

tail. Like treatment is accorded those of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the "Golden Age" of the individual bibliographer. The 1600s were notable for the works of van der Linden, Lipenius, and Cornelius à Beughem, and the following century brought forth the works of Boerhave, Haller, who compiled several bibliographies besides the one on general medicine, Ploucquet and Callisen, whose monumental compilations ended the reign of the individual as a bibliographer. Before Champier, dependence had to be placed on personal lists of writings such as Ficinus,¹ and the general bibliographies of Trithemius² on the writings of the Church Fathers and illustrious men.

The rate of increase of publications, books and periodical articles, had become so rapid that the era of cooperative effort had to be inaugurated. The first in a series of such works was the *Catalogue of Scientific Papers* of the Royal Society, London, followed by the monumental work, the *Index Medicus* and the *Index Catalogue* of the Medical Library of the Surgeon General's Office of the United States, initiated and compiled under the direction of Dr. John Shaw Billings. Miss Brodman devotes considerable space to a description and evaluation of these publications now deceased from over-feeding. Tables are presented of the rapid growth of periodicals from 1800 to 1908, showing in the last year a total of 71,248 periodicals.

The modern situation is reviewed, outlining the history of the *International Catalogue of Scientific Papers*, the *Current List of Medical Literature*, the efforts of UNESCO, and the use of punched cards by machine methods. The great problem of the present centers on the limitation of publications on selective cataloging.

Incidentally, through the text, there is a steady flow of material relating to the history of medicine, making the book of double value to interested persons.

Appended to the text, there is a list of 250 medical bibliographies published since 1500 A.D. There are author and subject indexes,

¹ Ficinus, Marsilius. *Liber de sole et lumine*. Florence, 1493. Contains a list of the personal works of Ficinus.

² Trithemius, Johannes. *De scriptoribus ecclesiasticis*. Basel, 1494. *Catalogus illustrium virorum*. [Mainz, 1495.] Trithemius, while abbot at Sponheim, developed a business for the copying of manuscripts and assembled a large library.

and the Medical Library Association is to be congratulated on the selection of this book for its Publication No. 1.

This invaluable reference volume should be a "bed-side" book for medical librarians and also is recommended to bibliographers and medical historians.—James F. Ballard, director, Boston Medical Library.

Columbia's Library School

A History of the School of Library Service, Columbia University. By Ray Trautman. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954. 85p. \$2.00.

Professor Trautman's history of the School of Library Service forms part of the series of studies issued in honor of Columbia's two hundredth anniversary. As might be expected of such a unit, this volume is published in attractive format, deals briefly with the various eras of the school and looks forward to the future. The two photographs that constitute the only illustrations, however, seem inadequate selections. Portraits of distinguished leaders of the school and exteriors of important buildings are not shown, though these might have proved more fitting than the contrasting views of teaching facilities in Melvil Dewey's time and of the type of classroom in use today.

The account of the school proceeds chronologically from the time of founding up to the present. The first chapter is devoted to organization under Dewey and the transfer to Albany two years later. The next two chapters deal with the immediate predecessors of the present School of Library Service: the New York State School and that of the New York Public Library. Chapters IV and V cover the administrations of Deans Williamson and White of the present school. The final chapter, "The Program for Advanced Degrees," seems the poorest of the six. Material here, in condensed, reorganized form, properly belongs with the preceding chapter which is decidedly thin as to content.

Were it not for the Bicentennial Celebration of Columbia, this volume would probably not have appeared in 1954. As a full history, it has lamentable shortcomings. Much more time and effort ought to be expended on the amalgamation of earlier, published accounts of the school under Dewey, and on the

individual contributions to librarianship of the New York State and New York Public Schools whose histories have also been published previously. The story of the present school under its two administrations needs to be entirely rewritten before it can take its place justifiably in the chronology.

Not only should the Williamson and White regimes be treated at far greater length; in each present account, a statement of broad, over-all objectives in the training programs needs to be inserted. These objectives existed and must still exist in spite of national and world crises that have arisen. Too little is said in the Trautman history about the need for library schools to train for librarianship as it is now being practiced, and to produce leaders, both in the physical and philosophical sense. Thinkers, expert technical workers, executives are all called for, and the nation looks to the library schools as the best and most logical sources for such people. From a practical viewpoint the matter of whether Columbia is producing competent librarians deserves far more consideration than whether the student body is becoming local rather than national in character.

The last part of the Williamson chapter is entirely too much concerned with the enumeration of isolated, specialized courses that seem to have composed the curriculum of the school. Many of these, incidentally, were introduced during summer sessions. Such summer offerings have proved sound and logical practice at many universities, where new courses are introduced on an experimental basis.

The final chapter, which still deals with the White administration, presents too many explanations about the doctoral program. Incidentally, during the eleven years of Dr. White's deanship, candidates seem to have been only slightly more numerous than during the Williamson regime. Only one person has actually acquired the degree. Is something wrong with the school's doctoral program and the quality of the students who are attracted to it? Or is the prospect of absorption by the profession of a large number of people who might obtain the Ph.D. in library science not likely? A university is the logical place for such training; other schools at Columbia turn out substantial numbers of graduates who have earned the degree.

The role played by the alumni during the White administration is handled in relative fullness, but more attention might well have been given to this group in the Williamson chapter. This shortcoming applies to the story of the formation of the present, amalgamated association as well as to the many profitable consultations with the alumni during the 1926-43 period.

Typographical errors appear to be few in number, but Appendix I shows some omissions and an occasional mistake as to date. The three appendices form one of the most useful sections of the book, particularly because of their ready reference value.

The style throughout is uneven as to quality. At times it is dignified, in keeping with an anniversary volume; in sections where the author's bias predominates, the writing becomes clouded both as to thought and presentation of facts. Very likely the preparation of the volume as a unit in an official series has hampered the insertion of humor, the homely anecdote and the human side of the persons responsible for the school since its inception. Such material is available in abundance and should not be overlooked in the awaited, comprehensive history of this school.—*Harriet D. MacPherson, dean, Drexel Library School, and librarian of Drexel Institute of Technology.*

Technical Services

Technical Services in Libraries: Acquisitions, Cataloging, Classification, Binding, Photographic Reproduction, Circulation Operations. By Maurice F. Tauber and Associates. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954. xvi, 487p. \$6.50.

We have a great number of books which describe in detail the operations in the technical services of libraries. There is no up-to-date compendium for acquisitions work and related processes, but both the beginner and the experienced professional in cataloging have at their disposal some excellent manuals. The common denominator for most of the literature in the field is that they are either textbooks designed for an elementary level or compilations of rules. There was an urgent need for a scholarly publication which would discuss on a high intellectual level the entire field in its broadest aspects. Maurice Tauber