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Special Libraries

Vol. 7

JUNE, 1916

No. 6

Program, Special Libraries Association, Annual Meeting, 1916

Columbia Hotel, Asbury Park, N. J.

Wednesday, June 28.

9:30 a. m.

Opening address by the President, Andrew Linn Bostwick, Municipal Reference Library, 81 Law Bldg.

Sources of information for business men, D. C. Buell, Railway Educational Bureau, Omaha, Neb.

Public officials and the special library, Dr. C. C. Williamson, Municipal Reference Librarian, New York Public Library

Standardization by a library unit system, G. W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster Corp., Boston, Mass.

The editorial office: a new field for librarians, Miss Renée B. Stern, Mother's Magazine, Elgin, Ill.

Report on national center for municipal information, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary, National Municipal League.

8:00 p. m.

Round Table Conferences. Plans have been made for round table conferences as follows:

Treatment of pamphlets: Leader, Miss Elizabeth V. Dobbins, Librarian, American Telephone and Telegraph Co., New York City.

Special library employes: Leader, D. N. Handy, Librarian, Insurance Library Association of Boston.

Classification systems: Leader, Miss Marian R. Glenn, Librarian, American Bankers' Association, New York City.

Special library publicity: Leader, Brainard Dyer, Publicity Manager, National Carbon Co., Cleveland, O.

Co-operation in Bibliographical Work, H. H. B Meyer, Library of Congress.

Friday, June 30.

9:30 a. m.

The public affairs information service; its past, present and future, John A. Lapp, Bureau of Legislative Information, Indianapolis, Ind.

Co-operation between special libraries and the engineering profession, Kenneth G. Walker, Technology Librarian, New Haven Public Library.

The special library and the student of business, Ralph L. Power, Librarian, College of Business Administration, Boston University.

The municipal reference library as a public utility, Frederick Rex, Municipal Reference Librarian, Chicago, Ill.

The work of the Detroit Edison Company's library, Miss Maud A. Carabin, Librarian, Detroit Edison Co., Detroit, Mich.

2:30 p. m.

Regular business session, including reports of committees on clippings, membership and technical indexing.

Libraries In Business Houses

The substance of an address by Mr. Frank Chitham, a Director of the Firm of Messrs. Selridge & Co, Ltd (London), at a joint meeting of the Library Association and Library Assistants' Association, held on October 13th, 1915; reprinted from *The Library Assistant*, November, 1915:

Ever since mankind has been able to express his thoughts in writing, whether on clay tablets, parchment or leather, he has gathered his writings together into what we may call libraries. This was probably done for many reasons. The process of the production of books or manuscripts was necessarily slow. Today a man may be a writer and never put pen to paper, but in those far off days one needed not only to think out the matter which one wished to express in writing, but had to do that writing oneself. In short, one had to be a craftsman as well as a writer. The scarcity of books and the difficulty of their production made it desirable that they should be brought together, in order that their contents might be more readily accessible to those who were interested.

It is interesting to note that the first library of which we have any record at all, some 4,000 years before Christ, was also a public library. On one of the tablets, now preserved in the British Museum, is part of the bequest of the King, which says that this library shall be for the use of his subjects for all time. Early libraries, too, were in a sense technical libraries, wherein were recorded the slow and laborious methods by which the ancients learned their first rudiments of science. The writers then belonged to one class, they were entirely of the priesthood, they kept the archives of the Government and recorded scientific discoveries. These discoveries and inventions were largely and necessarily of a purely practical character, and it is in the practical sense that I want to consider libraries for a few minutes tonight.

We business men envy you ladies and gentlemen your more leisured life and the opportunities it affords for intellectual pleasures, particularly when those intellectual luxuries become part, as they do, of your daily duties. But as business men, we have little time for the indulgence of reading for purely intellectual pleasure. I do not wish to convey for one moment an impression that intellectual pleasures are shut out from the lives of business men and women, but only that they must find a different expression, and the pleasure that is denied us to which I have just referred is found in our business itself—in our daily work. Business today, taken seriously, means a very strenuous life, and if we are going to get what we should rightly expect

from our business, then we have to try to develop a view-point which will help us to attain that object. We realize that before one can get very much pleasure from one's work one must have a thorough knowledge of the work in hand. From interest comes a desire for knowledge, and with knowledge a greater degree of intelligence and pleasure from the work in which we are engaged.

