association, except such duties as may be specifically assigned by direct vote of the Association to other committees of the Association.

The Executive Board shall meet upon call of the president at such intervals as he may deem necessary. It shall also meet upon demand of any three other members of the Executive Board.

Names of candidates for office together with candidates' written acceptances shall be presented to the Executive Board by the nominating committees six weeks before the annual meeting. Nominations shall be printed in the official organ of the Association one month before the annual meeting

Committees

Sec. 5. There shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association the following committees: A membership committee consisting of three persons, and an auditing committee consisting of two persons.

Sec. 6. There also shall be created an advisory committee consisting of the executive officer of each local association authorized under the provisions of section 10 of this Constitution. The advisory committee shall make such recommendations to the Executive Board as it deems proper and all matters relating to the conduct of the local associations shall be referred by the Executive Board to the advisory committee for recommendation.

Sec. 7. The president may appoint from time to time such special committees as may be necessary or desirable.

Membership

Sec. 8. There shall be five classes of membership:—

1) Individual—any person engaged in library, research or statistical work

2) Institutional—any library, firm or other organization maintaining a library. Such institution to be represented by its librarian or other designated official.

3) Associate—any person interested in but not engaged in library or research work. Associate members shall not be entitled to vote at business meetings.

4) Honorary members—any person who has shown a distinguished interest in the special library field may be proposed as an honorary member by the Executive Board, and thereafter duly elected by vote of the next Annual Meeting. Honorary members shall enjoy without obligation all rights and privileges of individual members.

5) Life members—any person may become a life member upon the payment of the dues prescribed in Section 9.

Dues

Sec. 9. The annual dues of the Association shall be \$3.00 for individual, \$5.00 for institutional, and \$2.00 for associate members. Any individual may become a life member upon the payment of \$100.00.

Local Associations

Sec. 10. Local associations may be established by the Executive Board on receipt of

a written request to that effect signed by ten members of the Association, residing in the territory within which the local association is desired. Local associations heretofore organized may become affiliated with the Special Libraries Association by their own vote.

Sec. 11. Such local associations may make any rules for their government not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Special Libraries Association, and shall appoint their own officers and committees. They may receive donations or bequests or local dues and expend them in the interest of their local associations.

Sec. 12. Affiliated local associations shall receive for local uses, a share of the annual dues of the Association. The apportionment of funds to local associations shall be based upon their total paid membership. The local associations shall make an annual report to the secretary of the Special Libraries Association.

Meetings

Sec. 13. Annual meetings shall be held at the time and place named by the Executive Board upon notice duly given to members. The Executive Board shall also have power to call such special meetings as may be necessary upon notice mailed to members at least six weeks in advance of such meeting.

Quorum

Sec. 14. Fifty members shall constitute a quorum.

Amendments

Sec. 15. This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of those present, and voting at any annual meeting of the Association, provided that notice of the amendments to be brought before such meeting be sent to each member of the Association at least two months before consideration. Such amendment may be proposed by the Executive Board or a duly elected committee of the Association or by any ten members of the association

By-Laws

Sec. 16. By-Laws may be adopted or cancelled by vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Association.

By-Laws

1. Any person, firm or organization whose dues shall be two years in arrears, may be dropped from membership and shall be so notified by the treasurer.

2. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the year ending May 31st.

3. At least three months prior to the annual meeting of the Association, the president with the approval of the Executive Board shall appoint a committee of five, no one of whom shall be a member of the board, to nominate the elective officers for the forthcoming meeting of the Association.

4. The president, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall prior to each annual meeting of the Association, appoint a committee on resolutions, consisting of three persons, which shall prepare and report to the Association suitable resolutions of acknowledgement and thanks and such other resolutions as may be offered in meetings of the Association.

5. The vote of the institutional members shall be cast by the duly designated representative whose credentials are filed with the secretary. In the absence of such designation or such delegate the vote may be cast by the chief librarian or ranking executive officer in attendance at the meeting.

6. The Executive Board may by vote affiliate with the Association any national society having purposes similar to those of the Special Libraries Association, or in like manner cause the Association to be affiliated with any national society having similar purposes. The Executive Board may by vote cancel an affiliation when in the judgment of said board such affiliation is undesirable.

7. The Executive Board may in their judgment prescribe such dues or fees as may be required for the purpose of affiliation, as provided in by-law 6, and may make provisions and agreements concerning annual or special meetings in conjunction with such affiliated organizations.

8. The Executive Board may create from time to time groups relating to definite interests of special libraries which are actively represented in the Association. Petitions for the establishment of groups shall be presented by members actively engaged in the work of the proposed group and by not less than ten such members. The Executive Board shall

have power to recommend the discontinuance of a group when in the opinion of the Executive Board, the usefulness of that group has ceased. Such recommendations shall be brought before the annual meeting of the Association and a majority vote concurring with or dis-

senting from this recommendation shall be taken.

9. The Association shall publish an official organ, the control of which shall be vested in the Executive Board. The board shall determine the rates, if any, to be charged for subscription.

Miss Rankin's Proposals

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION—

The Special Libraries Association was formed in 1909 by a small group of librarians who felt the need for such an organization—prominent among these were the librarians of the Merchants Association Library, Business Branch of Newark Public Library, Stone & Webster, Boston University, Boston Elevated Railroad and others. During the first year of the Association had a membership of about fifty persons. It is now fifteen years since that establishment and it may be well to remind ourselves of the accomplishments during that time—to take stock and see what our status is in the library world

Accomplishments

(1) SPECIAL LIBRARIES, the official organ, has been published all these years—it is now in its fifteenth volume. It has always been a creditable publication, more so at some times than at others, and with few exceptions, has been issued regularly each month. A survey of the members will quickly show that it has improved from year to year, also has grown in size, and one will be surprised to find the useful material contained therein. It has not been all that we could wish for, but it will compare favorably with the only other official organ in the library field, the Bulletin of the A. L. A.

(2) Membership has increased from fifty to six hundred; twelve times as large as it was fifteen years ago. This shows a steady growth and a very creditable one.

(3) The national Association created such an interest in special library affairs that local associations sprang up all over the country in metropolitan areas, so that today there are seven thriving local associations and two other local library clubs that have special library sections; these locals have a total membership

of about nine hundred. These locals are the result of a conscious effort on the part of the national Association and they were established by regional representatives appointed by the national. The idea has even spread to state library associations, so that Pennsylvania last fall formed a special library section in its state association.

