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Special Libraries

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ANNUAL MEETING SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, MACKINAC ISLAND, JULY 1 TO 5, 1910.

First Session: Friday Forenoon, July 1.

Library bulletins, publicity and methods of keeping a special clientele informed concerning current literature of interest

* Opening discussion, George W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster, Boston.

General discussion with special reference to the needs and methods of particular libraries. Among those who will take part in the discussion are the following:

W. F. Stevens, Librarian, Carnegie Library, Homestead, Pa

Guy E. Marion, Librarian, A. D. Little, Inc., Boston

Robert H. Whitten, Librarian, Public Service Commission, New York City.

D. N. Handy, Librarian, Insurance Library Association of Boston

In connection with the above session there will be an exhibit of bulletins, methods and devices used by special libraries relating to the subject under discussion.

Second Session: Monday Afternoon, July 4.

Indexes to Current Literature:

A Trades Index—Joseph L. Wheeler, Library of the District of Columbia.

A Public Affairs Index—John A. Lapp, Legislative Reference Librarian, Indiana State Library.

The general discussion will include a discussion of the above papers and a general discussion of the following:

Fields not covered by existing indexes and of importance to special libraries.

Should the index confine itself to a specified list of periodicals or sources, or attempt to include everything within its particular field, should it be a complete index to a subject or a complete index to specified sources?

Annotations, descriptive and critical.

Methods of printing; cumulation; use of cards and loose-leaf systems.

Duplication of work and means of minimizing it.

Among those who will take part in the discussion are the following:

C. W. Andrews, Librarian, John Crerar Library, Chicago.

Samuel H. Ranck, Librarian, Grand Rapids Public Library

W. Dawson Johnston, Librarian, Columbia University.

H. H. B. Meyer, Chief Bibliographer, Library of Congress.

Carl Ed Steinmetz, Indexer, Index to Legal Periodicals.

Frederick W. Faxon, Editor, Bulletin of Bibliography.

Prof. L. C. Marshall, Editor, Journal of Political Economy.

Third Session: Tuesday Afternoon, July 5.

Election of officers.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer, Guy E. Marion, Librarian, A. D. Little, Inc., Boston.

Report of Public Utility Libraries Committee, George W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster.

Report of Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries Committee, John A. Lapp, Legislative Reference Librarian, Indiana State Library.

Report of Technology Libraries Committee, Joseph L. Wheeler, District of Columbia Public Library.

Report of Managing Editor of *Special Libraries*. This report will be followed by a general discussion of the bulletin published by the association.

Annual dinner of the association.

SYNOPSIS OF PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MACKINAC MEETING, JULY 1 TO 5.

Bulletins.

G. W. Lee.

(0) **Definition of Bulletin.** Bulletins vary from the single sheet, or newspaper poster, to pamphlets of over a hundred pages, like the Bulletin of Bureau of Standards and vary from reading lists to bibliographies and indexes. General and special bulletins to be distinguished; what is special from a general standpoint may be general from a special standpoint.

(1) **Bulletins Past and Present.** Bulletin of Bibliography as an index to other bulletins; a clearing house to avoid overlapping and duplication of work.

(2) **Bulletins as Reference Lists.** Samples. Need of their classification. A view of the ground already covered.

(3) **Bulletins as Reading Lists.** Samples. Methods of using them. Circulation vs. use. Extremes to be avoided: "Too much of a good thing" and "No earthly use," if too long, yet important articles must not be overlooked. Habit of using easily lost. Opinions of librarians. A view of the ground already covered.

(4) **Contents of Bulletins.** Books, book lists, reviews, notes and comments, periodical references, sources of information in general, may well be included in the same bulletin.

(5) **Quality.** Care needed in making up bulletins. Tendency to routine. Record of questions asked as a basis for the bulletin. Sponsorship of specialists.

(6) **Limitations of the Bulletin.** Bulletin vs. personal service. The man behind the bulletin. Suggestions for a tabulated bulletin to meet the needs of several specialists at once.

(7) **Publicity.** Newspapers, the Bulletin of Bibliography and other centers of possible co-operation in giving publicity to existing and forthcoming bulletins. Inverse publicity; importance of public needs being known to the bulletin maker.

