

ing some of the hard struggles the library went through. Since the library has apparently succeeded so well in spite of the foibles of many important figures, perhaps it is just as well to let them sleep a while yet.

Though the print is poor and it is difficult to keep the continuity of people and periods, it is obviously a very useful work. The material is well documented and an excellent index enables the reader to locate most any subject that comes to mind. The two-part bibliography (one relating to the United Nations and one to the League of Nations) is not only very useful in this work, but will continue to serve future investigators for some time. Even the notes will be very useful in this respect.—R. Max Willocks, *Syracuse University Library*.

***The Black Librarian in America.*** E. J. Josey, ed. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1970. 336p.

*The Black Librarian in America* is a collection of biographical essays by a group of outstanding librarians who happen to be black. Josey has picked the cream of the crop of black librarians to reveal their experiences during their professional careers as librarians. His criteria for selecting his contributors are not spelled out in the introduction or other parts of the book, but I dare say anyone can dispute the fact that these are some of the most prominent people in the field. These are the people who have made librarianship mean something to black people.

The book could have been titled *Black Librarians and Racism in America*. Throughout the work there is some account of the difficulty these librarians encountered because they were black, as well as descriptions of difficulties in their professional education, in providing library services, and in employment opportunities. A careful reading of the book should prompt some genuine soul-searching on the part of the profession. It could be used as a measuring stick in judging whether or not there has been any appreciable progress made in the field as it relates to blacks.

Though many of the autobiographies are self-laudatory, one can readily see the determination that these librarians had even

with the odds against them at times. It was interesting to note that several librarians were encouraging young blacks to seek a future in librarianship in spite of the difficulties. Virginia Jones' encouragement by Florence Curtis and Emily Copeland's by Hallie Beachem Brooks are prime examples of the dedication and love these people had for the profession.

Josey's book gives a cross-sectional view of the experiences of black librarians. The inclusion of two or more younger contributors would have given the book more of a balance of experience by black librarians. Perhaps the contributors could have devoted more space to the reasons why they chose librarianship as their life's work and how they entered the field. In some cases a few of the librarians made a few casual remarks as to what motivated them to pursue a career in librarianship.

*The Black Librarian in America* could well be the beginning of a series of autobiographies of black professionals in America. It is a very timely collection of essays from a group of professionals who have paid and are still paying their dues to the profession and their people.—Harry Robinson, Jr., *Prairie View A. & M. College*.

***Student Activism in American Higher Education.*** Frank L. Ellsworth and Martha A. Burns. Washington: American College Personnel Association, 1970. (Student Personnel Series, no. 10.) 64p. \$2.50.

This publication is one of the "Student Personnel Series" of monographs published, appropriately enough, by the American College Personnel Association. Although there is no descriptive subtitle to so indicate, the monograph is a review of the basic literature published through 1969 on student activism. It includes journalistic accounts of a few 1968 and 1969 events, but most of the research works included are based upon occurrences in 1967 and earlier.

Of the three chapters, the first reviews the literature pertaining to the history of student activism in American institutions of higher education. The chapter emphasizes the emergence of social awareness, black consciousness, and the rise of the Stu-

dents for a Democratic Society. Psychological and sociological studies dominate the second chapter, which investigates the causes of student activism. The literature selected suggests the various roles played by institutional structures and social factors. An excellent section of the chapter examines the role played by the mass media in projecting a public image of contemporary campus life. The final chapter covers publications which present philosophical and administrative approaches to problems of student activism.

The authors have selected a broad range of literature for their work. They include journalistic, on the spot accounts of specific episodes of activism. A little less along the journalistic line are published interviews with and statements by administrative, faculty, and student leaders. Also included are research studies by highly respected scholars in various disciplines.

When reading reviews of the literature, this reviewer often questions whether the author really has a creative scholar's feel and understanding of the topic. Ellsworth and Burns do seem to be on familiar ground and they comfortably handle the material in a readable fashion. Their work is comprehensive, seemingly objective, and reasonably selective. Perhaps their efforts would have more utility if the authors had ventured to construct in graphic, or other form, proposed models based upon the studies reviewed which might channel student activism along manageable and constructive lines.

The monograph concludes with a lengthy and excellent selected bibliography of books, scholarly and journalistic articles, government documents, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and commission reports. Appended to the bibliography is a useful listing of "Related Psychological Studies."

Unfortunately, some of the best sources appear only in the bibliography and are not discussed in the text, whereas the text relies rather heavily upon sources which are perhaps more current, but which are not as reliable and which are of less enduring value. Thus, many of the sources which appear to offer the most promising suggestions to the campus community are relegated to a mere listing in a lengthy bibliography,

whereas portions of many journalistic and other descriptive reports are presented at some length in the text. The authors are careful to avoid an overdependence upon quoting directly from their sources. However, they frequently fail to cite the page number from which a quotation was taken.

This monograph successfully gives the reader an overview of student activism and then proceeds to direct him in an informed manner to the major sources in the field. It is recommended for institutions of higher education, behavioral science research centers, and larger public libraries.—*Willis M. Hubbard, Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois.*

***The Librarian Speaking: Interviews with University Librarians.*** Guy R. Lyle. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1970. 206p.

Guy Lyle, librarian at Emory University, presents to the profession the informed opinions of a number of generally respected librarians on the "persistent and critical problems of university librarianship in the United States in the 1960's"—no small chore. He recognizes that interviews have their limitations, as indeed they do, but if that device does not put the reader off, he will find this book of considerable interest. It should be recommended to young librarians, who, alas, like the young everywhere, have little knowledge, less experience, and no concept of history. The librarians interviewed were selected on a "purely arbitrary" basis.

The age range of the librarians ranges from forty to sixty-eight with the average age fifty-seven, and the median age sixty. Only four of the sixteen are under fifty. The Messrs. Downs, Logsdon, Rogers, and Vosper are here, as are Kaser, Eldred Smith (the youngest man interviewed), Dix, Tauber, and others. To disprove that he's a male chauvinist pig, Lyle has included Ruth Walling, his own respected colleague. (Women may, and probably will, be able to make something of the inclusion of only one female.) It is always tempting to criticize the author for not writing a book other than the one he has, and this age issue may not be very important, so rather than do the former and stress the latter, this reviewer will but lament the fact that only one librarian educated after the second German