It seems to me that readers as a whole may roughly be divided into three classes. (1) Those who read with some practical object in view; (2) those who read merely for pleasure—as a pastime; and (3) those who read for the intellectual delight of reading. Certainly business men cannot claim to belong to either of the two latter classes—I think they rightly belong to the first. By reading for practical purposes I do not mean that it becomes necessary and is any part of the reader's intention merely to read those things which will bring him pecuniary gain—that would be indeed a debasing end to have in view. In business our great aim and object is to eliminate wasted effort, and we must apply this principle to our reading. For reasons which I will explain presently it would be largely wasted effort to spend much of our scanty leisure time in reading works of a technical nature. The knowledge which we as merchants wish to acquire is the knowledge of the merchandise which we distribute, and when I tell you that there is hardly a spot of the civilized, or, indeed, uncivilized, world that does not contribute something to the contents of this building, you will realize how wide our range of possibilities becomes. From the furs of the Arctic to the spices of the Indies; from the cornfields of Canada to the pastures of New Zealand, one must have some knowledge—and more than a passing knowledge—of the goods with which they supply us. But, obviously, we cannot have a complete technical knowledge of the various processes of the manufacture of the many thousands of articles which we sell, and we do not try very hard to acquire this technical knowledge. We are more concerned—indeed, almost solely concerned—with a complete and thorough knowledge of the finished article. It may seem to you that it is impossible to have a working knowledge of the finished article without knowing with some degree of thoroughness the various manufacturing processes that are necessary to its production. Let me show you how impossible it would be to hope to become really expert in the commonest things that we handle. Let us take, for example, a piece of scarlet flannel. If we are to know everything that must be known about this flannel before it can be produced we could not compress that

knowledge into a dozen lifetimes, to say nothing of one. A complete knowledge would begin with the farmer in far-off Australia who grows the wool. He will have to determine what kind of wool he shall grow; he has to decide whether it will pay him best to grow his sheep for the carcass, or to grow them for the wool; he must weigh the chances in time of drought of killing off his sheep, and so at least getting something, against the chances of keeping them and possibly being ruined by a prolonged drought. After the sheep is clipped and the wool is baled, it is sent to the broker, and the broker decides whether it shall be offered for local auction or whether it shall be sent to the great wool market of London. He decides how it shall be offered, whether it is going to pay the farmer better to sell or to hold, and this is a large and important industry in itself. After the wool is sold it goes to the comb, who cleans, scours and combs it in readiness for the spinner. This is a trade in itself, and the most important part of the processes of manufacture. Then the wool is sent to the spinner who spins it into yarns in readiness for the weaver. The spinner has to decide the kind of yarn that is likely to be most remunerative to him, he has to know what the world's demands for yarns are at the time, he has to know all about the strength of yarns, and a dozen and one other technicalities in connection with the spinning business. The spinner sells his yarns to the weaver. The weaver makes them into every variety of woollen fabric from the fine cashmere to heavy blanket cloth. A knowledge of the weaving of patterns and designs, how the loom is set up, etc., is work involving years of study. It is a self-contained and highly technical business. After the weaver has finished the cloth it is sent to the dyer, and we are realizing at this moment as we have never realized before, what an extremely difficult and highly technical business dyeing is. Since this unhappy war with Germany there has been a shortage of dyes, which we, with all our effort and all our knowledge have been unable to make good. Finally, we get the finished article, and it is here that our real interest in the article begins.