(8) **Special Libraries Association in Relation to Bulletins.** Should be in touch with all the bulletins that bear upon the interests of its members. Should have and publish information on ways of obtaining all the bulletins, "Special Libraries" and its scope, should refer to bulletins published or proposed, and should encourage ones that are needed, rather than attempt in its own pages to satisfy its members with reading or reference lists. Exchange possibilities and the possible formation of a library of bulletins. Circulation of bulletins by mail on a loan system.

(9) **Bulletins of the Future.** Form and standardization in general. Classification

(by Dewey Decimal System") Duplicating by mimeograph or multigraph, etc., vs. printing. Consolidation. Announcements in advance of publication. Bulletins as the sheets of a handbook on where to look

ARTISAN'S TRADES INDEX.

Joseph L. Wheeler.

Several libraries have offered to co-operate in the preparation of the Trades Index, and a definite plan of the work is here outlined. Following is a tentative list of the magazines from which all articles of sufficient length and value will be indexed, keeping in mind that the index is not designed to include the class of literature which appeals to engineers and special professional experts, and that it is not for merchants or business men who may be interested in commercial aspects of technical subjects, but that it is for workmen, foremen, amateurs, and those who may be in search of practical instruction as how to make various things, the operation of machinery, recipes and processes for shop work, amateur work and manual trades of all kinds.

The purpose should be to avoid duplicating the work of the engineering indexes. In many cases the same magazines will be indexed, but a different class of material will be considered.

The amount of space given to entries on broad topics, such as textiles, machine work, carpentry, etc., should be proportionate to the importance and interest of those topics. Textiles, all kinds of machine, metal and shop work, building trades should be thoroughly covered. Such trades as baker's, barber's, are of such a nature that the demand for literature is very small. Therefore such special magazines as Baker's Helper, Brooms, etc., will not be indexed; but where the more general magazines, like American Machinist, describes processes, the articles should be indexed.

The form of entry should be much like that of the Reader's Guide instead of being annotated like the Engineering Index or Technical Press Index.

Subject indexing heading.

Title (short entry.) Short form of the sub-title if necessary. Pages, Illustrated. Magazine Date

Examples of index entry:

Boiler work.

Applying patches to boilers 2p. il.
Power, May 24, '10.

Lubrication.

Cylinder lubrication Four letters of discussion, 1 1/2 p. Power May 24, '10.

The John Crerar Library and the Library of the Steel Works Club, Joliet, Ill., have offered to co-operate. Several others have previously expressed interest, and will no doubt help in the indexing. Request is hereby made that any library which would

be willing to index a few selected magazines for 1910, will please send word to the chairman, indicating which magazines it would like to cover either on the following list or other magazines it may deem desirable.

Tentative List of Magazines to Be Indexed.

Aircraft, American blacksmith, *American carpenter and builder, American carpet and upholstery, American laundry journal, American machinist, American printer, American shoemaking, Blacksmith and wheelwright, Bicycling world and motorcycle review, Boiler maker, Brass world and plater's guide. *Building age, Brick, Carriage monthly, Castings, Cement world, Copper and brass, Craftsman, Domestic engineering, ***Electrician and mechanic, *Fibre and fabric, Foundry, Gas engine, Grand Rapids furniture record, *Heating and ventilating magazine, Hub, Horseless age, Ice and refrigeration, Illumination, Illuminating engineer, Inland printer, ***Jeweler's circular, Machinery, Manual training magazine, Merchant's record and show window, ***Metal industry, *Metal worker, Motor, National builder, National printer journalist, Packages, *Painter's magazine, Paper trade journal, *Plumber's trade journal, Power, **Possett's textile journal, Printing art, Progressive age, Rock products, School arts book, Stone, **Textile manufacturers' journal, **Textile world record, Wood craft, Wood-worker.

Note.—Assigned. *Washington; **New Bedford; ***Providence.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX.

John A. Lapp.

The purpose of this paper is to set forth the need of a public affairs index and to point out some of the fields not covered by existing agencies.

We suffer from a lack of knowledge of what others are doing, and sometimes ignorantly do things which are already better done.

The special library begins where the public or general library leaves off. The chief need of the special librarian is to get up-to-date, reliable information on obscure subjects, most of which are not treated in general books and magazines.

The general field is fairly well covered at present. The special field is almost untouched. This is the age of organizations. We have them for every conceivable general and special purpose. Some of those which are not now reported are, the state and local bar associations, national associations of officials and the hundreds of national associations of all sorts.

To the special library the reports and proceedings of organizations covering a specific field are the most valuable. We do not now have even a list of those which publish proceedings and reports.