(4) I think it is fair to credit to S. L. A., all the accomplishments among special librarians, local or national. Perhaps the most lasting accomplishment is the "Public Affairs Information Service." This idea originated in the S. L. A., was carried forward by special librarians, has always been fostered by them, and has reached such fruition that it is an independent venture and financially supports itself. It is generally recognized as a most, or the most, useful library index. Much credit is due to Dr. John Lapp and Dr. C. C. Williamson for its success.

(5) A Library Exhibit of Special Libraries, prepared in the early years, I believe in New York, was a production that was most useful and is noteworthy. This exhibit is still in existence and has been much appreciated by many special librarians, particularly those organizing new libraries.

(6) The Special Libraries Directory, published in 1921, was a real contribution and has been of much service.

(7) The local directories of Boston, New York and Philadelphia and recently of Cleveland are very good, and are tools that have been needed.

(8) Nor should we fail to mention the Union List of Periodicals in Boston; also the Union List in New York which has never been published but is now being incorporated in the National Union List of Periodicals now in preparation; and also an unpublished list in Philadelphia.

(9) New York's attempt at a subject catalog of resources of the special libraries has

made the nucleus for a clearing house of information. This has been much used and may be the basis for an enlargement in the near future.

(10) The survey of special library methods made by the Methods Committee during a number of years and the publication of their Preliminary Report under Miss Ruth Nichols.

(11) The splendid Exhibit which the Committee made under Mrs. Bevan's direction at Atlantic City.

(12) The revision of the Constitution and By-Laws under Mr. H. O. Brigham's hand.

(13) The compilation and publication of the "Information Services Handbook," mostly the work of Miss Morley and Miss Kight of Newark. It is an exceptional manual which covers a new field of endeavor.

(14) Completion of the Cumulative Index to SPECIAL LIBRARIES, by Miss Charlotte Noyes.

(15) The publication of the second edition of the "Special Libraries Directory" through Miss May Wilson's efforts.

(16) Some employment work done in local associations, and individually by the presidents and secretaries of the Association.

(17) In 1909 and for many years thereafter the special librarians were not much in favor with the other members of their profession. Now the work of the special librarian is recognized by all librarians and by library schools in the country.

(18) Educational courses in Boston have been given; New York has helped in the planning and giving of several courses in special libraries.

(19) The special librarians have also gained recognition in the commercial and business world. The contacts made with Secretary Hoover and the U. S. Department of Commerce have done much to encourage this.

There may be many other accomplishments earlier in the career of S. L. A., of which I have no knowledge, and I may have overlooked others; but these nineteen enumerated can be laid to our doors. Is it not a worthy record for fifteen years? In order to convince yourself that it is a *splendid record*, compare with any other professional organization of which you have a history, and remember, S. L. A., is only fifteen years old.

A Future Program

These nineteen definite accomplishments are what we have to be *proud of*, and don't forget that it is a worthy record. *But* there are many opportunities we have overlooked or slighted; we have numerous deficiencies that should be overcome. Let us examine them carefully now:

(1) The organization of the S. L. A., has not taken cognizance of the local associations, nor provided for a proper relationship. If the revised Constitution and By-Laws are adopted, the locals and national may be combined into one working unit for the benefit of all. In the nine locals there is a membership of 900; of this total number only 25 *per cent* or 225 persons belong to the national S. L. A. The present membership of S. L. A. is 800 but only 225 of these are local S. L. A. members. If we could secure the 675 other local members, as we may by means of the new Constitution, that would increase our S. L. A. membership to 1475. In the S. L. A. at present are 480 special librarians who apparently do not belong to any local, and when the new Constitution becomes effective, that means an increased membership in the locals to 1380, instead of 900 as at present. One can readily see the advantage to the membership in the new arrangement. Membership dues should be collected locally.

Our new Directory shows a total of 975 special libraries in the United States. We do not know the exact number of special librarians, but it is safe to assume there are at least two or more persons (on the average) on a staff so that we can estimate two thousand special librarians—the extent of the possibility of our field as to numbers. How close can we come to attaining a membership of two thousand? Just as close as the persons who are in the special library field will assume the full responsibility of their profession!

(2) "Special Libraries" should be a better magazine. It can be. The paid secretary should be editor and business manager. Subscriptions should be received separately from membership dues, although each member should have the magazine. Advertisements should be carried. There should be more general articles, more contributions from our members and the material should be departmentalized.

(3) One of the most important portions of our activity should be *Employment*. Our secretary should also be responsible for this. The membership should entitle one to free registration, but when positions are secured, a placement fee might be charged, if necessary to finance the employment work. We should become the recognized employment bureau for special librarians, and only recommend reliable workers in our profession. From the employer's standpoint and from the special librarian's this is a necessary function of S. L. A.

(4) Equally important, and closely allied to employment, is the work of advice to industrial concerns and help in installation of special libraries. The secretary should be responsible for this advice to employers.

(5) A Clearing House of Information. The above features would lead to the assembling of facts about special libraries, their equipment, resources, etc., that would form a reservoir of knowledge upon which all could draw, therefore a Clearing House of Information.

(6) Permanent headquarters and a paid secretary. It goes without saying or further explanation that such a program demands permanent headquarters and a paid secretary.

How Such a Program Might Be Carried Out

An estimate of the cost.

Paid secretary	\$3500
stenographer	1500
magazine	2000
supplies, printing, traveling ex- penses, etc.	2000
	\$9000

I do not include an item of rent, as we are assuming some firm would give us office space, if we could finance the remainder. We really would need an assistant secretary too, but as a beginning, in the first year, we shall only budget for one person and a stenographer.

There should be some sources of revenue that might reduce the running expenses. With an efficient secretary, we ought to be able to depend upon a minimum of \$500 to \$1000 from advertising in "Special Libraries." Our Directory, Informational Services Handbook and other publications which we might issue should bring us a small surplus over expenses of printing, \$500 or more. From year to year,

as our work progresses, the expense of headquarters and a paid secretary ought to decrease, but this estimate can safely be taken as a basis.

