

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-

nical processes in general and their significance in relation to other library functions. Since the conception of a library has changed, or at least is changing, from that of a collection of books to that of a service agency, it is clearly in order to re-examine and re-evaluate the technical processes, "the secrets of the craft," in terms of this changing conception.

Among the authors of the following papers we meet both leaders in the library profession and recognized authorities in special fields. Their papers cover every important phase of the processes of acquisition and cataloging and amply justify the title of the volume. To comment on each paper individually is impossible here; mention can be made of only three or four that distinguish themselves in one respect or another.

Dr. William W. Bishop begins by emphasizing the responsibility for collecting and preserving research materials that American libraries must assume in a new sense now that the very existence of European libraries is threatened. He then continues with a comprehensive and definitive enumeration of the specific materials or types of material that constitute a research collection, and a survey of the extent to which these materials are now available in American libraries, and closes finally with an illuminating answer to the question, "What may an American scholar of 1970 confidently expect in the way of service of the materials for research?"

Dr. A. F. Kuhlman outlines with clarity and thoroughness the essential processes in the handling of serial and government publications, an outline that might well serve as a practical working guide for serials and documents departments. Dr. Robert R. Miller stresses again the need for more and more precise cost measure-

ment of the technical processes but also reminds us that unit costs, once they are accurately determined, do not answer our many questions of management, policy, and practice; they raise them.

In the concluding paper Margaret Mann quite appropriately discusses the teaching of the technical processes, with special reference to cataloging. Just as catalogers and administrators have recognized the coming of the machine age to the cataloging department in the form of the typewriter, duplicating devices, photographic methods, cooperative cataloging, etc., so it is equally if not more important that teachers of cataloging should recognize these developments, and even anticipate those that lie ahead of us in the future.

Credit is certainly due those who planned an institute of such comprehensive scope and the writers who have treated their respective topics in such a thorough and able manner. To find fault with what is said would be difficult, but to say this is in itself a rather serious criticism. The general effect of the volume is a good deal that of a text book—a rather conservative text book. Could not those whose professional background and interests move them to spend their time and money to attend the institute or to read the published papers be trusted with something more original and inspiring than, for the most part, they have here? Would it not here seem less essential that the speaker or writer should present a sound and accurate, not to say elementary, analysis of his topic than that he should present new ideas, even radical ideas, and leave his hearers stimulated, with an occasional one shocked? There is, of course, always the danger of being misunderstood or taken too seriously, but there are cer-

tainly times when that risk is worth running.—*John J. Lund, Duke University Library.*

Philadelphia Libraries and Their Holdings; Data Compiled as Part of a Report on Philadelphia Libraries to the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Bibliographical Planning Committee of Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1941. pl., 46p. 50¢.

THE TOOLS of library cooperation are of two kinds, the line-and-reel variety and the net. If you are after one book at a time, the union catalog, *Union List of Serials*, or catalog of a library or a collection may land it for you. If, on the other hand, you seek all or much of the information on some topic, the mesh of any description of library resources is likely to seem too fine or too coarse. Moreover, with this sort of purpose you are apt to need the aid of someone skilled in tracking through the ramifications of print to the sources you require and consequently may find that a printed guide to library resources omits an essential factor of the bibliographical process, the names of librarians or experts who know how to manipulate the literature in your field. Descriptions of resources are a poor substitute for the organization of staff and book stock resources of the nation as a whole or of one of its subdivisions; but they are nevertheless a substitute which, in the hands of a resourceful librarian or a pertinacious student, will in the end help to connect print with the client.

The Bibliographical Planning Committee has compiled this list of special collections and fields of specialization primarily as a guide for library planning, and has published it as a reference tool for librarians in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Since the list is a summary of the committee's resources-information file (mainly supplied by the libraries described), this particular list is not a substitute for a bibliographical center, since the committee is at present organizing one, but is one of the center's tools in handy form. As such, it gives librarians and scholars outside Philadelphia a rapid but not hasty survey of the Philadelphia library-stock situation. The major portion of the pamphlet contains abstracts of the descriptions on file arranged by broad classes. This arrangement, though not novel to this type of publication as the introduction claims, is obviously a good one for planning, since it shows gaps in subject fields which are covered, thinly presumably, only by general collections, and shows points of concentration at which the checking of bibliographies would indicate the need for coordinated purchasing. The abstracts are concise, seldom quantitative, occasionally vague, but their references to published inventories and catalogs, and the fact that more information is on file, make the list a useful tool for directing searchers in Philadelphia, a useful addition to the scattered resources-literature of the country at large. This section is a portrait—and a handsome one!—of Philadelphia library resources.

The rest of the pamphlet consists of recent (apparently 1939) book stock and expenditure figures for 31 libraries and departments; a chronology of Philadelphia libraries to 1900; and a classified list by subject specialization of libraries and departments. A good deal of hard clerical work has gone into the whole compilation, and in some places excellent professional work, such as the list of document collections; there are one or two oversights, such as the omission of periodicals while