

materials, exhibits and personnel; two with the state department information libraries; three with the elimination of barriers to exchange; and two with the work of coordinating agencies in the field of exchanges and documentation. Of the latter, one was concerned with the work of the American Documentation Institute and the International Federation of Documentation, and one dealt with a proposal of Dr. Julian P. Boyd that there be established, in conjunction with the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO, a national educational, scientific, and cultural authority. The various recommendations were directed to a number of agencies: to the A.L.A. (5), A.R.L. (4), UNESCO or the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO (5), the Department of State and the Library of Congress (4 each), the Congress, the armed services, the Treasury Department, the American Book Center, and the Library of Congress Planning Committee (1 each), besides three expressions of opinion without definite recommendations to a par-

ticular body.

The readers of the proceedings of the Princeton conference deserve to be informed what progress has been made, during the year and a half which it has required to print its transactions, in executing its recommendations. It is gratifying to know that if a report of progress were to be made at the present time, it would show that few of the recommendations have not had or are now failing to receive serious attention, and that some are actually in process of accomplishment. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that a systematic report will soon be made available, showing not only just what has been done, but where, and the extent to which responsibility has been accepted for accomplishing what still remains to be done. The Princeton conference, if it already has some claim to be regarded as a landmark, will only prove usefully so if it is actively employed as a point from which to measure distance and direction.—*Verner W. Clapp, Library of Congress.*

## British Sources of Reference

*British Sources of Reference and Information, a Guide to Societies, Works of Reference and Libraries.* Compiled under the direction of a Committee of Aslib and edited by Theodore Besterman. London, published for the British Council by Aslib, 1947. 58p.

This selective guide to the resources of British libraries supplements and by no means supersedes the *ASLIB Directory* of 1928. Even allowing for the latter's inclusion of information agencies other than libraries and its different organization resulting in some repetitive information, the older 425 page quarto volume contains information on more libraries and more special collections than the new slim octavo of 56 pages.

However, the new guide brings information to date, with its news of some former collections that were bombed and burned out of existence and, on the other hand, of collections which have increased in size, like the Manchester University Library, which appears to have doubled itself in the last twenty years. Notes on the facilities for photographic reproduction, and other services which li-

braries are now prepared to offer, are also a welcome addition.

The general description of the British library system as a whole, with its efficient organization for a national lending service, and the accounts of the British library and book organizations, constitute a new and valuable introduction for the scholar, student, or librarian beginning or renewing acquaintance with the great bibliographical resources of Great Britain. It should be noted that certain Irish libraries which were included in the *ASLIB Directory*, published before the establishment of the independent sovereignty of Eire, are missing here. One will have to turn back to the old directory or the still older *University and College Libraries*, by Newcombe, for information about Trinity College Library, which is mentioned in the new guide only as one of the copyright libraries which does not lend books.

The arrangement of material differs from that of the old guide. Instead of an extensive list by subject of special collections, with a list of libraries arranged by city and

an index of collections by name, five lists of libraries are grouped as copyright, university, principal public, special and government libraries. The key to subject specialization is the index of eleven columns. The names of some, but not all, special collections are included in the index. For example, the Balcarres state papers in the National Library of Scotland are entered in the index, but not the Denmilne papers in the same library. Some omissions and inconsistencies of subject entries also detract from the usefulness of the index. For example, the special collections on furniture in the Bethnal Green and Shoreditch public libraries are indexed, but not the special collection on furniture in the National Library of Scotland. The collection on Scottish music in the national library is indexed under "Scottish music," but that in the Dundee Public Library is under "music, Scottish."

As the object of the index is presumably to guide the inquirer to the libraries which contain material on the subject of his interest, one might suggest that it could have been improved, even doubled in length, by the omission of the list of general works of reference. These can be easily found in bibliographies

of reference books and various textbooks for readers' self-guidance. It is perhaps just as well that "technical difficulties on the production side" prevented the inclusion of the selected book lists originally planned. If any list of specific books is to be included, one of printed library catalogs and bibliographies which locate copies would be more appropriate to this type of book. However, with the system of national and regional union catalogs in Great Britain, this kind of list might not seem too necessary to a person dwelling or sojourning there, as it does to one on the other side of the ocean. The consultation of the printed aids to location of books is a time- and money-saver only for the would-be borrower thousands of miles away.

In conclusion we may say that this little book, hardly more than a pamphlet, is as welcome as the first thin slice of roast beef was after rationing and scarcity, but we look forward to the day when a whole roast can be put before us again. The cooks have doubtless done the best they could under the circumstances. They have whetted our appetites for more.—*Margaret Hutchins, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

## Revision of "Organization and Personnel Procedure"

A subcommittee of the A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration is working on a revision of "Organization and Personnel Procedure," which was first published by the board in 1940. It is hoped to include in the revision several examples of good personnel forms, such as application blanks, interview sheets, service rating forms, agreement or contract forms, letters of appointment, and the like. The subcommittee urges librarians who have forms which they consider satis-

factory to send five copies of each for examination.

The committee is made up of representatives of college and university, large public, small public, school, and special libraries, and is interested in a response from all types of libraries. Kindly send copies of forms immediately to Amy Winslow, chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel Organization and Procedure, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.