Also, with a person to take full charge and responsibility, the Association is in a better position to build up its membership, hence the expense should be less to each member as the size is increased.

If we assume that the Constitution is adopted and all members continue in S. L. A., we would have a membership of 1475. With dues at \$4.00 each, (\$3.00 to S. L. A.) that equals \$4425. However, if we doubled the assessment on ourselves and make a payment of \$8.00 a year, \$7.00 a year to S. L. A., and one dollar to the local, we could easily finance it. If we only have 800 members as at present, an assessment of \$12.00 apiece would be necessary.

If in the Convention at Saratoga Springs, the members of S. L. A., vote to adopt the Constitution, it seems equally important to consider a future program for the Association, and methods of financing such a program should be adopted by a vote of the members. If the above plan of increasing the dues is not acceptable, then each member might accept a quota of an amount that he would raise for the Association this year—for instance each one pay his dues, \$4.00 (local and national) and in addition pledge to send in \$8.00 more as a gift from himself, his firm or from new memberships obtained.

An Alternative Suggestion

The drain on librarians on account of the large number of library organizations which demand their interest makes one wonder if an amalgamation could not be accomplished to advantage. Is more than one national Association necessary? Are we not weakening the cause of our profession by dispersing our efforts in many directions? One of our members tells me she belongs and pays dues to *nine* library clubs and associations. It is humanly impossible for any person to be an *active* and *useful* member of nine associations.

Special libraries have developed mostly in the cities of the country, and these cities are widely separated. That a national Association can unite them to any great degree has not been demonstrated. That the local special libraries associations in each city can live in-

dependently of a national organization has been proven.

The majority of special librarians are as much interested in their profession of librarianship as any public or university librarians are. They belong to the American Library Association, because it represents to them librarianship in general, and it is in reality the national and the parent Association.

Many good reasons seem to point to the advisability of the national Special Libraries Association dissolving as an independent Association, and in place of that, let it become a section of the American Library Association. If twenty-five persons engaged in special library work present a petition to A. L. A., asking for a section, it will be considered by them, and probably permission granted. By becoming a section S. L. A., will become a part of the national parent Association; special library interests will then be represented in A. L. A., along with all other interests.

In this case it would seem to me that "Special Libraries" should cease publication; The A. L. A., Bulletin would publish any official news of the section, and if requested, the "Library Journal" would undoubtedly be willing to publish any special articles.

Everyone who now belongs to S. L. A., might belong to the Special Libraries or Business Libraries Section, and the dues paid A. L. A., would be the only dues necessary. Many sections of the A. L. A., find additional dues advisable, but in any case those would be small, and not as large as at present. All the advantages of the national convention would be possible; as many sectional meetings may be held as desired, and there is the added advantage of the general A. L. A. sessions and other sectional meetings.

It seems *important* that the local special libraries associations should continue, and they undoubtedly will. The members may gain all they need from these local meetings. There will be no drain upon them for the national

Association, and the locals may develop into more useful associations, if unhampered in this way. It may be that a paid secretary can be employed by each large local association who could supervise employment work for the city in special libraries and act as a clearing house of information.

If the members favored such an action, a resolution stating that the special librarians wished to become a section of A. L. A. could be passed. Thereupon, a petition signed by twenty-five members should be sent to the A. L. A. Executive Council. If accepted by A. L. A., the Special Libraries Association could then be dissolved.

Would it not be advantageous for the affiliated organization, S. L. A., to ask the parent organization, A. L. A., for the privilege of uniting with them in *one* organization so that all librarians in the profession can work together, and be recognized by all outsiders as firmly united in one effort?

The Alternatives

These are the alternatives. Strengthen our present organization of the Special Libraries Association by uniting locals and national, and promulgating and financing a useful and effective program;

or

unite with all other librarians in *one* national organization, and carry on our special work through the local associations.

After fifteen year's of gradual development, we have reached a stage that makes it seem advisable for the Association to adopt one of these progressive alternative programs. We should not hesitate longer, thereby deliberately choosing the path of least resistance, which is to get along as best we can without adequate support of our members and our profession, and without financial backing. Surely *we all do feel our professional responsibility* enough to adopt one of these two alternatives herein suggested.

Miss Rose's View of the Situation

Twenty years ago, the need for special libraries along business lines was not apparent. As business conditions changed, a gradual and growing demand for such libraries became evident. A small group of people saw this clearly and as clearly recognized that at that time there was no organization sufficiently inter-

ested in this new angle of library work to develop and to promote it as it should be developed and promoted. Therefore,—this Association. Its life has been comparatively short—but in that short time, it has gloriously accomplished its purpose of promoting and developing business libraries and business library

methods in such a way that it has been possible to give the specialized service which this type of library demands.

The growths of the Special Libraries Association from its founding by five individuals in 1909, to a membership in 1924 of about six hundred proves that the importance of this type of library has been recognized in the library and business world. True, its main object has been accomplished, but not without handicaps. Possibly one of the most serious of these has been the use of the word "Special" in the name of the Association. As Miss Donnelly so well expressed it in her talk at Swampscott in 1921. "The opposing term to public libraries is, not special, but private, and this error in classification, implied in opposing public and special, is responsible for a confusion of thought that has led to unnecessary friction." To my mind, this word not only has led to friction but has opened the door for the admission of many *properly* called "special" libraries, the very inclusion of which, in the membership of the Special Libraries Association will defeat the purpose for which it was created, i.e., to develop the usefulness and efficiency of business libraries. There exists in the American Library Association a Children's Library Section, a School Library Section, a College and Reference Section and other sections all of which are really special libraries, and according to the title of the Special Libraries Association, might properly be included in it. This leads one to question whether or not the Special Libraries Association has not become today what might be called merely a small edition of the American Library Association, with no justification for its existence as a separate organization. Exclusive of the Business Group, the rest of the Special Libraries Association either overlaps or duplicates groups or sections of the American Library Association. Is it not true that taking into consideration the effective work of the Special Libraries Association up to this time and recognizing the wonderful development of the local associations throughout the country, that this group might quite as properly form a section of the American Library Association as do any of the other sections which have been developed because of a definite and distinct demand?

