

tor's relationships with library staff members, especially with the director? Does he find these staff members cooperative? Competent? Does he have faith in the director's judgment?

4. Is the library budget poor, adequate, or good? Within its means, is the university generous in its budgetary treatment of the library?

5. What improvements does he sug-

gest in library organization? Service? Public relations? Finance? Building?

In the same way, the library director's evaluation of the university administration could be ascertained. Does he feel that the administration understands the library's purposes and problems, is in sympathy with these purposes and is trying to carry them out?—*John F. Harvey.* ■■

## More About Periodicals—A British View

"THE NUMBER of scientific periodicals is constantly growing, and certain publishers in particular are issuing streams of new journals on every conceivable subdivision of science. Furthermore, eminent scientists lend their names to these journals as editors, or serve on the editorial boards, and the contents of the journals deteriorate after the first few issues. These periodicals are preserved mainly in libraries, yet these are asked exorbitant subscriptions in excess of those expected from individuals who purchase the journals "for their own use." This leads to certain irregularities, and librarians are extremely critical of these unorthodox and unethical tactics. Unfortunately, few librarians are permitted to decide which journals they house, and which subscriptions should be cancelled, but they can advise their committees. If librarians could take joint action over these, and certain other matters, unscrupulous publishers would have a greatly decreased market for their wares, and certain periodicals would vanish, without leaving serious gaps.

Possibly one solution would be the introduction of greater control over scientific periodicals by societies, universities and institutions, who would not necessarily publish the journals, but would sponsor them through reputable publishing houses. They might also control the output of their members by discouraging the publication of material adding nothing to our knowledge of the subject. This, however, is a matter for national, and even international consideration, but the current trend is towards the opposite direction. Publication is encouraged; the use of grants must be justified by the number of articles printed, and the work of a university department tends to be judged by the weight of its literary output. We are faced with a gigantic, suicidal pact, in which the advancement of science is hampered by the inability of research workers to trace new facts among the masses of literature that must eventually suffocate those in pursuit of true knowledge."—J. L. Thornton and R. I. J. Tully, *Scientific books, libraries and collectors.* (2d. ed. Library Assoc., 1962.) ■■