You will see from the hurried sketch that I have given you of the manufacturing processes of merely one article, how impossible it would be for us to hope to learn or to gain more than a superficial knowledge of the varying processes of manufacture. We have a small reference library, in which books dealing with these technical processes are kept, but we find that they are very little used indeed, and I am really not surprised that they are not used more. When one remembers the conditions under which we work it is almost too much to expect that after many hours of strenuous work one is going to take up

a heavy technical book for the purpose of studying manufacturing details. We do not expect it, and hence, we do not provide very amply for a big library of books on these subjects. Our interests, as I have said, are mainly centered in the finished article, and it is here that we expect our salespeople to be proficient—we expect them to know the various characteristics of the goods they sell and the best purpose for which each is suited. They must know these things more than superficially. We know quite well, for instance, that it is impossible for patent leather to be manufactured that will not crack, and it is part of our service to tell the customer that irrespective of price there is no patent leather in the world which is not liable to crack when the boot gets into use. Again, there is no such thing in the world as an absolutely waterproof garment. It is entirely a question of degree. This and similar information is filed in our various departments for reference by the staff. We call this information "Selling points," and it is the means of valuable education to our staff, and of assistance to our customers. Information such as this is not found in text books—if it were we would gladly supply them to our staff. As a matter of fact, it cannot be prepared in any permanent form, because the conditions governing merchandising are constantly changing, and it is to meet these changing conditions, to keep us quickly informed, that our great trade papers have been established, and it is here that we look for the most useful results from what may be called our trade library. We subscribe for no less than \$6 copies of trade papers, covering and dealing with 24 trades.

Our experience is, I find, similar to that of the other great houses where the staff lives out. In places where the staff lives in, house libraries are provided, usually of good standard fiction, and some technical works. The former are freely used, but there is little demand for literature of a heavier kind. In America a more am- various products sold. The American stores larger and contain a good collection of works dealing with the manufacture of the various products sold. The American stores are proud of their house libraries, but, without being unkind, I think it is a pride of possession rather than of usefulness. As lending libraries they are little used, but the books are freely used in connection with the educational systems that are operative in the great stores. In Wanamaker's, Philadelphia, for instance, whose school is now a branch of the American University of Trade and Applied Commerce, these text books are used by the teachers to illustrate the various points in connection with the merchandise that is sold. They are of very great value in this respect, and I think in this direction lies the future of technical libraries in business houses, both in this country and in America.

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Compiled by Harry A. Rider

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In this issue we publish an estimate of the value of books to the retail business world from the experience and point of view of one of the leading English business men. The article does one thing admirably. It shows the uses of a library of specialized information. It fails, however, to accept the possibility of the full use of such a library by the workers. The author does not seem to understand the uses to which the humblest clerk might put information or what personal benefits might be derived in a business by enlarging the vision of the workers through well directed reading.

Individual and collective experience is all on the side of the library for the worker. Many people have found themselves and have realized some latent possibilities by the use of the special library. The writer was told only a few days ago by a prominent retail dealer that one of his clerks—a man of rather poor salesmanship qualities—had risen from the poorest salesman in

his department to the best by reading all there was to be read on the goods he was selling. People turned to him as an authority. He could tell them something more than the price. He made good and did it in a way that inspired him. The secret of his success was that he read matter which directly functioned with his job.

The failure of books and libraries to benefit large numbers of people in a business as treated by the article in this issue, is plainly due to the lack of intelligent selection and use. When books and materials supply practical needs their use is universal. Vague unrelated material will not be used.

A comparison between practical vocational reading and the modern evening school is in point. When the evening school tried to give general education it was a failure. Just as soon as the courses supplied a definite vocational need they were popular. So long as the materials for reading are general, they will not be extensively used, but just as soon as they supply definite vocational needs they will be demanded and the results will show in increased efficiency.

American experience is decidedly more favorable than the author indicates. What he has in mind is the old form of "welfare reading." The modern successful mercantile library is not for uplifting but for service in the everyday world of all the workers. It is concrete and definite. It meets simple as well as complex needs. It serves as a bureau of information to enable every person to answer specific questions as well as to inform himself as to all the things which he handles. From the lowest clerk to the highest executive it serves as a means of guidance and inspiration.