Another untouched field is the city. No agency reports the material produced by the cities and the various trade, commercial and civic bodies of the city. No means exist for keeping in touch with city affairs.

At present there is no published index of newspaper material.

The first step in the plan for a public affairs index should be to determine the actual field covered or not well covered by existing bibliographical agencies. No duplication of effort should be attempted. In many cases the present catalogues, indexes and bibliographies might be enlarged. Thus, for example, the Index to Legal Periodicals might include the reports of all bar associations in the country. The Catalogue of State Documents of the Library of Congress might include everything published by state officers, closely indexed. The proceedings of many societies might properly come in the general magazine indexes.

A public affairs index is merely the expansion of present activities to special fields, to supplement the excellent work already being done.

A newspaper index is imperatively needed. As Mr. Foster pointed out, it should cover not one but several leading newspapers in different sections of the country. Our newspapers are too narrowly provincial or partisan to trust to one or two papers. This index should cover all special articles and should pandex all of the news furnished by the large news gathering agencies. That such a thing is possible is shown by the excellent though short lived Street's Pandex of the News.

State libraries or other state agencies should supplement this by indexing the state news and special articles. To supplement all of these features the bulletin of the Special Libraries Association should continue the notes and references on public affairs. With better co-operation this can be made an indispensable aid.

It would seem that the proper agency for doing the work of a public affairs index is the Library of Congress. The need is imperative in order to get this vast inert mass of information into circulation.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM.

Agricultural Libraries Round Table Meeting.

Mr. J. I. Wyer, Chairman.

(American Library Association Conference, Mackinac Island, June 30 to July 6, '10.)

The attention of members of the Special Libraries Association is called to the program for the agricultural libraries round table meetings to be held during the coming A. L. A. conference at Mackinac Island.

First Session.

1.—Agricultural libraries and their various activities.

- By Dr. A. C. True, Director, Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- 2.—Popularizing agricultural literature.
- (a) Traveling libraries for farmers.
By Mr. Charles B. Galbreath, Librarian, Ohio State Library.
- (b) Agricultural collections in private libraries.
By Miss L. E. Stearns, Chief, Traveling Library Department, Wisconsin Free Library Commission.
- 3.—Agricultural literature in the reference library.
By Mr. C. W. Andrews, Librarian, John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.
- 4.—Instruction of students in the use of agricultural and scientific literature.
By Miss Anna M. Smith, Librarian, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota.
- 5.—Relation of the Experiment Station Library to the College Library.
By Mr. Charles R. Green, Librarian, Massachusetts Agricultural Library.
- 6.—Guides to recent agricultural literature
By Miss E. L. Ogden, Librarian, Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- 7.—Indexing agricultural literature.
By Dr. E. Mead Wilcox, Professor of Agricultural Botany, University of Nebraska.
- 8.—Agricultural periodicals,—selection and preservation.
By Mr. William R. Hepburn, Librarian, Purdue University
- 9.—Permanent organization.

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES.

Marjorie F. Warner, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Chairman of the Agricultural Libraries Committee.

Agricultural libraries cover such a wide range of activities as to come into contact at some point with almost every form of scientific library; most of them are merely general scientific libraries, with, of course, certain definite adaptations and limitation, according as they exist chiefly for purposes of education, original research, or bibliographic conservation. The greater proportion are obliged to serve the needs of scientific investigation of agricultural problems, and their need of co-operation consequently has less reference to the literature of agricultural practice than that of its contributory sciences, chemistry, botany, etc.

As the current literature of agriculture proper is already pretty well covered by bibliographical publications, and the natural sciences are each provided with several or many journals of bibliography, reviews, abstracts, etc., the urgent need in most li-

braries is to lay hold of the books and articles brought to the attention of their clientele through existing bibliographies. As the total output of periodical scientific literature can never be available in any one collection, it would be of great service to systematize the locating of series which may be made available through loans, or accurate transcripts of desired references, and this plan applies equally to the use of very rare, old, or costly books, such as are often indispensable—though now often inaccessible—in the biological sciences.

One of the chief advantages to be gained through co-operation of agricultural and other scientific libraries lies in the possibility of joint compilation of bibliographies—not mere reference lists, but thorough, comprehensive bibliographies of special subjects. Such joint compilation seems to the writer capable of producing, under competent editorship, better results than have hitherto been possible in this field of bibliography. Besides the literature of special subjects, that of agricultural periodicals can be most successfully handled by the co-operation of a number of libraries. If the "union list" principle could be extended to include a large number of collections in different sections, or even the entire United States, many extremely rare and valuable serials, now known only in fragmentary sets, would undoubtedly be brought to light.