It shows a lack of good business organization policy with the library profession to have two national associations, each made up of various sections, covering the same or similar

fields. Organized as a business library section, the efforts of this present Association could be directed much more effectively to the pressing needs of this type of library as it exists today. It could devote its attention, among other things, to raising the professional standard in this field; to bringing to the attention of business men not only their own value as trained librarians but the added power of co-operation with the professional Association as a whole, as well as its individual members.

Another point to be considered is whether there is justification for the cost involved in maintaining two separate associations which in many lines are duplicating each others work. For instance, the double expense and work of the Committee on Methods of the Special Libraries Association and the Committee of Five on Library Service in the American Library Association is a point not to be lightly overlooked. Then there is also the expense to individual members or concerns who, in order to keep up with new ideas, may often be called upon to attend two conventions. To avoid this prohibitive expense, when the two associations have not met together, some business librarians have been in the habit of attending the Special Libraries Association, while others have attended the American Libraries Association. This scattered effort and the divided interest arising therefrom has not been conducive to the greatest accomplishment on the part of either the individual or the Association.

Furthermore, the holding of conventions in different places has resulted in a lack of mutual understanding of the real similarity of the aims and efforts of both associations. In reality, we *are* and should *appear* one united profession. All indications to the contrary, the differences in aims and methods, are only surface, due to the different application of the same fundamental principles.

If we cannot justify the existence of the Special Libraries Association as it now exists enough to warrant raising the dues very considerably, to provide for one or more paid secretaries there is the serious problem immediately confronting us of securing the consent of suitable people to run for office. Business librarians, even less than other librarians, cannot afford the time to attend to the mass of detail which has become a necessary part of their duties as officers of the Special Libraries

Association. It is not feasible, because of the many associations to which librarians must belong, to raise the dues of the Association sufficiently high to provide for these to attend to the detail work so that the acceptance of an office in the Special Libraries Association becomes possible by the most eligible people. As a section of the American Library Association, this detail work would be taken care of at headquarters, and our present dues, instead of being increased, would be reduced.

It is claimed by some that as a section of the American Library Association, we would be hampered by a lack of progressiveness in that Association; that we would have inadequate representation in its official family (in other words, that we would suffer from "Taxation without representation"); that it would be a mistake to deprive its members of the great help received from the publication *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*. In reply, let me quote sec-

tion 13 of the by-laws of the American Library Association:

"Sections may, if they so elect, charge annual dues, limit their own membership, issue publications, and in general carry on activities along the lines of their own interests, accounting for their own funds solely to their own members."

This by-law seems to cover the above objections. As far as representation is concerned, it is quite possible to instruct the committee who shall be chosen to negotiate for a Business Library Section in the American Library Association, to request that the Nominating Committee of the American Library Association be asked to put in nomination for membership on the Council, the same proportion of business librarians as is given to other sections. If this section is strong enough in its membership and influence to elect these nominees, we shall then have adequate representation. If it is not, we do not deserve it.

Group Meetings

Advertising—Commercial—Industrial

The Commercial-Industrial Group held a very interesting meeting at the Grand Union Hotel, Wednesday morning, July 2. More than one hundred people were present when the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Miss Mary Louise Alexander of Barton, Durstine & Osborn. It was explained that no actual organization of this group had been effected during the year due to a lack of information on its members. Early in June when the advance sheets of the new directory were first available, a letter was mailed by the chairman to one hundred and fifty librarians having commercial or industrial interests, urging their attendance at the national convention.

The program presented at the convention was built around the subject "The Marketing of Goods." This was felt to be so vital a question that all librarians would find something in it of interest. The phases covered were—

Marketing; Linda H. Morley, Business Branch of the Newark Public Library
Market Analysis and Statistics; Mrs. James, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.
Retailing; Grace D. Aikenhead, William T. Grant Co.

Advertising; Mary Louise Alexander, Barton, Durstine & Osborn.
Salesmanship; Mr. Salisbury, Dartnell Corporation.
Foreign Trade; Mr. Macfarlane, Philadelphia Commercial Museum.
Transportation; Mr. Johnston, Bureau of Railway Economics
Prices; Marguerite Burnett, New York Federal Reserve Bank

Each person gave a brief outline of the subject and named a few of the best books, indispensable magazines and services that any library interested in that subject should own. These lists proved to be of such exceptional value that all persons clamored for copies of each list. Several persons at the meeting volunteered to do multigraphing work in their offices so that copies of the lists will soon be available and may be secured from Miss Alexander, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, 383 Madison Avenue, New York City.

The meeting closed with an address by Mr. Willard M. Kiplinger in which he said in part:—

"The Capitol dome is generally accepted as a symbol of Washington, but it would be more accurate to take any one of the square brick

buildings which house government activities along lines of gathering and dissemination of business information. The most truly important men in Washington are not the senators or congressmen, but the economists, technical experts, scientists, statisticians, and the crew of officials in charge of disseminating the information which they assemble.

"Congress makes a big noise, its activities are spectacular and seem easily comprehensible. Newspapers have developed the habit of reporting columns of congressional happenings. There is ample reason for this. Nevertheless, it is true that for every important bill which passes, a dozen equally important plans, programs or situations are being worked out by the executive departments and bureaus of the government. Congress says once, when it passes a bill, *what shall be done*, and executive agencies of the government spend years carrying out the legislative instructions. In the long run, the execution is more important than the original legislation.

"Business men can and should get more help from the government than they are getting. Instead of spending time and money assembling facts for use in their business, they should go first to the government and ascertain whether those facts are not already available. Many times they will find them in little-known corners of the government. Information worth millions of dollars if sold commercially, is available without cost from the government, but business organizations must go after it and dig it out.

"The government system of disseminating business information has developed well in recent years, but it is imperfect. Contrary to general belief, adequate funds are not available for printing or even mimeographing of valuable reports of government specialists on hundreds of phases of business. Those reports and periodicals which are printed are either given away, or sold at nominal prices, but no provision is made in most cases for proper advertising or publicity or other means of promoting use of the material. Officials are hampered by all sorts of antiquated rules and red tape. There is no system comparable to the British government's method of authorizing private publishers to issue important government reports, although recently the Department of Commerce has worked out in a small way a means of allowing a private pub-

lishing company to print and sell at a fair price certain reports prepared under government direction.