The Library Department of the Journal of the American Bankers' Association reports that package libraries on various subjects were sent to association members in twenty-six states in one month, in addition to the material loaned and questions answered at the library.

This "mail-order" feature of the library makes it as useful to the banker "out West" or "down South," as it is to the association members in New York, and requests for package libraries are steadily increasing.

News and Notes

The Business Section of the National Education Association has invited Miss Louise Krause of Billesby & Co., to address them at the New York meeting the first week in July, on the subject of "The Relation of Business to the Library." The Business Section, through its President, J. L. Holtzlaw, Director of the High School of Commerce of Detroit, Mich., has sent a very cordial invitation to the Librarians and Library Section to attend this meeting.

Chicago Elevated Railroad Section, of the American Electric Railway Association has announced the appointment of P. V. Lyon, Secretary to the General Manager, as Librarian of the Company Section—Aera May 1916. p. 116.

From a small beginning four years ago the working library installed in the offices of the Kansas City Light & Power Company for the benefit of employees has grown until it now contains, in addition to the current issues of the trade papers, 290 reference and text books, 67 government publications, 126 manufacturers' publications and 98 bound volumes of trade publications. In 1915 there were 128 active users of the library, to whom were issued for outside use 476 books. In addition, the men are allowed the free use of the library at all times.

The Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research was incorporated March 22, 1916, for the purpose of securing efficiency and economy in government, whether national, state or municipal, by all lawful means other than promoting or defeating the election or appointment to public office or the employment of any person or persons in a public position. It is proposed to do this by two means:

To get things done for Detroit through co-operation with persons who are in office, by increasing efficiency and eliminating waste, and

To serve as an independent, non-partisan agency for keeping citizens informed about the city's business.

To accomplish these ends, it is expected to expend approximately \$25,000 a year for an initial period of three years, which will be contributed by public spirited citizens interested in making Detroit a better place in which to live and do business.

This is done because good government is as essential to the business interests of Detroit as it is to the social well-being of its citizens. Clean, well paved streets, adequate sewers, a low death rate, reduced sickness, proper disposal of refuse, efficient police and fire protection, centralized purchasing, standardized supplies, reasonable salaries,

equitable assessments, and a thoughtful expenditure of public funds, redound to the promotion of industrial efficiency just as the lack of these qualities in city government reduces the industrial standard of a city.

The general supervision of the bureau will rest with ten trustees. These trustees are the original incorporators of the organization and are responsible for its policies and for its financing.

In order that the bureau may be assured freedom from partisan politics, it is specifically provided in the by-laws that "every trustee who shall hold or be a candidate for public office, or accept any public employment shall automatically cease to be such trustee."

"No trustee shall receive, either directly or indirectly, any compensation pecuniary, reward or perquisite whatsoever for any service performed by him for this corporation, while he is such trustee, or within one year thereafter."

Work in the subjects of money and banking, economics and finance have recently received a big impetus at Princeton University by the addition in the last few months of the famous Pliny Fisk statistical library. This library, the gift of Pliny Fisk of the class of '81, has been in the process of collection since 1880 by the banking house of Harvey Fisk & Sons of New York city, and is well known to all bankers. It is undoubtedly the most complete and exhaustive library in the realm of finance and economics in any American university.

According to statistics made public by President Hibben, the collection is made up of more than 5,000 bound volumes, 13,000 pamphlets, 39,000 stock and bond circulars, and newspaper clippings, which form, mounted, over 70,000 separate sheets. It is said that as a collection of corporation reports, financial pamphlets and copies of mortgages, it is unexcelled anywhere. There is a great number of reports of all the railroads in the country, and those of the more important roads are complete. Some of the statistics date back to 1828. In the collection also are copies of leases, treaties, and agreements of railroads, some of which are extremely rare. A great part of the library is made up of the original manuscripts, the older ones written out in longhand.