LIBRARY OF STONE & WEBSTER, BOSTON.

G. W. Lee, Librarian.

In the March issue Dr. Whitten tells of the scope and working of the Library of the New York Public Service Commission, First District. The article seems to me important and to the point, and I hope it has been and will be widely read. Rather than describe independently another library, of kindred scope, I would first summarize what he has written, and then, under the headings he has used, compare the two and dwell upon only such features of the Stone & Webster Library as differ from those of the Public Service Commission.

He refers to the Public Service Commission Library as aiming to collect and index material that may be "wanted in relation to car brakes, gas meters, franchise terms, Paris subways, etc.," so that information upon such subjects may be readily forthcoming from their collection of books and pamphlets, amounting to some 8,000. He emphasizes the need for care in selecting and in discarding books, if such a library is to be efficient. The Publishers' Weekly, the United States Catalogue and the parliamentary lists, besides the reviews and announcements in the technical journals, etc., are examined regularly. Valuable as

are the books, pamphlets and special reports, he considers that "they are out-ranked in value by the periodical article." Consequently the Law Library Journal, the Readers' Guide and the Engineering Index are also examined regularly in order to keep in touch with the periodical literature. The classification used is simple; the arrangement alphabetical, the annotation a combination of letters and figures. There is a vertical file for magazines, clippings and pamphlets, and, of course, a card catalogue, which is alphabetical: (1) By author and title, (2) subject headings, (3) regional headings. The magazine articles and pamphlets are catalogued "as fully as the books, and the cards for the articles are placed in the catalogue with the cards for the books"; the specific information of books, etc., being more desirable to classify than the particular books or sets of books. A Library Bulletin is issued once or twice a week, and is sent to about 250 officers and employes of the Commission, who check the books or articles they desire to see and, signing their names, return the sheet to the library, getting in response the article desired or having their names put upon the reserve list to receive it when available. In addition, this person or that is especially notified of literature thought to be of particular interest to him. Furthermore, reference lists on special subjects are readily struck off from the catalogue, because it does combine the books and catalogues in one. Also, the experiment is being tried of maintaining "always up-to-date catalogues" on certain subjects by putting entries on letter-sized onion-skin paper, from which blue prints are made as needed. Additions are made on the original, and new blue prints are struck off to date. The library not only has references on the street railways of England and Russia, for instance, but prepares a report on the supervision of railways in these countries. Dr. Whitten rightly emphasizes the necessity for quick information service, apart from the dealing in copies or titles of books and articles.

The Stone & Webster Library has been built up in the interests of an organization, likewise, having to do with public utilities; more especially, however, their financing, constructing and operating. It has a collection of books, periodicals and pamphlets to the number of about 5,000, perhaps two-thirds as many as the N. Y. Public Service Commission; but, as this article goes to press, much material is in process of being discarded because superseded or not timely for our present purposes, or because available elsewhere in the vicinity.

Selection and Collection of Material. Our book selection is made from reviews and announcements in periodicals, from publishers' lists, from the recommendations

of various members of the organization and from monthly visits to the Boston Public Library, where such books of possible interests to us as may be available are looked over, and whence some are brought to the office to be especially considered. The system is susceptible of improvement, and in this connection mention may be made of the proposal to establish in Boston a depository for new books. If the plan goes through it is hoped that publishers from far and wide will co-operate by sending one copy of each of their new publications as fast as they appear. Under present circumstances the chances that many of the books we need escape our attention for an indefinite period are very large. Our disposing of superseded and unnecessary books is partially achieved through a monthly auction, which means that a large number are given away or are carried off as waste. It has been suggested that one of the functions of the Boston Branch of the Special Libraries Association might well be to operate a clearing house of books wanted and for sale in this vicinity.

We follow the periodical literature bearing upon our interests and depend very largely upon the items we list therefrom. Our Current Literature References for 1907 and 1908, in pamphlet form, and our supplementary card index to date, together with such aids as the Readers' Guide and the Engineering Index, avail us for many subjects of reference. In contrast to the P. S. C. Library, we seldom send for copies of articles listed in the Engineering Index, finding that most of the references that we need, are in the journals we subscribe for or are otherwise obtainable; also, we clip comparatively little, probably less than we could to advantage clip. We do, however, clip and paste away in monthly succession the various groups of items in that index. These we maintain in a vertical filing cabinet until succeeded by their annual volume.