"Business men are afraid of the government. They get discouraged writing for information, because replies are often late, or inadequate, or stupid. The government frequently is blameworthy, but more frequently the fault lies in failure of the business man to narrow his inquiry down to practical bounds. He is really too busy to do this. He needs liaison agents in his own organization, librarians or some sort of commercial intelligence specialists, and these need to cultivate a more intimate knowledge of the valuable business information facilities of Washington.

"Many businesses ought to maintain expensive Washington offices, devoted not to politics nor lobbying nor special influence, but to gathering information. Some ought to employ reputable information agents. Several hundred trade associations already have national headquarters in Washington, and the movement toward Washington continues. This is due not only to the fact that Washington is a political and legislative center, but also to the growing importance of Washington as a business information field."

MARY LOUISE ALEXANDER,
Chairman.

Civics Group

The meeting was merged with that of the State Libraries on July third. Mr. E. D. Greenman, New York Bureau of Municipal Information was the only person speaking for this group.

Financial Group

This meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, July 1, with an attendance of thirty-nine, representing six states.

The first speaker was Miss Alice L. Rose who read a paper entitled "What Are We Planning to Do in the National Business and Financial Library."*

Miss Mary P. Billingsley, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City spoke briefly on the topic "How Can the Librarian of the West Help the Librarian of the East." Her opinion was to the effect that national conferences afford mutual help, where problems, methods, ideas, may be personally talked over. She cited one case of a librarian who does not

*This paper will appear in the next issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

attend conventions because she does not care to capitalize her ideas! That is an entirely wrong attitude to take, according to Miss Billingsley. Co-operation between libraries, similar in scope, should be encouraged. Much mutual help has been derived from the monthly "round-robin" letters circulated among the various Federal Reserve Bank libraries throughout the country.

Miss Marion G. Eaton of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston brought up the question "How is it possible to get information out of the West"? Would it be possible to work out some scheme through the Methods Committee? Mr. C. C. Eaton of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration Library, suggested that a committee be formed to collect data on all large business libraries, the same to be published in pamphlet form. Miss Mary de J. Cox of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. stated that the S. L. A. Directory covered this point, whereupon Mr. Eaton refuted this statement, as his idea was to make the descriptions of the various libraries of the different sections of the country much more in detail than those contained in the directory. After considerable discussion both pro and con on this subject, the following resolution, offered by Mr. Carlos Houghton of Poor's Publishing Co., was carried:

Resolved: That the present Secretary of the S. L. A. be requested to compile and publish a list of persons, covering the different sections of the country, who would be willing to act as clearing houses for requests for information in their particular localities. It should be understood that those persons forward requests to the proper parties. The above list to be published each month in SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

In reference to the above resolution the suggestion was offered and approved that where there are local library associations of the S. L. A. the secretaries should act in this new capacity and to leave the selection of persons for the localities not covered by associations to the Secretary of the S. L. A.

Miss E. S. Cavanaugh of the Standard Statistics Co., informally discussed some sources material for financial libraries. In preparing her list on general reference sources, crops, labor, prices, production, she considered the outstanding factors entering into business and

finance, the lists dealing for the most part with the domestic side of business only.

She also mentioned the U.S. government publications and the research and statistical organizations throughout the country as contributors to data valuable to financial libraries. Besides the printed dated that is essential, she brought out the fact that knowing and calling upon other special libraries was an added source not to be overlooked.

Mr. Robert L. Smitley of the Dixie Business Book Shop made no set speech. He answered various questions. What he had to offer and suggest was contained in a circular which he distributed describing some of the outstanding books of the year. He also distributed an excellent list, arranged by subjects, giving several of the twelve hundred and fifty books published on business economics since last November.

Miss Dorothy Bemis, Chairman of the Group, embodied her ideas of the actual management of the detail of the Library Exhibit to be held at the American Bankers Association Convention in Chicago in September in the following resolution, which was moved and carried:

Whereas, The convention of the American Bankers Association is to be held in Chicago during September, at which it is planned that the Financial Group of Special Libraries Association should hold an exhibit; and

Whereas, This is the first time that the special librarians have made an organized attempt to present officially their aims and accomplishments before an important national Association; therefore be it

Resolved, That the formulation of the plans and control of the exhibit be entrusted to a committee of Chicago financial librarians, as representatives of the national Financial Group, appointed by the chair, with power to add to their committee other members of the national Financial Group;

Resolved, That the endorsement of the chairman of the national Financial Group and also the president of the Special Libraries Association shall be obtained for the final plans drawn up by the Chicago librarians.

The following were appointed by the chair to act as the committee for this Exhibit:

Miss Julia E. Elliott,
Miss Louise B. Krause,
Miss Ruth G. Nichols,
Miss Virginia Savage,
Miss Sue M. Wuchter.

A vote of thanks for the excellent preliminary work done by Miss Bemis for this Exhibit was made by Miss Louise Krause, H. M. Bylesby & Co., Chicago, Ill. This was moved and carried.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Miss Margaret Reynolds, Librarian, Chairman,
First National Bank, Milwaukee, Wis.
Miss Dorothy Ferguson, Librarian, Vice-Chairman,
Bank of Italy, San Francisco, Cal.
Miss Marion G. Eaton, Librarian, Secretary,
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

The Nominating Committee was requested to send a telegram to Miss Reynolds notifying her of her election. (An Affirmative reply was received the following day).

It was moved and seconded that a By-Laws Committee of three be appointed by the Chairman to draw up by-laws for the group. The by-laws to be published in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, same to be criticized and commented upon and at the next Annual Meeting to be voted upon.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET C. WILSON,
Secretary.

Insurance Group

The meeting of the Insurance Group was held Tuesday afternoon, July 1st. The smallness in attendance was made up for by the interest of those present in the two main points of discussion—

What the Library Should Do for the Salesman, led by Mrs. Grace Bevan, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hartford

An Index to Insurance Periodical Literature, led by Mr. D. I. Handy, Insurance Library Association, Boston.

In the first, Mrs. Bevan told interestingly of the various experiments her library has

tried out, and displayed a set of charts which she had made for use at the last convention of her company. Her list of Books of Value to the Life Insurance Salesman not only covers in most adequate fashion such subjects as History and Principles, General Salesmanship, Psychology, and Special Helps, Yearbooks, etc. but, also has most unique suggestions as to ways in which a "progressive" salesman may keep up with events of local interest. This latter includes business magazines, chamber of commerce publications, biographies, books to cultivate imagination, etc.

