

is complete, location is indicated, and items included, but not seen, are starred. Locations are indicated in West Virginia libraries, in a group of larger libraries outside the state, and in a number of private collections. Each part has a chronological index, and the first part has an index by printers and publishers as well. The reproductions of broadsides and title pages add to the attractiveness of the volume, but the litho-printed text is too heavily inked.

The usefulness of this list for anyone working in the field of printing and publishing history and local West Virginia history is apparent. Although it does not include as full entries or annotations for many items in the books and pamphlets section, as do some of the other state imprint lists, it appears to be adequate for the purpose it is intended to serve. The detailed notes in part two provide a substantial amount of material for a history of journalism in West Virginia. The present volume is regarded as a preliminary list by its editor, who expresses the hope that its publication may lead to the issuance of other lists, which in turn may furnish the material on which a definitive list may be based. Only intensive use by bibliographers, historians and librarians will bring to light the strengths and any deficiencies of this work. The zeal and hard work that have gone into its making can be commended.—*Stephen A. McCarthy, Cornell University Library.*

## Literature of Agricultural Research

*Literature of Agricultural Research.* By J. Richard Blanchard and Harold Ostovold. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1958. 231 p. \$3.50.

This book responds to a need frequently expressed over the years by members of the late Agricultural Libraries Section of ACRL. In its relation to the natural science aspects of agricultural research it is comparable in function to the relation of Winchell to broader fields. It will surely be referred to in library school courses on the bibliography of science. It will be useful to reference libraries who are not already

well acquainted with the literature of agricultural research. Libraries desiring to have a thorough coverage of this field will find it a useful checklist.

Librarians will like the thoroughness and careful planning which is characteristic of this work. This comment applies to the mechanical preparation of the book, its arrangement, and its content. Despite one or two exceptions to be noted below, the volume is an excellent example of careful work by librarians conscious of users' needs.

The volume is easy to use; type is clear, margins and indentations are good, and titles stand out clearly in the annotations. The preface cites the source by which the authors were guided both as to bibliographic style and abbreviations. A single index includes subjects, authors, and titles. The author and title indexing is important, as each publication is listed in only one place. Each item is identified by a number which is used in the index and wherever else it is mentioned. Unfortunately some titles have been omitted from the index, leaving possible traps for the unwary.

The arrangement of material is convenient, easily determined from the table of contents, and readily followed in the running headings on every page. A section on general agriculture is followed by sections on plant sciences, animal sciences, physical sciences, food and nutrition, and social sciences. With the exception of food and nutrition, each section is then subdivided into narrower subjects. For example, the section on plant sciences is subdivided under botany, horticulture and agronomy, plant breeding, plant pathology and forestry, and forest products. Within each of these subject subdivisions entries are arranged by the purposes which they serve. A common basic sequence is followed, with variations to meet the needs of different subjects. With the whole arrangement readily comprehended at a glance, subject entries in the index seem little needed.

Nearly every entry is followed by a helpful annotation, ranging in length from a line to nearly half a page. Each subject subdivision is introduced by two or three paragraphs touching upon the general bibliographic state of the subject, the principal bibliographic tools with which to begin, and

mentioning those of greatest importance listed elsewhere in the volume. Many of the groups of publications within the subject subdivisions are also introduced by similar paragraphs. These should prove very useful to novices in each subject.

With the exception of the section on social sciences, coverage appears to be entirely adequate for English-speaking readers. Emphasis is on American publications, but many foreign publications are listed. German works stand out in number among those in foreign languages, but in addition to those in the major languages, a number of citations appear in languages less generally understood. Some of these may have scant usefulness in this country, but may make the book more useful to our colleagues abroad. Occasionally one wonders whether the plow may not have struck too deep, as when one finds six German dictionaries on beekeeping dating between 1764 and 1948, in addition to a polyglot, an American, and an Italian dictionary on the same subject. Certainly it is far better to have included a few extra entries, which can do no harm, than to have omitted important ones.

Social scientists, and particularly agricultural economists, are likely to be disappointed with what they find. There are fewer entries for agricultural economics than for beekeeping, and there are twice as many entries under commercial fishing and fisheries as under the entire group of social sciences. The weakness of the agricultural economics and statistics section is attributed to the availability of an excellent bibliography in this field by Miss Orpha E. Cummings, published by the Library of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. Anyone seriously interested in the bibliography of this subject will want Miss Cummings' work. The very brief listings under rural sociology and agricultural education are attributed to the absence of specialized literature in these fields. These sections seem likely to be of equally little value.

In summary, then, the work under review is well organized, easy to use, thorough in its coverage of the phases of agriculture related to the natural sciences, but of limited value to the social scientist.—*Whiton Powell, Cornell University.*

## ACRL Microcard Series— Abstracts of Titles

WILLSON, RICHARD E., 1933—

English Benedictine monastic libraries during the middle ages. Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1957. (iii, 63 l. 29cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 89) Thesis (M.S. in L.S.—Western Reserve University, 1957. Bibliography: 1. 61-63. 2 cards. \$.50.

This study traces the histories of the English Benedictine monastic libraries at Canterbury, Wearmouth, Jarrow, York, Durham, Peterborough, and Glastonbury from their establishments until their dissolution. Specific chapters cover the activity of the Benedictines in establishing libraries; the librarian and his collection; and the dissolution of the monastic libraries.

GIBBONS, MOTHER ROSARIA.

A check list of Delaware imprints from 1801 through 1815, with an historical intro-

duction of the period. Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Research Libraries, 1958. (vi, 102 l. 28cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 90) Thesis (M.S. in L.S.)—Catholic University of America, 1956. Bibliography: 1. 95-97. 3 cards. \$.75.

This thesis is a small part of the national project known as the American Imprints Inventory. The titles which have been examined are those of books, pamphlets, and broadsides. The list of Delaware newspapers for 1801-1815 has been taken from the Clarence S. Brigham bibliography. The arrangement of the check list is chronological.

The check list, supplied with the Library of Congress symbols, is preceded by a brief history of the social, political, and economic history of Delaware, a survey of printers and publishers within the period, a listing of the Delaware printers and their locations, the number of items published each year, and an analysis of these items under specified subject headings. With the user in mind, an index to author and title entries completes the project.