

eleven on *marriage and the family*; and thirty-seven on *astronomy* and only thirty-five on *psychology*.

The unit on reading guidance includes background material on the importance of reading in college instruction, reports of selected studies in the field, and specific suggestions regarding what librarians and other faculty members can do to stimulate and guide student reading.

The final section of the syllabus, *The College Library as a Teaching Instrument*, is divided into six parts, each of which includes a variety of suggested specific practices:

The Library as an Extension of the Instructional Activities of the Classroom
A Laboratory in which the Student Develops the Ability to use Tools of Learning
A Source of Information on Non-Academic Subjects

A Reservoir of Knowledge

An Aid in Helping Students Become Good Citizens in a Democracy

Examples of Library-Faculty Relationships

To the best of this reviewer's knowledge, this volume represents a pioneer effort at publishing an actual course syllabus designed to highlight library-instructional relationships for college faculty members. The authors are to be commended, both for the validity of their concept and for the value of the materials they have assembled.—*B. Lamar Johnson, Stephens College.*

Government Publications

Library Records for Government Publications [by] Anne Ethelyn Markley. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1951. vii, 66p., forms. \$1.25. Lithoprint.

So few contributions of significance have been made to the literature of the administration of government documents collections that any addition to it is sure to be received with attentive interest by a wide audience of documents librarians and library administrators. They will find Miss Markley's work well worth consideration.

According to the preface, it is "a revised and expanded version of a paper presented at the Institute on Government Publications held at Berkeley, California, October 26-28,

1950, under the sponsorship of the State Documents Committee of the California Library Association, the University of California School of Librarianship, and University of California Extension."

It discusses systems of classification and records for collections of government publications in non-depository, selected depository, and complete depository libraries, recognizing that the essential requirements in these matters vary according to the nature and size of the collection.

The non-depository collection is disposed of briefly and sensibly with the assumption that the same arrangement and records as are used for the general collection of the library will be most efficient.

For the depository libraries, the continuing controversy over segregating the documents collection as opposed to incorporating it into the general collection is briefly recognized, with reference to fuller treatment elsewhere. Segregation is recommended, on the ground that the printed lists and indexes available are best utilized under this arrangement. In the light of experience, this reviewer considers that Miss Markley is on the side of the angels.

Problems of classification are next considered in more detail. At the outset, a basic arrangement by issuing office is assumed, without debate. It is the order of arrangement of the offices themselves that Miss Markley considers the chief problem, and her recommendation here is one of the most controversial points in the study. Instead of arrangement by major department, subdivided by subordinate agency, on the principles of the Superintendent of Documents classification system for federal government publications, she advocates direct arrangement of agencies without regard to their place in the government hierarchy, in an alphabetical subject arrangement to be brought about by selecting a key word in the title of the agency that will indicate its subject specialization and if possible place it in juxtaposition to other kindred agencies. The example cited is the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance, the publications of which will file next to those of the Army's Ordnance Department. This is all very well, but let us consider another example. In the Department of Agriculture, there have been, at various times, the Agricul-

tural Marketing Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Foreign Markets Division, the Marketing and Marketing Agreements Division, the Marketing Services Office, and the Surplus Marketing Administration. Which of these shall have *Marketing* as the entry word, and in which shall the preceding adjective be considered of primary significance? All these agencies deal with agricultural matters, but only the first two have any indication of that in their titles. Under direct entry, the subordinate functions of the Department of Agriculture will be scattered throughout the alphabet. I hold no brief for the Superintendent of Documents classification, and my objections are on record, but it seems to me that to abandon arrangement by major agency is likely to result in confusion worse confounded. The fact that under this system the entry word must in numerous cases be a matter of the classifier's choice is an added hazard, recognized indirectly in Miss Markley's comments on one of the notation systems she describes.

In treating of the recording procedures to be followed, Miss Markley describes an "all-weather" file, devised by Dr. Raynard Swank, designed to include not only the customary bibliographical information, but to serve also as a serials control and binding record. Having observed such a file in use, I am led to the conclusion that it is better to specialize a bit, in records as in provisions for the weather. My observation has been that the time necessary to set up a separate checking file for currently and frequently received serials and a separate binding record is abundantly repaid in increased efficiency and time saved in locating cards for the daily routines of entering new acquisitions, and in the specialized procedures of binding.

Space does not permit an adequate description of the very fine bibliographies that conclude this study, and add much to its value in any consideration of the difficult problems of organizing and servicing a collection of government publications.

Miss Markley states that her study is a synthesis of the opinions and practices recommended by numerous documents librarians. She has done the profession a great service in organizing and presenting this material, with a clearly stated and practical attack upon the problems presented. Many problems remain

to be solved, and it is to be hoped that we may soon see more of such signs of progress as this one.—*Ellen Jackson, University of Colorado Libraries.*

Library History

Charles Coffin Jewett. By Joseph A. Borome. Chicago, American Library Association, 1951, 188p. \$3.50.

The Librarians' Conference of 1853: A Chapter in American Library History. By George Burwell Utley. Edited by Gilbert H. Doane. Chicago, American Library Association, 1951. 189p. \$3.00.

A profession which merits the dignity of being called a "profession" must have an abiding interest in its own past. No one need demonstrate that what has been is the condition of the present as vitally as the present, in turn, provides the matrix of future development. A doctor, a lawyer, a scientist in any field, or a librarian who believes that he is shaping knowledge or practice single-handedly out of amorphous present stuff has delusions of divine power. Few librarians so delude themselves; yet fewer make a conscious practice of acknowledging their debts to professional precursors.

The American Library Association has happily taken upon itself the task of reminding its membership at appropriate intervals that history merits attention. The seventy-fifth birthday of the Association, celebrated last year, is such a reminder. The publishing of a *Library Pioneer* series as well as of other volumes bearing on the history of libraries and librarianship serves the same purpose well. The American Library Association deserves special commendation for encouraging the study and writing of history in a period like ours when *doing* threatens to drive *learning* underground; when "where does it get you" is so much more important than "how did you get that way."

Still another welcome sign is the growing emphasis on writing library history from broad source materials rather than from a compound of reminiscence as has been too often the woeful approach in this field. Library "science" is presently struggling, in this and in many other respects, to strengthen its scientific foundations. One reason for this