Classification. Our classification is quite different from that of the Public Service Commission, though should we start again I am not sure but that we should copy theirs almost in every essential.

Dr. Whitten's mnemonic notation, like Fr. for Franchise, Ga. Ac for Gas Accidents, is an obvious convenience; so also his combination of geography and subject, as Ra401 for Railroads—Boston. Our classification starts geographically, i. e., 1100, Maine; 1200, New Hampshire, etc.; 1460, the region of Boston; 1461, Boston; 6131, Seattle, etc. Then follows the decimal point, and to the right of it comes the classification by company and by subject. Company numbers hardly concern the books, so that the latter usually have a "0" after the decimal. Thus .01 signifies propositions (seldom used for books); .02, statistics; .03, legal affairs,

etc.; .07 and its ramifications for engineering. The laws of Washington State would thus have the number 6100.03, while a book on electrical engineering, which defies the geographical classification, would have the number to the left of the decimal omitted. The system was originally devised for the Library and the Filing Department combined, but today, when these are separate, the numbers to the right of the decimal often prove conspicuously unsatisfactory for the book classification. A pamphlet issued in 1907, entitled "The Library and the Business Man," describes the system in use at that time and suggests most of the underlying principles of the system, even though changed in various details to meet the needs of today. Copies of this pamphlet are still available for those who may be interested in the subject.

Our periodical classification has been considerably modified since the description in the pamphlet, but it follows largely the headings of the Engineering Index and is proving particularly efficient for putting-away purposes. Some one hundred references a week are thus written and filed away. Civil Engineering falls in the 10's; Electrical Engineering in the 20's, while 90 covers the considerable Miscellany. As an instance in detail, 50 covers Railway Affairs; 54, Electric Railway Construction, Equipment and Operation; 54f, Shops, Plants, etc; 54f3, Substations. I can readily understand that Dr. Whitten might use the letters "Sb St" for substations, which should certainly be easier to remember than our number. Recently, however, I have been working upon a system of cross-tying the classification, which bids fair to help the memory and hasten the work. By using this decimal point to indicate "aspects," we have under 71a, which refers to societies, 71a.1 for Civil Engineering Societies; 71a.2 for Electrical Engineering Societies, 71a.3 for Mechanical Engineering Societies; 71a.9, Miscellaneous Societies. On this analogy, should occasion require, we could use 71a.54f3 for a society which devoted itself to the study of substations. It seems to be the conclusion of most special libraries that each special library needs its own classification, and, therefore, I would say, "Come and talk it over before you go very far on your own tack, to get from us who have established systems some suggestions that may prove of decided help to you."

A further improvement recently effected, which is after Dr. Whitten's system, but which will not have been thoroughly tried out before this article goes to press, is to use the small letters of the alphabet to indicate certain topics in which we are particularly interested, viz., b, bibliography; e, electric railways; m, money and banking; p, power stations; s, statistics; t, tables, charts and formulae, etc., etc., the whole

alphabet thus being used for mnemonic short cuts. These brevities would thus allow the use of a notation such as e82d for electric railways in Massachusetts. Furthermore, by combining these with the geographical figures that we have been using for our book files, e82d61 could be used for electric railways in Boston.

Arrangement of Material. Dr. Whitten's magazine clippings and pamphlets are kept in vertical filing drawers. We subscribe for about 60 and we receive about 150, some 50 of which are bound, subject to retrenchment in the measures we are now taking for greater efficiency. In addition to the indexes bound in with each volume we have a duplicate set for many of the journals, so that time and nervous energy are frequently saved by referring to special "loose-leaf" volumes of indexes. This index set is likely to be developed further, so that we may maintain indexes to publications that we do not bind.

Catalogue. Our card catalogue as it is being changed to date has its shelf list (arranged by the geographical and subject numbers) and its alphabetical list, in which subjects and authors are run together. We do not cross-reference so highly nor make so many cards in duplicate as does the Public Service Commission Library, but we have laid plans for a library catalogue in book or pamphlet form which will be, also, a source of information handbook. We realize that books need to be analyzed, and that many a book contains several monographs which should each be treated as books in themselves. This problem is, of course, quite universally felt by librarians, but we have not yet advanced sufficiently far in the handbook compilation to foretell just how it will appear in every detail.

