

one. Likewise the relative poverty and primitive administration of Latin American libraries make the page and a half devoted to them about all they deserve. It might be noted, however, that some attention could be paid to the numerous excellent private collections in the various Latin American capitals. A student of Mexican history using Father Mariano Cuevas' admirable private collection could accomplish slightly more than he could in the Biblioteca Nacional and slightly less than he could in the Bancroft Library. However, Vorstius has done a good job within the limits of the space allotted to him, and, after all, it is the task of librarians in Finland, Portugal, or Japan to write the history of their own institutions.

Documentation in this volume of the *Handbuch* is uniformly satisfactory, although no attempt is made to give complete bibliographies. However, enough is given on all topics to provide a good start to anyone interested in more detailed investigations of any given subject. Most of the

errors in the bibliographical notes are due to excessive brevity of citation rather than to any gross carelessness. Evidently the volume began going to press in late 1938 or early 1939, since virtually no references are made to research published at a later date.

Like the other volumes of the *Handbuch*, the *Geschichte der Bibliotheken* suffers badly for the lack of an index. While the excellent analytical tables of contents of all three volumes compensate in some small degree for this fault, it might be conservatively stated that the usefulness of the set would be increased 25 per cent by good indices. It would be a pious work for some library school class in indexing to undertake this job as a term exercise.

Harrasowitz risked shipping only a few copies to the United States before Pearl Harbor. The only copies located thus far are in the Brooklyn Public Library and the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago.—Lawrence S. Thompson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## Administration and Finance

*The Administration of the American Public Library.* E. W. McDiarmid and John McDiarmid. American Library Association and University of Illinois Press, 1943. 250p.

*Public Library Finance and Accounting.* Edward Allen Wight. American Library Association, 1943. 137p.

Judging from their titles it would seem at first glance that these two works are of no special interest to those concerned with college and reference libraries. Wight's work is a study chiefly of municipally controlled public libraries. The volume representing the joint work of the brothers McDiarmid is a study of 315 municipal libraries whose staffs range in size from ten persons to three hundred or more. Privately endowed libraries are excluded. Municipally controlled universities excepted, it would appear that the material in these two volumes would not directly apply to college and reference libraries. Further examination, however,

brings out the fact that the works under review contain many useful statements and suggestions applicable to libraries of any type.

There is no difficulty in finding quickly in the work of the McDiarmids pertinent suggestions. After each subject discussed there are specific recommendations clearly set out in paragraph form. The place of the board and its committees in the library management and questions of what duties should be left by the board to the librarian, are admirably treated. There is a discussion of lay groups, including Friends of the Library. Particularly useful are the chapters dealing with the duties of the librarian and his assistants and the pros and cons of departmentalization in larger and medium-sized libraries. Organization charts are suggested for libraries of both types. Sensible broad principles of practice are recommended, with which no one will quarrel, to be applied as circumstances dictate.

Financial management, including practical suggestions for budget preparation, receives

adequate attention. Fully treated are problems of personnel management, including selection, records, classification, and the training of new staff members. Proper retirement plans are discussed.

Questions of staff organization and meetings and other coordinating devices are reviewed, and formal recommendations of policy are suggested.

Mr. Wight's book dealing with library finance and accounting is a useful contribution to the subject. Sources of revenue are discussed, including state and federal aid, and methods are suggested for the proper building and operation of the budget. The book concludes with two chapters on library accounting. The latter of these is a distinct

contribution to the sparse literature on library cost accounting, a subject likely to receive more attention in the future.

These two volumes are valuable additions to the growing list of reference manuals on specific library problems. They will serve the administrator as conveniences. They should be especially useful to teachers in library schools. Both volumes contain selected bibliographies. Mr. Wight's work has, as a supplement, a glossary of accounting terminology.—*Robert J. Usher*,<sup>1</sup> *Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans.*

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Usher died on August 3, after his review of the McDiarmid and Wight books had been set in type for inclusion in this issue of *College and Research Libraries*.

## Classics of The Western World

*Classics of the Western World.* Alan Wil-  
lard Brown and members of the faculty  
of Columbia College, editors. With a  
foreword by John Erskine. Third edition,  
completely revised and rewritten. 145p.  
Chicago, American Library Association,  
1943.

The extensive interest of recent years in "the great books" may account for the preparation of a new edition of the Columbia University list which for some twenty-five years had served the purposes of the undergraduate honors course of that university. It is gratifying to the compilers to observe that it was this list, in turn, which occasioned so much public interest in "the one hundred great books" and in other enumerations and selections. The greatest advertisement of these *laureati* came from St. John's College of Annapolis, where they were made (with many additions and omissions) the substance of the course of study. St. John's makes revisions at will, which means, so far, quite frequently. Considering the purposes of the Columbia Colloquium, as the honors course is now styled, and the further purpose of the compilers to serve the intellectual public, we can readily understand that alterations of previous curricula would become desirable.

It was the leading purpose of earlier editions of this bibliography to enlarge "the pleasure of reading." The present edition does not employ this phrase but in its place are the expressions, "the formation of a good man and a wise citizen," "voluntary self-education," "the preservation and understanding of our democratic heritage," "the layman of eager mind who desires to know the nature, tone, and quality of our intellectual tradition," and others which indicate that liberal education by way of private reading is now the uppermost concern. However, we find here "very few of the major contributions to pure science" as well as "many omissions among historians and writers on political economy," not to speak of the "serious limitations" upon the competency of the scholars—of whom there are eight—who, we are surprised to read, dictated the exclusion of all works of the Orient and of Latin America. Only the excessive modesty of this, let us suppose, is a match for the supposition that these learned men are unacquainted with Lao-Tse, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Upanishads, or with the Latin American writers whom they would rank with the immortals. In the event they did not have the cooperation of the departments at Columbia which study the Orient and Latin America, why did they not apply