This library was moved to Princeton during the summer months, and Harvey Fisk, brother of Pliny Fisk, personally attended to the installation and setting up of the collection. Most of the furnishings of the room are of the original library in the offices of the bankers in New York city. It is now placed in commodious quarters in the university library building, and requires the

continuous services of a special librarian and an assistant. It is thought that a great number of economists will be drawn to Princeton by this valuable collection, as the complicated and well worked out index system makes the library easily accessible to all. It has already proved its value to the many students in the economic and financial departments of the university, and is in daily reference use by many professors and graduate students. The development of the collection will not be stopped by its removal to Princeton, and it is expected that it will soon be one of the most serviceable libraries of its kind in the country.

In Special Bulletin No. 76 of the New York Department of Labor, issued under the direction of the Industrial Commission, entitled "European Regulations for Prevention of Occupational Diseases," the regulations of various foreign countries are reproduced, on metal poisonings, dust, gases, vapors and fumes, ineffective materials, and miscellaneous.

Information on Mothers' pensions is brought up-to-date in the latest publication on the subject, "Mothers' Pension Legislation in New York and Other States," compiled by W. E. Hannan, Legislative Reference Librarian of the New York State Library and issued as Legislative Bulletin 41, May 1, 1916. The forms proposed by the New York State Board of Charities and those used in the city and county of San Francisco, are included.

An interesting account of the new Minneapolis Business and Municipal Branch Library appeared in the Members' Bulletin of the Minneapolis Civic and Commercial Association, February, 1916.

"Modeled after the very successful Business Public Library in Newark, N. J., the Minneapolis library has improved upon the Newark establishment with the addition of its Municipal department.

It is the hope of this association that every business and professional man and every office holder in the city will inspect the new library and learn how useful it may become to him. Already it is equipped to supply information and suggestions regarding practically every subject of business and municipal affairs. The present supply of material is somewhat limited, but it is the intention of Miss Gratia Countryman, City Librarian, and Miss Mary Dietrichson, in charge of the new branch, that additions will be made as the demand warrants. It, therefore, behooves every business man to get into immediate touch with the library, so that if it lacks what he happens to desire it will have an opportunity to supply it.

"In the opening of the new library this association rejoices in the fulfillment of a desire announced three years ago that the already exceptional public library system of the city be enlarged to include a branch de-

voted exclusively to business and municipal reference works, situated in the central downtown district and easily accessible to all offices, stores and the City Hall. The library is in a first-floor room, facing a prominent street and has adopted business hours—8:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m.

"The material on hand includes city directories, trade directories, financial and municipal journals, atlases, maps, charters, ordinances and general works on business science, accounting systems, etc."

The H. W. Wilson Company, which manages Public Affairs Information Service for the Co-operating Institutions which control it, has issued a little folder explaining what the Service is, what it does, what it publishes, special features and what it costs. The partial list of co-operators which is given is evidence itself of the value of the Service. Two of the best features of the whole plan are the scheme by which the weekly bulletin is checked as an order list and returned to the Service where arrangements are made to have desired publications sent to those checking them, and the arrangement by which copies of typewritten data may be purchased from the Service at low cost.

Members of the National Association of Stationers and Manufacturers will be interested in the following outline of the work of the Information Bureau supplied by W. D. Pittman, the secretary of the National Catalogue Commission and manager of the Information Bureau.

"This bureau has now been in actual operation a little over two months, during which time we have received within a few copies of five hundred catalogues, all of which have been filed for future reference and for indexing and cross indexing. This work, of course, is progressing slowly, as there is much work on each catalogue, and indeed, we have encountered some difficulties, as the same goods are listed in the catalogues of several houses, and we have had difficulty in getting those sending in catalogues, to inform us what goods they do NOT manufacture, but simply JOB. Rather strange that some of our friends, sending in catalogues, insist that they are 'headquarters' for certain goods that we know they do not manufacture nor import.

"Eventually, we ought to have more than two thousand catalogues on file, and we are going to try to get them before the next convention. We are especially anxious to get catalogues from the manufacturers that are not well known, or whose goods are not well known generally; because many of our inquiries will be about such goods or manufacturers. How can we reach these obscure manufacturers?"

