

moting national technological, economic and social goals." Without a doubt Dr. Klempner's findings support his hypotheses that the government's abstracting services are not being adequately utilized for the diffusion of results of government-sponsored research; that industries and institutions having no government contracts generally do not receive, and frequently are unfamiliar with these abstracting and indexing services; and that there is a high degree of correlation between the extent of receipt and use of these services within certain regions and industries and the degree of innovation and economic expansion within these regions and industries. While Dr. Klempner does not try to prove cause and effect, his findings support previously published evidence that technological innovation and progress in industry seem to center on firms which, among other things, are aware of and sensitive to channels and media for the communication of scientific information.

Dr. Klempner analyzed the patterns of distribution of the four services, as evidenced by their mailing lists. He obtained information on the use of the services through questionnaires addressed to samples of recipients and non-recipients of the services. His attention to detail in the design of his research method and his doggedness in the preparation of his samples should belie any lack of confidence one might have in his findings. Because this book is in the main the text of his doctoral dissertation, it is filled with both tabular and factual presentation of his data. As with all good doctoral projects it is limited to a highly specific topic. As a dissertation it unfortunately will probably not be widely read. Dr. Klempner's message is, however, vital and clear: librarians and information offices have an obligation to be active and ingenious in promoting the use of the tools of their trade, and the Federal government must take steps to change the distribution pattern of these very important announcement and retrieval services in order to gain full power from them as instruments for the transfer of technology in industry.—*Russell Shank, Smithsonian Institution.*

***The Methodist Publishing House, Vol. I: From Its Beginnings to 1870.*** By James Penn Pilkington. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. xv, 585p. \$7.50 (68-21894).

John Wesley's aggressive publishing program, which contributed substantially to the success of his religious movement in England, was imported with Methodism to the British American colonies in the 1760's on the assumption that it would play as important a role here. The assumption was valid, as this fully documented study shows, for the work of the Methodist Publishing House during its first one hundred years was crucial to the proselytical and evangelical programs of American Methodism. The story of the Methodist Publishing House contains examples of reverses as well as triumphs. The house was sometimes divided. Occasionally it suffered from poor management. Once or twice it seemed on the verge of collapse. Yet its overall history has been impressive. Its directors adapted themselves with enterprise and imagination to the changing times and to the developing needs of Methodism during a period in which it experienced spectacular growth. This work presents a history of which the Methodist Publishing House and the Methodist Church can be proud.

The author, a member of the staff of the Methodist Publishing House for over twenty years, has had complete access to its records, which must surely be numbered among the most extensive and complete of any well-established American publishing house. He has supplemented these records—which contain information upon a wide variety of topics ranging from printing and publishing practices and sales figures to reading interests and editorial policy—with material gleaned from other sources, including newspapers, periodicals, and private papers. Effectively selected illustrations add still more flavor to the author's close re-creation of the period. This study promises to be, with the eventual publication of the second volume which will continue with an account of the second hundred years, the most comprehensive history of any American publishing

house. It is already one of the most scholarly.

In reading this excellent book, this reviewer was reminded again of Thomas Carlyle's observation: "The ordinary histories of Kings and Courtiers were well exchanged against a tenth part of one good History of Booksellers." In these first hundred years, the history of the Methodist Publishing House is closely interwoven with the history of this country, for the former was influenced by and, as a significant part of the religious movement, was an influence on the latter. Running through the fabric of the Methodist Publishing House's past are some of the warp threads in the whole fabric of American history: the influence of an expanding frontier; the optimism and sectionalism which its broad horizons generated; inflation, depression, war, and industrial growth. This work will be of interest to students of American cultural history and the history of Christianity in America as well as of the history of American publishing and of Methodism.

It is a sad fact that so few comparable studies, indeed so few studies at all, exist of American publishing houses which have played an important part in our country's cultural history. The potential use of an adequate corpus of such works to scholars in several fields can as yet be only partially comprehended. The wealth of information found in this one work, however, suggests something of that potential.

The book is handsomely designed, well made, and copiously illustrated. Its price is remarkably modest.—*Robert D. Harlan, University of California, Berkeley.*

**Floors: Selection and Maintenance.** By Bernard Berkeley. Library Technology Program, no. 13 [Chicago: ALA, 1968]. 300p. \$12.50 (68-23014).

The book is organized in seven chapters as follows: (1) Selection Criteria; (2) Maintenance; (3) Resilient Floor Coverings; (4) Carpet; (5) Masonry Floors; (6) Wood Floors; and (7) Formed-in-place Floors.

These chapter headings indicate the scope of this work. The first chapter discusses all types of floor coverings in general, the advantages and disadvantages of each general type, pricing comparisons, and maintenance problems. After reading this chapter the librarian should be able to decide upon the general type of floor covering he will use. He can then select a specific type by further study of the appropriate chapter covering the general type selected.

The second chapter devotes forty-six pages to a comprehensive study of floor covering maintenance. It deals with maintenance supplies and equipment and their proper utilization. Although few librarians have control over maintenance practices, their understanding of the problems associated with them should improve their understanding of good and bad practices and should enable them to know what results to expect from any specific floor covering. This chapter, therefore, should not be passed over lightly.

The remaining chapters analyze specific coverings. Their description, installation, maintenance, refinishing, the removal therefrom of stains and burns, and other pertinent information pertaining to each is presented in excellent detail.

The author uses few footnotes but provides an exhaustive listing of selected references. An excellent index is also included. Twenty useful tables appear at appropriate places within the text. Some care should be exercised in using the tables, however, since they contain a few typographical errors. Photographs are used to illustrate the text.

This well-organized consolidation of important factors in the selection and maintenance of floor coverings is the only book of its kind. Every librarian responsible for the physical aspects of a library should be familiar with it. Moreover, although it is not a maintenance manual, persons responsible for custodial services will profit from it, as will architects, library building consultants, and planners.—*Charles Schliecker, University of North Carolina.* ■ ■