

plain, get the thing done, let them howl." If, like Moses, Kirkland never did fully learn how to delegate authority he nevertheless seemed to learn with Jowett never to make the same mistake the second time. He doubtless knew that one who occupies a college or university presidency in the United States holds an almost impossible post and is bound to make some mistakes; but the best that the best of such officers can hope for is to avoid making any but small mistakes.—*Edgar W. Knight, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.*

*Too Much College, or Education Is Eating Up Life.* . . . Stephen Leacock. Dodd, Mead, 1940. 255p. \$2.

"EDUCATION is eating up life" is the theme of this, Stephen Leacock's latest humorous sally against the windmills of formal education. We spend too much time and money, he claims, and too much of our valuable youth, acquiring the diplomas—the formal insignia of modern education—and too little preparation for the real work of life. By making us laugh, he makes us listen, using half-truths in argument for, as he says, "a half-truth—like a half brick, carries better."

Economics, asserts Leacock, is a mass of technical verbiage; psychology, "the black art," a parasite battenning upon philosophy, art, and science; the educational value of Latin is overlooked; teaching of foreign languages is a farce; modern English spelling is illogical; mathematics, a series of "puzzles" bearing little relation to reality.

Although he laughs as he talks, we know that this keen, kindly jokester is a friendly critic who might well be taken seriously.—*Morris A. Gelfand, Queens College Library, Flushing, N.Y.*

*The Acquisition and Cataloging of Books; Papers Presented before the Library Institute at the University of Chicago, July 29 to August 9, 1940.* Edited by William M. Randall, with an introduction by Louis R. Wilson. The University of Chicago Press, 1940. (The University of Chicago Studies in Library Science) x, 408p. \$2.50.

THE REASONS for the decision to devote the 1940 Library Institute, the fifth annual institute sponsored by the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago with the financial assistance of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, to the subject of the acquisition and cataloging of books—the so-called "technical processes"—are enumerated by Dean Louis R. Wilson in his introduction to this collection of the papers presented at the institute. In the case of the acquisition process there are four reasons: (1) the present war and the rising importance of America as the preserver of the records of civilization, (2) the reduction of library budgets with little prospect of any great increase in the immediate future, (3) the growing realization of the necessity of co-operative acquisition programs and division of fields between libraries, and (4) the recent spectacular developments in microphotography. In the case of classification and cataloging, there are likewise four reasons for the decision: (1) the lack of funds, (2) the shift of interest from cataloging as an end in itself to cataloging as a service, (3) the growth of union catalogs and bibliographical centers, and (4) the new developments in photography as applied to library records.

The papers themselves, numbering seventeen in all, have been edited by Prof. William M. Randall, who is also the author of the opening paper on the tech-