

in the reference collection and estimate the percentage of volumes in each of the LC classification schedules which should be removed immediately. To strengthen the collection they recommend a substantially increased annual budget for books and periodicals and an additional amount to be allotted over a five year period for the purpose of filling in present gaps.

The periodical subscription list is more nearly adequate, but a serious arrearage in binding justifies immediate allocation of additional funds and staff to make the collection usable.

The building does not provide enough space for books or readers. It is unattractive, inefficient, lacking in such basic necessities as public rest rooms and a drinking fountain. Clearly a new building is another essential. The survey offers no detailed recommendations but it does suggest important factors to be considered in planning, e.g., the cost of a new bookstack as against the difficulties of designing an appropriate building around the present one.

The surveyors rate the staff devoted and competent but much too small. Consisting of two professionals, one half-time non-professional, all on a nine-month basis, and about 1,000 hours of student assistance, the staff is much smaller than those of certain midwestern liberal arts colleges used for comparison. Even more convincing than this comparison is the evidence throughout the report of jobs left undone (cataloging arrearages, no withdrawal of catalog cards for lost books, no weeding, too few exhibits, etc.). To improve the staff the surveyors offer recommendations which include not only details on what personnel should be hired, at what salary, and when, but also suggest job assignments.

Dealing with library government, library use, and technical processes, the survey provides many more suggestions just as specific:

The surveyors recommend that annual reporting be inaugurated.

For obvious reasons, the same set of "Exercises" should not be used in English 12 more often than every fourth year.

A large rubber stamp reading "Withdrawn From the Alma College Library" should be used inside the covers of all books discarded which bear any mark of the library's ownership.

The inclusion of such details in the survey inevitably suggests that lack of adequate financial support, serious though it is, is not Alma's only problem.

However that may be, these how-to-do-it suggestions are useful. They fit neatly into a pattern which makes this survey a good model for action. The pattern leads logically from: (1) Sound methods for evaluating the several aspects of a library—financial support, collections, staff, services, use, government, and building—to (2) General recommendations for improvement—including budget, staff, and time schedule—and finally to (3) Specific devices to stimulate an immediate start on the job.—*Patricia B. Knapp, Wayne State University.*

West Virginia Imprints

West Virginia Imprints, 1790-1863; a Checklist of Books, Newspapers, Periodicals, and Broad-sides. Edited by Delf Norona. Compiled by Delf Norona and Charles Shelter. Moundsville, W. Va., West Virginia Library Association, 1958. Publication No. 1. 316 p. illus. \$7.50.

The West Virginia Library Association, in sponsoring this publication has performed a service for students interested in the history of printing and publishing in that state. The work covers the period from the beginning of printing in West Virginia until it became a separate state. It is based on the American Imprints Inventory, *Check List of West Virginia Imprints, 1791-1830*, published in 1940, and a subsequent list compiled by Boyd Stutler. The present volume adds "about forty-five items" to the previous lists for the period to 1830 and one thousand items for the 1831-1863 period.

The work is divided into two parts, the first of which, covering books, pamphlets, and broadsides, is arranged alphabetically by author; the second, devoted to newspapers and periodicals, is arranged by place of publication and by title. A total of 1,437 items is included. Entries conform to customary cataloging practice, except that in many cases the author entry must, in a sense, be "made up." Long titles are frequently shortened, but imprint information

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