"We are now getting out a bulletin on inks and adhesives; and along with this bulletin, will be a special notice to our manufacturing members, asking them to

prepare and send to us, by the 21st of February, a list of all goods discontinued, and also a list of all new goods now being manufactured but not in their catalogues. We are making it plain that we do not mean new prices, as we would have to publish a bulletin the size of the Daily Record to cover such ground. We are going to try to let our members have this information by March 1. On March 1 we may also print a list of all from whom we have then received catalogues, requesting the members to look it over, and write to us, giving us the names of others from whom we ought to get catalogues, and in this way we ought to get a 'line' on a large number of obscure manufacturers, or manufacturers whose names are not before us for solicitation.

"The importance of the work grows on us, as we get further into it, and if we have the means to prosecute it, we can be of very great benefit to the trade in many ways; and, furthermore, as our records increase, and our information is all indexed and classified, we can then answer, easily and quickly, all inquiries, and can issue frequent bulletins covering a wide range of subjects."

All manufacturers should have their catalogues on file with Mr. Pittman's Information Bureau, which is the official bureau of the National Association.

The title of the List of Commercial Year-Books and Similar Publications from the Library of Congress which appeared in the May issue of Special Libraries should have included the statement that this list is supplementary to a similar one which appeared in Special Libraries of December, 1914.

The folder announcing the establishment of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research lists the citizen agencies for promoting and keeping good government to be found in this country at the present time. The list follows:

Washington, D. C.....
 ...Institute for Governmental Research
 New York City.....
 ...Bureau of Municipal Research
 New York City..Institute for Public Service
 Chicago..... Bureau for Public Efficiency
 Philadelphia..Bureau of Municipal Research
 Cincinnati..Bureau of Municipal Research
 Milwaukee ..
 Citizens Bureau of Municipal Efficiency
 Dayton.....Bureau of Municipal Research
 Denver ..
 ...Colorado Taxpayer's Protective Ass'n.
 Minneapolis ..
 Bureau of Municipal Research of the
 Civic and Commerce Association
 Rochester..Bureau of Municipal Research
 Toronto...Bureau of Municipal Research
 Springfield (Mass.).....
 ...Bureau of Municipal Research
 Akron (O.)..Bureau of Municipal Research
 Columbus (O.).....

....Ohio Institute for Public Efficiency
 Baltimore ..
 Bureau of State and Municipal Research
 Oakland (Cal.).....
Tax Association of Alameda County
 San Francisco.....
California State Tax Association
 White Plains (N. Y.).....
 ...Westchester County Research Bureau
 St. Joseph (Mo.).....
 Civic Commissioner of the Commerce Club
 Wilmington (Del.).....
General Service Board of Delaware
 Newark (N. J.).....
 ...Public Welfare Committee of Essex Co.
 Madison (Wis.).....
Wisconsin Efficiency Bureau
 Hoboken (N. J.) ..
 Robert L. Stevens Fund for Municipal
 Research

Detroit..Bureau of Governmental Research

The Ohio Institute for Public Efficiency, an independent, non-political organization, undertakes a big work when it announces as its object "to make Ohio a leader in constructive social work and civic progress, by making all public departments and institutions as nearly as possible 100 per cent efficient."

An Agricultural Index is the latest publication to appear from the H. W. Wilson Company. The first number was issued in March and will be succeeded by four other numbers during the year, each cumulating all previous items and the last issue bound for permanent reference. This Index will provide a ready reference guide, on the subject-heading plan, to the leading scientific and technical journals dealing with the art and practice of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and the allied subjects of entomology, botany, bacteriology, including fruit culture, gardening, birds, bees, dairying and stock breeding; the best known popular farm journals; bulletins of the state and federal departments giving the latest scientific researches and discoveries; and publications of the agricultural and horticultural associations and the national organizations for the improvement of rural life. The periodicals indexed were selected by the vote of the librarians of the agricultural colleges.

Owing to lack of sufficient support from libraries, the Technical Book Review Index has been obliged to suspend publication. In order, however, to reimburse subscribers the Trustees will send them the Reference Bulletin to the end of the current year. The first two numbers have already been sent to some of the subscribers to the Index. To those who have not received them they will be sent on request.