Bulletins and Publicity. The Public Service Commission Library issues a bulletin once or twice a week containing references to books, articles and pamphlets. We issue a sheet regularly twice a week, dated for Tuesdays and Fridays, containing only references to periodical literature. The Tuesday sheet covers civil, electrical and mechanical engineering; the Friday sheet railways and all else that may be of interest to us. The sheets circulating throughout the office are marked substantially as in the case of the Public Service Commission and, likewise, we call attention to articles that may be of particular interest to particular persons. These semi-weeklies would seem to stimulate the use of the library, as indicated by the requests for articles referred to. Outsiders who receive the lists seldom ask us for or about the references, and we hardly know to what extent they are actually appreciated. When, however, for some five months the service was abandoned we had several letters to the effect that it was decidedly missed.

Reference Lists. Because we do not keep our periodical and our book list as one, we cannot make reference lists with the same ease as the Public Service Commission Library, though the handbook to which I have alluded would in itself be a series of reference lists; and if this should be edited annually or maintained by an interleaved or loose-leaved system, it should become a most important feature of our Library.

Blue Print Methods. The blue print lists of the Public Service Commission, maintained to date, are a novelty to me, and I should think they would be most useful. I hope Dr. Whitten will report on this several months hence, so that if the experiment proves all that he anticipates we, too, may unhesitatingly adopt the system. Besides keeping the additions to date, he can also make obliterations to date, as possibly called for by the superseding of references that have been listed.

Collection of Information. Our Library seldom compiles data on various subjects, not only because we have so much else on hand, but more especially because the statistical and other departments, with their "students," do considerable work of this kind.

Record of Questions. A matter that Dr. Whitten does not touch upon is the recording of questions; who asked them, who answered them, how long it took to answer them, and where the information was found. Our classified collection of question slips makes a stock-in-trade reference bureau, which, to my mind, is of great value, and should prove of greater and greater value. It is my hope to see the headquarters of the Special Libraries Association build up a bureau of this kind, so that it shall indeed become the information center for specialists of all kinds. But this is far beyond the modest achievement that the S. L. A. aspires to for the present.

Quick Service. Quick service is indeed called for and rightfully expected. We need to realize that not only are we library workers, but that we are office workers, and that the department as a whole is merely incidental to the work of the engineers, financiers and general managers of public utilities.

TECHNICAL MAGAZINES CONTAINING BOOK REVIEWS.

Joseph L. Wheeler, Public Library, District of Columbia, Chairman of Technology Libraries Committee.

Aircraft. Carefully annotated.

American Architect. Long, careful annotations.

American Chemical Society, Journal. Long and very thorough reviews. Lists of new books

American Engineer. Short descriptive notes.

American Gas Light Journal. Occasional, critical. Reviews all books of importance.

American Society of Civil Engineers, Proceedings. Accessions to the library, with descriptive annotations.

American Machinist. Long, careful and critical. Books on mechanical engineering and machine work.

American Marine Engineer. Descriptive, sometimes analyzing.

Architects and Builders' Magazine. Short, descriptive. Covers applied architecture and related arts.

Building Age. Always contains reviews, descriptive rather than critical. Covers building trades.

Cassier's. Long, thorough, critical reviews of a few important books.

Cement Age. Descriptive reviews, superficial.

Chemical Engineer. Extended, critical reviews. Industrial chemistry.

Concrete. Occasional descriptive notes

Concrete Engineering. Good reviews; fairly long and critical. Lists of books received.

Electric Journal. Critical and descriptive.

Electric Railway Journal. Occasional. Descriptive notes, sometimes of length.

Electrical Age. Occasional. Very short descriptive notes.

Electrical World. Covers field of electricity, though reviews appear only in occasional issues. Critical, thorough reviews.

Electrician and Mechanic. Good descriptive reviews of books on popular technical subjects, especially amateur.

Engineering and Mining Journal. Extensive lists of new books. All important books reviewed, not very critically.

Engineering—Contracting. Long, thorough, critical reviews of important civil engineering books. Publications received, with short notes.

Engineering Magazine. Current record of new books. No annotations.

Engineering News. Literature supplement middle of each month. Most valuable review of general engineering subjects.

