

and Sir James M. Barrie; about the English language in general; and about the American speech in particular, since our speech has inherited so much from the Scots."

It is regrettable that the editors are print-

ing such a few sets of the dictionary—only 2000.—*George P. Wilson, professor of English, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, and secretary of the American Dialect Society.*

Standard Dewey Classification

Decimal Classification, devised by Melvil Dewey, Standard (15th) edition. Lake Placid Club, N.Y., Forest Press [C1951] IV, 661p. \$16.00.

The fifteenth edition of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* is the long awaited standard library edition. It is a complete revision designed to meet the needs of "the greatest number of libraries," or small to medium-sized libraries, with the tables "evenly and broadly expanded," eliminating the over-elaboration of some classes found in earlier editions. Each schedule has been studied, rewritten and simplified by librarians and subject authorities in the light of current developments, changing concepts and terminology. Much unnecessary material has been omitted.

Issued in a green buckram binding (a great improvement over the drab bindings of earlier editions), the entire book has been reset and standard spelling is used throughout. Various type faces are used in the tables making it easy to consult them.

The arrangement follows earlier editions closely. The "Introduction" is followed by summaries of the main classes, divisions, sections, form divisions, tables and index. Compared with the fourteenth edition which contained 80 pages of introductory material, 1047 pages of tables, 737 pages of index, and 50 pages of supplementary material, the fifteenth edition contains 55 pages of introductory material, 469 pages of tables, and 190 pages of index. The supplementary tables are omitted in this new edition.

A special effort has been made to bring the terminology up-to-date. Definitions, scope notes and references to related materials have been given liberally, adding considerably to the usefulness of the tables. Occasionally the obvious has been defined and a few definitions are rather vague, but on the whole the definitions are helpful.

The length of the notation has been kept down to a maximum of four decimal places, found principally in the 621's, 629's, and 900's.

The relative index has been shortened considerably. It includes personal names for artists, philosophers and theologians, but many names included in scope notes in the tables are not listed here. Many subjects which should be included have been omitted, and it is unfortunate that some typographical errors have crept in, e.g. Egypt. History. Modern.—926 instead of 962; Libya—960.2 instead of 961.2; Red Cross—361.506 instead of 361.5; Tunisia—960.1 instead of 961.1; and Western Australia 984.1 instead of 994.1.

Since reclassification is a physical and financial impossibility in most libraries, the editors made "no very drastic changes." Even so, in adopting this edition many libraries will be faced with the problem of some reclassification. Numbers for which no books could be found have been dropped. Subject division numbers falling in this category include: 017-019, 061-068, 083, 087, 114-119, 122, 125-127, 129, 141-149, 163, 165-169, 214, 216-217, 219, 255, 257, 313-319, 569, 689, 764, and 768. Form divisions and subdivisions have been omitted in many cases, e.g. 202-209, 501-509, etc.

When a subject is shifted from one class or subdivision to another, it is recorded in the tables in the form of a recommendation, e.g., 614.9. It is recommended that VETERINARY SANITATION be classified in 636.0894. Important changes are shown in the accompanying table.

The main classes or divisions which have been changed include the following: 128 Soul : 218 or 233.5; 140 Philosophic systems : 180-190; 172 Political ethics : 177; 173 Family ethics : 177, Marriage and the family: 301.422; 174 Professional or Business ethics : classified with Profession or Business;

175 Ethics of recreation : 177; 176 Sexual ethics : 177, Prostitution as Social Problem : 301.424; 178 Ethics of Temperance : 177, Alcoholism and Drug Addiction as Social Problems : 301.46; 243 Evangelistic readings : 269; 256 Societies for Parish Work : 267; 272 Persecutions of Christians : 270.1-.8 or with country, 274-279; 273 Heresies : 270.1-.8 or with country, 274-279; 348 Church Law : 262.9; 363 Political Societies : 329.8, Ku Klux Klan : 366.6; 393 Treatment of Dead : 392; 416 Prosody : 808.1; 426 Prosody : 808.1; 524 Astronomical maps and tables—classified with subject, Observatory publications : 522.1; 538 Magnetism : 537, Terrestrial magnetism : 551.16; 577 Chemical properties of living matter : 574.19, Physical properties : 574.191; 619 Veterinary

002 THE BOOK

Value Influence

It is recommended that the History of books be classified in 655-4.

Most of the changes made have eliminated shortcomings in earlier editions and are all to the good. Libraries adopting the standard edition will have many decisions to make regarding the changes effected. Perhaps a compromise will be reached to adopt the new edition but retaining certain numbers from the fourteenth edition as an alternative to reclassifying large collections.

Although this new edition has shortcomings, the editorial committee has developed a good book classification which, it is hoped, will continue to be developed with future editions. Although it does not solve all the

Distribution of Important Changes, Dewey Decimal Classification

	Class/Division	1 Decimal Number	2 Decimal Numbers	3 Decimal Numbers	4 Decimal Numbers
000	0	2	0	0	0
100	8	1	0	0	0
200	4	3	0	0	0
300	3	12	11	12	0
400	2	1	3	0	0
500	3	25	18	3	0
600	8	27	14	5	1
700	6	17	4	1	0
800	0	0	3	0	0
900	2	2	21	6	0
	36	90	74	27	1

medicine : 636.089; 626 Ship canals and locks : 627.13, Irrigation canals : 627.5; 644 Household heating and ventilation : 697, Lighting : 621.32; 645 House furnishing : 747; 654 Communication : 384, Electric communication engineering : 621.38; 656 Transportation : 385-388; 686 Binding : 655.45; 699 Carbuilding : 625.22; 721 Architectural construction : 624, 690-698, 729; 762 Intaglio Work : 765-767; 774-777 Photo-mechanical Processes : 655.32; 931 Ancient Chinese History : 951; 934 Ancient Indian History : 954.

In addition to the changes noted in the table above, many minor subdivisions or phases of subjects have been changed and are indicated in the tables in the following manner:

problems, it is a step in the right direction. Librarians who have been awaiting this edition with patience will find many of the changes for which they have been looking. Library school instructors and students will certainly find this new edition much easier to use and less confusing than earlier editions.

It is reported that the H. W. Wilson Company will use the standard edition for the numbers used on its printed cards, and the Decimal Classification Section at the Library of Congress is debating the issue and wants the reaction of libraries using the numbers on its printed cards. Here is one vote favoring the use of the standard edition for the Dewey numbers on L.C. cards.—*Richard O. Pautzsch, Brooklyn Public Library.*