

Library Education

Education for Librarianship. By J. Periam Danton. Unesco Publication 388. [Paris] Unesco, 1949, 97p. 45¢.

The encouragement of a strong public library development throughout the world as an implement to the adult education program of Unesco was first expressed in the summer school for public librarians held in England in 1948. The present pamphlet is one of a series of manuals suggested by the summer school and which will outline some of the fundamental areas of library work.

In his "Foreword," Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, director-general of Unesco, states: "At present it is unfortunately true that there are few countries in the world where the full possibilities of public library work are understood and there are many parts of the world where public library services can as yet be hardly said to exist." The present manual by Danton should serve as an excellent guide to institutions and governments where library education is emerging as preparation for professionalized librarianship.

The nine chapters which divide the manual illustrate the concrete approach which it makes to the problems attending the blue-printing and administration of a school of li-

brary science. These are: I. Background: The Modern Library; II. The Library School—Creation and Objectives; III. Curriculum and Methods of Instruction; IV. Faculty and Staff; V. Students—Recruiting and Selection; VI. Resources, Quarters and Facilities; VII. Administration, Finance, Records; VIII. Placement; IX. Professional Education Outside Library Schools. This final chapter includes such vehicles as conferences, institutes, in-service training, and workshops. A selected bibliography is included.

The booklet will be read with interest by all who are concerned with library education. It will be especially valuable, however, to the increasing number of foreign directors of library schools and faculty who are visiting this country under the auspices of the United States Department of State and allied agencies toward the end of constructing or reorganizing library training facilities abroad. It may also serve as a useful point of departure for agencies such as the Board of Education for Librarianship of the American Library Association in drawing up standards of practice and quality for schools in this country.—*Kenneth R. Shaffer, School of Library Science, Simmons College.*

Principles of Research

The Principles of Scientific Research. By Paul Freedman. Washington, Public Affairs Press, 1950, 222p. \$3.25.

Aimed primarily at the young man embarking upon a career of scientific research, this is a fairly generalized treatment of the subject, ranging from a brief review of the history of research to advice to the young research worker on how to get along with his patrons and his seniors.

Chapters I to III attempt to develop definitions of "science" and of "scientific research" through an historical summary. Chapter IV covers the mental attributes requisite to research. Chapters V and VI cover the planning of research, giving the categories of research by type of results anticipated; the determination of probable sources of error; and the production and control of the desired conditions for research. Chapter VII treats of the organization of

research teams, enumerating four main types of organization. Chapter VIII emphasizes the value of discussion of research projects with fellow scientists, recommending the Socratic method. Chapters IX and X treat the determination of the degree of accuracy required and of the minimum number of observations essential to achieve it. The final chapter treats sources of funds for research, the conditioning of research by sources of funds and the relationship of the young scientist to his patron and to his seniors.

The author limits his field to research in the physical sciences and states that the book is meant to be read as a whole rather than for use as a reference tool. Thus no subject index is provided for fear that passages might thus be taken out of context and might produce impressions quite different from those intended.

Although published in the United States,

the book is based upon British conditions. It draws heavily on the author's personal experience and the examples are, therefore, examples of British conditions, some of which may be different from those in this country. The terminology will not always be familiar to the American reader. For example, the number of scientific staff in private industry research is given as an F.B.I. estimate, which refers, of course, to an estimate of the Federated British Industries, not to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It is difficult to determine the most likely field of usefulness of this book, which falls between available treatments of how to perform research, how to organize for research and how to administer research. Perhaps it will be of most interest to an audience, as the author suggests, of "young people just entering the field of research"; or, as Dr. J. W. T. Walsh in the foreword suggests, to business men who influence or control research programs.—*Ralph R. Shaw, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library.*

Books for the Army

Books for the Army. By John Jamieson. New York, Columbia University Press, 1950, xiv, 334p. \$4.50.

This is the best and most complete history of the Army Library Service in World War II which has yet appeared, and it is likely to be the definitive one. Jamieson, on the staff of the headquarters unit of the service, has had a foundation grant to prepare this volume, and he has apparently used all available sources of information. The result is a readable history of the Army Library Service between 1941 and 1946, which names names and dispenses an even-handed justice in pointing out failures as well as achievements. All in all, it is a creditable piece of work and one which is valuable to the profession as it should be also to the Army in guiding the future development of its library program in peace or in war.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the Army Library Service in the last war was that it existed at all, operated as large a program as it did (1200 librarians, \$21,000,000 and 225,000,000 books), and performed its job as well as it did under the circumstances. Wartime demands on the service were always greater than could be satisfied, often completely unpredictable, usually world-wide in scope, and not seldom yielded only to approaches far different from traditional library practice. Add to this the simple fact that the provision of books and libraries was inevitably a very small part of the war effort.

But the simple fact remains that many men had access to very few or no books for many months, and that for most men "... the fail-

ures of the library service overseas overshadowed the successes." (p. 11). In part this was due to mistakes in the over-all organization of the Army Library Service and in part to the slowness with which the people in that service solved the problems they faced. The major successes in this latter direction were two: the magazine kits and Armed Services Editions distributed directly to all units overseas by mail, and the packaging and processing of hard-covered books into self-contained units before delivery to the individual installation. Neither of these were worked out early in the war or carried as far as they might have been, but they solved the worst problems.

Jamieson discusses these various developments in a roughly chronological order and in sufficient detail to give the background of each development. He displays a nice style of writing and exhibits skill in presenting the complicated organizational picture of the Army clearly. He exercises restraint in discussing such imponderables as whether soldiers' reading tastes were altered by wartime library service, and he views the record of achievement with a reasonably objective attitude (for example, in recognizing that some of the heavy use of Army libraries was due to the absence of other recreational facilities). There are a few blemishes, such as direct quotations from unnamed sources, uncritical acceptance of testimony and some typographical errors; but, so far as this reviewer is able to judge, the facts given are correct.

This is a good summary and review of the operations of the Army Library Service. As a technical report it could serve any country