The second discussion was fruitful of but one point, and that was to consider what existing publications could be asked to include more insurance subjects in their indexes, especially convention proceedings and documents. The chairman will probably be able to report more fully at a later date to any of the group interested in the development of this suggestion.

A further point made by Miss Silence of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents was that she is acquiring a most valuable clipping file from which she will be glad to lend material.

Because of the small attendance it was not possible to elect officers for the coming year. The present chairman will continue to serve as an acting chairman until a more representative selection can be undertaken by correspondence.

FLORENCE BRADLEY,
Chairman.

Newspaper Group

There were present; Maurice Symonds of the New York Daily News, John H. Miller of the King Feature Syndicate of New York, Paul P. Foster of the Boston Herald, William Alcott of the Boston Globe, Joseph F. Kwapil of the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, Miss Emma R. Keil of the Buffalo Evening News, Miss M. B. Goodman of the Congressional Index, of Washington, and Miss Agnes Joy Petersen of the Milwaukee Journal.

Mr. Kwapil, chairman of the committee on organization, appointed at Atlantic City in 1923, called the meeting to order and read letters and telegrams from a number of people, expressing approval of the plan to form an association of newspaper librarians.

After discussion it was voted to form a permanent group of the Special Libraries Association, and the following officers were elected:

Joseph F. Kwapil of the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, chairman; William Alcott, Boston Globe, vice-chairman; Miss Agnes J. Petersen, Milwaukee Journal, secretary; Maurice Symonds, New York Daily News, treasurer; Paul P. Foster, Boston Herald; Miss M. B. Goodman of the Congressional Index, Washington; Miss Emma R. Keil of the Buffalo Evening News; and John H. Miller of King Feature Syndicate of New York, executive committee.

It was voted that the group membership fee be \$1.00

It was voted that charter membership be offered to all newspaper librarians who had responded favorably to the invitation to the conference of newspaper librarians.

The Secretary was authorized to secure stationery for the Association, the letter heads to contain the names of the officers and their newspaper libraries.

It was unanimously voted that the Association express its deep appreciation of the splendid work of Mr. Kwapil in promoting interest in the plan to organize newspaper librarians.

Discussion then turned to the subject of standard classification. Members freely described salient points of their filing systems, and there was frank exchange of opinion. The Dewey classification system, while approved for books, found not one friend for its application to newspaper clippings.

Mr. Kwapil displayed the elaborate system he had recently installed in the library of the New York Evening Post, and explained its working.

Mr. Alcott submitted samples of folders used in filing clippings and photos together, and in filing cuts.

Discussion of library matters, which began informally at luncheon, was continued at the dinner table, and the group was joined by Mr. Angus S. Fletcher, assistant director of the British Library of Information, New York City.

The second conference was called to order at 9:30 A. M. on Wednesday, July 2, by Chairman Kwapil, at the United States Hotel. The first subject of discussion was "Office Methods." Samples of library supplies used in the Boston Globe Library were exhibited by Mr. Alcott and discussion and criticism followed. Mr. Foster of the Boston Herald and Mr. Kwapil submitted library supplies from their office.

Methods of filing photos were next taken up and each librarian explained the system in use in his library.

Mr. Miller described the system in use in his library, for the King Feature Syndicate, not by prosic subject, but by unusual titles, as "Vampires," "Handshaking," "Drink," "Hoaxes," "Bridal," "Peace," "Race Suicide," "Large Families," "Titles," (to abolish), "Lovemaking," "Spendthrifts," "Courtesy" and "For Sale," the latter being that of the young woman who offered to sell herself in marriage.

Mr. Symonds and Mr. Foster contributed lists of new and valuable handbooks and sources of information.

Mr. Foster reported that he had recently sent requests for literature of a civic nature to every chamber of commerce in the United States and had received a very generous response.

Mr. Fletcher described the purpose and scope of his information service, and extended an invitation to the newspaper librarians to avail themselves of it at their convenience.

Mr. Alcott reported on his experience on securing uncopyrighted maps of the states in the Union.

Other subjects discussed were copyrighted photos; uses of telephone directories of foreign cities; syndicate photo service; newspaper bindings for temporary and permanent files; filing sporting clippings, and short cuts in processes.

It was voted to send a message of sympathy to Wilbur F. Coyle, librarian of the Baltimore Sun, who had planned to attend the conference, but was detained by serious illness.

The feasibility of another session of the Newspaper Group in the fall was discussed, and then referred to the executive committee

AGNES J. PETERSEN,
Secretary.

Public Health Group

Instead of a formal report the Chairman writes the Secretary as follows:—

I am afraid that my meeting was not the sort to interest you so far as reporting the proceedings is concerned.

I had an interesting group of twenty-two people. They were mostly interested in the subject from the Public Library standpoint. I believe that with the exception of Miss Florence Bradley, who came in to make an announcement there were no Special Library

people there. This is precisely what I thought would be the case and consequently the meeting was of interest to the audience. There seem to be very few Special Librarians interested in Public Health work. Dr. E. C. Richardson was an interested attendant and made some very helpful comments at the meeting.

Perhaps on the whole our interests are more closely associated with Public Library work than with Special Libraries. At least so it seems to me. At any rate we elected no officials and I have no wish to continue as Chairman another year.

Miss Grace T. Hallock gave a very good talk on the subject of Health Books for children telling about the beginnings of the Child Health movement and development of the literature and giving examples of good and bad health literature for children—stressing positive health. Miss Hallock prepared and distributed the enclosed list of books. The books were also on display at the meeting at Saratoga Springs.

MARY CASAMAJOR.

Technology Group

The report of this group was prefixed by an ingenious and interesting tabulation of the members which shows at a glance to which committees its members belong. Unfortunately our page does not permit of reproducing it.
Editor.

The Sponsorship Idea The mention of "Sponsors for Knowledge" by President Jennings, in his address at Saratoga Springs, July 4, as needed in the interests of adult education, suggests the timeliness of having sponsorship recognized as a means of functioning in our group. Generally speaking, sponsors should not only prepare a list of sources of information but be enthusiastic to answer all questions that come within the scope of the subjects for which they are listed. My own sponsorship, for sources of information on water power, should morally obligate me to go far afield to procure satisfaction on questions pertaining to this general subject; while the publicity of such sponsorship should attract to my attention the names of experts as well as remote sources of information that otherwise I should fail to know of. So may it be with every one of our group.