Engineering Record. Weekly reviews of some length. Thorough and evaluative. Specially good on civil engineering.

Fly. Descriptive reviews, not critical.

Foundry. Long, descriptive reviews, fairly thorough but not critical.

Franklin Institute Journal. Good reviews, but cover only occasional books.

Gas Engine. Fairly good, critical reviews of books on gas engines and their application.

General Electric Review. Long, thorough and critical reviews. Specially good on electric theory and engineering.

Hub. Occasional descriptive notes (Vehicles).

Ice and Refrigeration. Descriptive, sometimes critical reviews. Covers refrigeration thoroughly.

Illuminating Engineer. Long and thorough reviews of important books.

International Marine Engineering. Descriptive reviews, sometimes of length.

Iron Age. Descriptive notes of some length appear occasionally. Covers commercial and to some extent the practical side of iron work.

Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Long, thorough and critical signed reviews on this special field.

Journal of Modern Geology. Valuable signed reviews. Includes metallurgy.

Machinery. List of new books with short notes.

Metal Industry. Occasional evaluative and descriptive reviews of books on commercial work with non-ferrous metals and alloys.

Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering. Thoroughness depends on importance of book. Some reviews, long and critical. Has also list of new books.

Mining World. Descriptive rather than critical.

Municipal Engineering. Occasional reviews, descriptive and critical. Specially good on municipal reports.

Power and Engineer. Descriptive notes of some length. Keeps good track of power literature.

Practical Engineer. Good reviews of practical power engineering books.

Science. Thorough signed reviews of books on pure science.

Scientific American. Difficult to determine what class or quality of books are included. Descriptive; seldom critical.

Sibley Journal of Engineering. Short descriptive notes of a few books.

Signal Engineer. Occasional, long and critical. Covers signalling.

Society of Chemical Industry, Journal. Attempts to list all important new books, American and foreign. Good reviews of some important books, especially those in English.

Water and Gas Review. Occasional descriptive. Gives contents.

Western Society of Engineers. Valuable, long, thorough. Generally signed. Engineering books only.

Wood Craft. Valuable reviews of all important books on machine and hand wood-working trades.

Additions and corrections are requested from technology libraries.

A NEWSPAPER INDEX.

Evening Post, New York, Thursday, May 19, 1910 [Editorial].

Preparation of an annual index to one or several metropolitan daily newspapers, which is suggested in an article in the

journal of the Special Libraries Association, is a work which the American Library Association, or the Library of Congress, might well take up, and by so doing fill a great need. The writer, Paul P. Foster, makes his plea in behalf of the editorial library and the journalist, but such a work of reference would be of real value to thousands, and the wonder is that there is none. Publication of the index to the Times was discontinued in 1906, and since then consultation of newspaper files has been a haphazard grubbing, in which only zeal and time could insure success. The carefully prepared index to the London Times, issued in monthly parts and in annual volumes, and listing every article, item, or name which appears in its columns, offers a convenient model which the compiler here might follow. It is no doubt true that the future historian, thanks to a more elaborate preservation of statistics elsewhere, will rely less on newspaper files for actual preservation of authoritative documents than heretofore, but as a reflection of contemporary comment, and as a handy chronological arrangement of events, the volumes of a metropolitan journal, indexed, will be invaluable. Mr. Foster offers the comment of an historian, James Ford Rhodes, who has said that the time had passed when one could "apologize for the use of newspaper material, or ignore it." To make this material more available would be a praiseworthy task for any library or association.

A TRADES INDEX.

From Public Libraries, May, 1900.

The idea advanced by Mr. Wheeler of the Public Library of District of Columbia, in his letter to Special Libraries, of having a number of libraries combine with others interested, to publish a list of trade and artisan references for all, is bound to take form sooner or later.

There is much to be said in favor of the proposed preparation of lists for the various libraries as a means of economy and conservation of time and strength. There is room for query, if not for criticism, as to the wisdom of hundreds of libraries doing the same thing in the same way for the same purpose, individually. Lists of books on this, that and the other topic made up from exactly the same material in various libraries are collected, prepared and printed, from one end of the country to the other. The libraries all have about the same material on their shelves, and there is no good reason why the listing should not be done once for all, by one agent, and then distributed with local imprints as desired by individual libraries.

¶ The H. R. Huntling Company, Springfield, Mass., makes a specialty of looking up and reporting on special items. Classified catalogues are issued monthly. Correspondence invited. Special library binding