Libraries that have paid the full membership fee of \$5.00 have already received all three numbers of Reference Bulletin. These libraries will be notified later of the compensation that will be offered them.

Book Reviews

The Taxation of Land Values, by Louis F. Post. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1915. Price, \$1.00 net.

Bobbs-Merrill have published in an attractive volume the fifth and new edition of Louis F. Post's book on the single tax. The author has changed the name of his book from "The Single Tax" to "The Taxation of Land Values" because of a tendency to confuse the term "single tax" with other suggested tax levies and tax reforms.

The four maxims of the Single tax creed are elaborated upon and the arguments supporting them are carefully and clearly set forth. Many charts accompany the text.

The different kinds or degrees of land value taxation are defined and explained by Mr. Post, the General Property Tax, the Real Estate Tax, the Single Tax.

Mr. Post has divided his book into four parts which deal, respectively, with Taxation Methods, Land Value Taxation as a Tax Reform, Land Value Taxation as an Industrial Reform, and Answers to Typical Questions. The author has also added an appendix of explanatory and illustrative notes which are of decided interest as well as of value in an instructive sense.

A discussion of the theories, principles and facts advanced by Mr. Post in his book need not be undertaken here. The single tax as a logical remedy for existing economic ills has long been given serious attention by all thinking men.

Suffice it to say, then, that "The Taxation of Land Values," by Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor, easily and deservedly belongs in the front rank of books dealing with the interesting and vital subject of the single tax.

Law and Its Administration, by Harlan F. Stone, Columbia University Press, 1915. Price \$1.50.

A book about law, but not for lawyers, is what Harlan F. Stone, Dean of Columbia University School of Law has written in "Law and Its Administration." It is a book for the laymen of this country who are, he believes, too often "without any systematic or comprehensive knowledge of the nature of law and its origin." All citizens are subject to law and therefore it is the duty of each man to know something of what laws exist, why they exist, how they should be administered and to understand what is frequently misunderstood, the ideals which the leaders place before the legal profession. The study of law, the author claims, at least of the fundamental conceptions of the nature of law, a brief history of its development,

and the principles of its efficient administration, should be a part of all higher education. The lectures included in this book are intended to cover these points for those who, without studying law as a profession, wish to attain such a familiarity with the law as will make for intelligent citizenship.

In the lectures on Nature and the Functions of Law, Law and Justice, and Fundamental Conceptions, the reader will find an interesting discussion, historical and elucidating, of much that is familiar, but only in a dim and confused way, to the average person. The lecture on Procedure, takes up the complicated machinery of legal procedure.

The power of the people as a whole as expressed in State and in the Federal Constitutions, and as carried out by the judiciary, to control the acts of the government in power, is the subject of the chapter on Constitutional Limitations. The chapter on Bench and Bar deals specifically with the law as a profession and that on Law Reform meets popular criticisms, particularly on the points of the law's delay and the evils of modern legislation.

The book is published in the series of Columbia University Lectures. E. C.

Adventures In Thrift, by Anna Steese Richardson. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1916. Price, \$1.25 net.

In her book, "Adventures In Thrift," Anna Steese Richardson has very cleverly and very interestingly woven the luring thread of romance around the prosaic, though none the less important, economic problem of providing food for the family. In reality the book is one long lecture on home economics, but so skillfully has the author carried the "heart interest" along that the reader is loathe to put the book aside even though the practical aim of the book is all the time realized to be paramount. It is a distinct service Anna Steese Richardson has performed in giving to men, as well as women, the sound, worth-while lesson in getting one's money's worth.

The chapters of the book appeared originally in the *Woman's Home Companion*, and such a startling "hit" did they make that a heavy demand for them immediately arose which has been met by the publishing of the serial chapters in book form.

"Chasing the penny to its lair is the housewife's favorite indoor sport" is, according to "Mrs. Larry," a H. C. of L. proverb. How "Mrs. Larry" succeeded makes interesting reading from which no doubt every housewife can profit. M. H.