Preliminary Reports. Fifteen preliminary reports were received prior to the Saratoga Springs Meetings, and I brought these to the general session of our group. It seemed, how-

ever, that what we needed chiefly to do was become better organized and to pay particular attention to suggestions for the coming year; and I decided, rather than attempt to exhibit these reports, that I could to better advantage take more time to study and edit them, with a view to having as many copied and ready for distribution during the month of July as practicable. Furthermore, because not every report would be of interest to every member of the group, I would limit the number of copies in accordance with the demand. Some of the reports need considerable "tinkering," and in one instance, at least, the sanction of the powers-that-be is needed, before they are in shape as—

Material for Distribution. Which of the following would you like to receive? (In estimating the length of these reports I figure on single-spaced typewriting, and I mean to estimate the demand from the requests received before Tuesday, July 29, hoping to mail before the first of August the copies thus requested.

Ashman: Partial list of sources of information on *metal statistics*. 4 sheets. May not be available for general distribution.

Cady, *Illumination*. Mention of 3 bibliographies—re visual science, diffusion of searchlight and atmospheric phenomena.

Gericke: Letter (abstractable) re *agriculture interests*, which was accompanied with mimeograph and printed matter that Miss Gericke may have for distribution.

Hedrick: Enclosure of preliminary announcement of *education work of U. S. Department of Agriculture* for 1923-4 (Doubtless 1924-5 could be obtained by writing Dept. of Agr. Div. of Publications).

Lec: Hasty memorandum (2 sheets) of sources of information on *water power*. Already sent to the 1923-4 mailing list.

Leister: (Martha Cophu; Preliminary report of *government documents*, in the shape of a two and a half page informal statement, affording a good start on a difficult subject.

Liebmann: 38 pages, listing *periodicals currently received* in the libraries of the Wilmington, Delaware, district; principally those of du Pont organization. Compiled by the Technical Library of the Chemical Department. Miss Liebmann notes that the library is not in a position for lending to individuals, but can have anything photostated that is rare.

- Mattson: *Radio*. A list of 34 books and 5 magazines on radio, besides 6 other magazines having radio sections, in the Commonwealth Edison Company's Library. Apart from these, Miss Mattson cites a list of books published by the Pratt Institute Free Library, of which she has had copies typed. She notes in addition that "the list of books given in the U. S. Bureau of Standard circular No 122 is also worth while."
- McCord: *Geology*. Miss McCord writes that the rich collection from the library of the Geological Survey "has always been a source of great usefulness to the interested specialists. It is always available to persons desiring information on Geology, Mining, and kindred subjects," but "is seriously undermanned."
- McMahon: *Illumination*. When copied, this report will make a page giving the "tools" which her organization finds of value in illumination research. It refers to the card index, a bibliography of light (in preparation), list of periodicals, museum collection, etc.
- Mitchell (not Mitchell): *Gas*. An informal, but informative, statement nearly a page long on sources, from which is acquired information in answer to questions that "need more or less research when properly answered"
- Price: *Patents*. A page and a half on the resources within the Scientific Library of the Patent Office. (See also Mr. Price's article in SPECIAL LIBRARIES for June)
- Schantz: "Resources on *electric railway service* in the library of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company." Printed in SPECIAL LIBRARIES for March, page 63 (on which Miss Schantz should have been given credit as the author). Comment from several persons noted the omission of outside sources, and this matter I touch upon in paragraph 5.
- Seymour: *Development and history of Technology*. A page of text accompanied by photostat copy of eight pages giving tabular survey beginning with pre-historic man. I shall be glad to provide copies of the text page, but would recommend writing Miss Seymour if interested in the photostats
- Shearer: *Telegraphy*. "Partial list of the resources of the library of the Western Union Telegraph Company." Three pages of systematically listed treatises, periodicals, textbooks, hand books, directories, etc.
- Taylor: *Distribution of electricity* for light and power. Two pages of official sources, association proceedings, periodicals, notes on collections within the library, etc.

Committees

With the following exceptions committee reports were published in June Special Libraries.

Directory

At the annual meeting held at Atlantic City in May, 1923, your committee reported that a questionnaire had been circulated during the previous February and that returns had been made by five hundred and thirty-five libraries.

After eight months more of intensive work by the committee, supplemented by the help of field workers who volunteered their assistance at the 1923 annual meeting, the records were closed February 15, 1924, with a total of nine hundred and seventy-five replies. These libraries represent forty-five states and the District of Columbia and are classified under forty main heads.

The data contained in the replies to the questionnaire submitted, after being collated

and edited, was ready for the printer during the first week in April, and on June 7th the first galley proofs were received.

The completed directory, with the exception of the subject index, is now in the hands of the printer. Work upon the subject index is under way but must await the complete galley proofs of the classified section before it can be finished.

The committee had not only hoped but expected that the Directory would be off the press, a finished product, in time for the annual meeting and it is with great regret that it asks your patience for yet a little longer, with the assurance, however, that the work will be carried to a conclusion as quickly as is feasible.

Committee,
MAY WILSON, Chairman,
EMMA M. BOYER,
ETHEL CLELAND,

GRACE A. ENGLAND,
 MABEL INNESS,
 ALMA C. MITCHILL,
 RALPH L. POWER,
 ETHEL A. SHIELDS,
 MARGARET WITHINGTON,
 W I SWANTON,
 ALFRED B. LINDSAY,
 BLANCHE K. S. WAPPAT.

Committee in May so that we might have some convention publicity. Miss Alexander assumed the responsibility for the notices sent to the advertising journals. Mr. Joseph Kwapil and the Newspaper Group handled the publicity given out at Saratoga Springs. Three hundred and ninety-one pieces of news material and nine photographs were released by the chairman to various newspapers and periodicals throughout the country.

