

tions of the form of entry and of the symbols used are to be found only on page xii of the 1931 list.

Although the Carnegie Corporation made a grant for this task, Mr. Shaw absolves it from any faults in the volume and assumes more responsibility for it than in the previous volume. We find here no impressive advisory group.

In only a few respects has the plan varied. (1) Whereas the 1931 list might give a title in several locations, in the 1940 list this is against the rules. (2) The 1940 list omits out-of-print books—an unfortunate practice. (3) "A new feature of this volume is the citation of reviews of most of the titles included"—a praiseworthy addition. But the rule to omit all comments need not have been obeyed so slavishly. For instance, on page 95 could he not have indicated that *Story* began in Vienna in 1931 and moved to New York, instead of leaving us with "N.Y., Story magazine, inc., 193-"? And could not a comment have bridged the hiatus between the first two volumes of the *Dictionary of American Biography* mentioned in 1931 (p. 280) and the *Index* now listed (p. 96)? Volumes 3-20, though published, are not accounted for.

In spite of these minor omissions, this supplementary volume has been prepared with fine judgment and is highly recommended.—*John G. Barrow, Berea College, Berea, Ky.*

*Manual on the Use of State Publications.*

Jerome K. Wilcox, ed. Sponsored by the Committee on Public Documents of the American Library Association. American Library Association, 1940. 342p. \$6.

THIS IS A BOOK for which there has been a long standing need. Those who

are concerned with the administration and use of collections of state documents have awaited its publication with interest ever since the inception of the editorial plan of the manual in 1935. As evidence of the increasing size and complexity of the field of state publications and their bibliography, it is interesting to note that, whereas these subjects received competent treatment by a single individual in the pioneer contribution made by Ernest J. Reece in 1915, it has been the editorial policy of the compiler of the new manual to make chapter assignments to specialists, among them political scientists as well as librarians. Several of these contributions consist of restatements and amplifications regarding the nature and use of material which has been in existence over a period of time, but others describe and define forms of state publications which have appeared during recent years.

The manual is divided into five parts, representing a total of twenty-one chapters. An examination of the contents of the several chapters indicates that the plan and structure of the book have been maintained without unnecessary duplication and overlapping in its several parts. Part I deals with the importance, character and use of state publications. Part II is devoted to an enumeration and description of bibliographical aids. Part III furnishes essential bibliographical and critical data for basic state publications. Part IV is a directory of national associations of state officers with an account of their publications. Part V gives information pertaining to the printing and distribution of state documents with citations to the statutes which govern these activities. A list of tables and a subject index containing many cross references and some catchword titles facilitate the use of the book.

The descriptive tables which are to be found in the chapters dealing with state departmental reporting are supplied with footnotes that contain information concerning variations in frequency and title of the publications treated. The reference value of these lists and their accompanying footnotes would have been greatly enhanced if delimiting dates had been supplied for each table.

Valuable information concerning the location of copies of unpublished Masters' essays which treat of state documents is to be found in Part II. Notices of work in progress in this field are included in the same section. While some portions of the latter are now out of date, information of this kind is helpful nevertheless.

The method of presentation of the subject matter throughout the manual identifies it primarily as a reference aid. As its title indicates, the emphasis is on the use of the material of which it treats. From this aspect, the book is a complete and accurate guide within its stated field.—*Violet Abbott Cabeen, Columbia University, New York.*

*Publications of the Government of British Columbia 1871-1937; a checklist.*  
[Provincial Library and Archives]  
Sydney M. Weston. Kings Printers,  
Victoria, B.C., 1939. 167p. \$2.

THIS CHECK LIST, promised in Dr. Lamb's address, "The Public Documents of British Columbia," at the 1938 A.L.A. conference, has more than justified expectations. According to the prefatory

note it "includes all known official documents published by the Government of the Province of British Columbia from the time it entered into Confederation, in 1871, to 1937."

A simple system of arrangement is used—executive publications, departments (in alphabetical order), boards, commissions, etc., followed by a brief but adequate index and a chart showing the organization of the government. Each chapter is introduced by a description of the history, organization and function of the department under discussion. Under the department and branch the serials are followed by separates, listed alphabetically.

Mr. Weston has departed from customary library procedure in several respects. To anyone familiar with the idiosyncrasies of British Columbia government publications, his method—giving author, title, date, paging, and edition for every bulletin in a series—will seem the most satisfactory solution.

The physical make-up of the volume demands special recognition. Variation in size and kind of type, generous use of running titles, and excellent spacing make this one of the easiest of tools to use.

To Dr. Lamb, librarian, and Mr. Sydney Weston, document clerk, librarians and students interested in British Columbia documents are indebted for a valuable reference aid which is kept up to date in the *Ontario Library Review*.—*Anne M. Smith, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.*