Publicity

To help Mr. Redstone in an emergency I accepted the chairmanship of the Publicity

MARGARET REYNOLDS,
Chairman,

A Word from the New President

I have asked for a little space in this number of SPECIAL LIBRARIES to set forth what I trust will be the policy of the administration which was elevated into office at the annual meeting of Special Libraries Association held in Saratoga Springs in July. As I have not yet had opportunity to confer with all members of the Executive Committee it may be best to ask you to accept this as expression of the personal opinion of your President.

I accepted the presidency so graciously tendered me at Saratoga reluctantly and not without some misgivings; but having done so I think I should say frankly how I interpreted your action.

It seems to me that you are for the most part convinced of the mission and usefulness of the Association. You have called me to the chief office not of a dying but of a living organization; not of one faltering, or discouraged, or bewildered, but of one clear visioned, self confident, sure footed; one with a purpose and with the will to defend itself and to make its purpose clear to all who question it.

If you agree with me in this then you will think such an Association worth working for, worth sacrificing for and worth waiting for. Lasting results do not come in a day or a month; but after years of toiling, striving, and renouncing. If the thing is worth doing then time is a secondary matter. It is pleasant to see the results of our efforts; but it is pleasanter yet to experience the clear conviction that what we strive for will live and that only others coming after us will realize fully the object and purpose of our toil.

Let us agree, then, that Special Libraries Association is here to stay.

There are amongst us apparently some who think that the S. L. A. has done its work. I do not agree with them. They represent some portion of a single element in one group of our membership. They suggest that inasmuch as the Association has done the work it set out to do, and much pertaining to this group remains yet to be done, the Association disband and let this group form independently and apply ultimately for admission to A. L. A. as a section, or affiliated body.

Whether this group can achieve more by such an arrangement than through group activity under the present form of organization is by no means certain. Those who advocate such a change have their case to make. Undoubtedly a serious problem of the present administration will be presented as this movement takes more definite form.

Meanwhile some things may be offered by way of clarifying the situation.

It is true that because of its rapid increase in numbers and importance, in recent years, the influence in the Association of the "business" library has somewhat overshadowed special libraries of other types, until some of us think of S. L. A. as exclusively a "business" libraries organization. Personally I have never regarded the Association as so narrow. Certainly this was not the case in the beginning. Then the Legislative Reference Libraries were perhaps dominant so far as dominance could be ascribed to any one class of libraries. It was only in recent years that the business group became preeminent.

In earlier years the Association found within its folds room for all libraries special in character, and while it never succeeded in defining what it meant by "special library," acted

generally upon the principle that all were welcome who assembled information in special or limited fields; applied it to living problems in those fields; and who as they assembled and used it, endeavored themselves within those fields, to become experts in information.

If this is the true conception of qualification for membership in S. L. A. then the aim of its executives should be to make the Association appeal to many groups, as well as the purely business group.

The amended constitution provides for the extension of group activity. The Executive Committee, I am sure, stands ready to aid and encourage group initiative and will welcome every evidence of group resourcefulness. Already some of the groups have done excellent work. It may be that some form of group organization worked out along the lines adopted by the Newspaper Group, will be advantageous. The matter may well be discussed at group meetings and at the meetings of the Executive Committee.

New groups must be formed. Groups must be represented in SPECIAL LIBRARIES magazine. Groups must largely shape the program for our annual meeting.

The amended constitution also provides for affiliated local or regional societies. No stronger foundation exists upon which to build a national Association, than active, loyally supported local associations. The Association will profit much if it can bind to it with firm bonds of mutual interest the local special libraries associations which already exist in several of our large cities. Also, if possible, ways must be found to develop in other centers small local associations of special librarians.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES magazine is the organ of the Association. It is the medium through which Special Libraries Association, as an entity, speaks. If the Association has ideals, aims, purposes to be realized, it is through this magazine that it makes these things known. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the magazine reflect truly and fairly, the consensus of S. L. A. opinion; that it interpret the S. L. A. idea, and set forth fully and fairly the S. L. A. spirit and endeavor. It will be the task of the present administration to make the SPECIAL LIBRARIES magazine such a medium.

The Association has on foot some very worthwhile enterprises. These represent self sacrificing endeavors on the part of devoted members. The Hand Book of Commercial

Services, the second edition of the Directory, the Index to Special Libraries covering a period of fifteen years—all are contributions to information getting and using of a unique type. It will be the aim of your administration aided by unwearied committees to see that these tasks where unfinished, are finished; and where finished so far as publication is concerned, are properly advertised and distributed to those who will appreciate and use the services afforded.

One of the real problems of the Association is to find and acquire desirable members. We know that there are hundreds—perhaps thousands of men and women engaged in the work of getting and sifting and using information who would gladly avail themselves of the privileges of membership in S. L. A., if we could reach them and bring to their attention the benefits of such membership. We need to remember that it is not always what can be got but what can be given, that appeals to a prospective member. The opportunity for co-operation has its definite appeal to many persons.

Last year an aggressive membership campaign was waged under splendid leadership. This work must be kept up.

At the annual meeting in Saratoga I understand a resolution was passed requesting or perhaps instructing the incoming administration to make a survey of the Association and report its findings to the next annual meeting. I have not seen the minutes so I do not know the wording of this resolution; but the Association may rest assured that its executives will carry out its wishes in this respect fully and impartially. A committee will in due time be appointed and it will be asked to make its report as thorough and searching as possible.

A word in closing.

The Association has completed fifteen years of helpful, increasingly practical activity. It has contributed some very definite things to the library profession. It has emphasized the importance of phases of information sources and getting and using which were, until it entered the field, commonly neglected. It has brought together a group of widely scattered and heretofore ignored information gatherers and users and taught them how to co-operate and be mutually helpful. It has made them acquainted with each other and has invested with dignity the work in which they are engaged. It may not be too much

to say that it introduced to the larger Association many prospective members who had before hardly thought of themselves as librarians at all.

It has suggested some activities which it has been unable—because of lack of funds—to carry on itself; and apparently contributed the suggestion which leads to the establishment at Wellesley Hills in Massachusetts of what is expected to become a unique financial library.

Such an Association, it seems to me, does not need to concern itself with what is to become of it, so much as with how it is to so organize and manage itself as to carry out in the future the splendid promise of its past.

It is to these ends, I feel sure that the present administration will wish to dedicate its energies during the current year.

DANIEL N. HANDY.

Pages 181-184 deleted, advertising.