something librarious written to please and instruct—has never comprised a large segment of the literature of the profession. The occasional volumes of essays such as W. W. Bishop’s *Backs of Books*, that bear periodic reading, are quite rare, yet in the opinion of this reviewer Guy Lyle has now produced one in a little book with a big rubric, *The President, the Professor and the College Library*. Every academic librarian will find it useful but pleasant reading.

The book is disarmingly naive in structure. It contains such varia as a list of accredited library schools, a short discourse on the “image” of the librarian—written by a professor of foreign languages—the ACRL Standards for College Libraries, and four essays by Mr. Lyle, three of which had been read to library conferences during 1961 and 1962, and one which was written for the occasion. The resulting pot pourri, believe it or not, is indexed. There is no apparent reason for the book to succeed, yet most readers will no doubt agree that it does and that much of its charm is actually due to its unpretentiousness.

Lyle’s papers are entitled “The College Administration and the Library,” “Developing the College Library Book Collection,” “Use and Misuse of the College Library,” and—the original one—“Blueprint for a College Library.” His lifelong experience in academic library administration makes his comments sage and his counsel prudent. In bibliothecal public relations the author is no crash-programer; he judiciously advocates good service and the soft-sell. “Do well,” he seems to urge, “and let people know it gently.”

Although addressed primarily to the college level complex of faculty, administration, and librarian, the book will be good reading as well for those involved in university level work. The informed librarian, furthermore, will find little in the volume that is new to him, although he may find much that he has not previously heard so well expressed, as well as some useful ideas that he has probably never previously attempted to formulate in his mind. It would be a blessing, however, if all presidents and professors in the land could be got to read these essays since they define our basic positions articulately and well.

It is appropriate that this little volume is neatly manufactured in attractive format.—D.K.


In the Foreword to the publication, Al Trezza, executive secretary of LAD, states that the Miami Equipment Institute was so successful that the decision was made to hold separate equipment and buildings institutes in alternate years. And this is what is happening. Certainly the institute, devoted solely to furniture and equipment, rather than to buildings and equipment, was eminently successful. It was intelligently and efficiently planned and executed. There were not only expert librarians in attendance, but also experts from the furniture and equipment houses. The principal participants were not merely eminently qualified; they were actually among the world authorities in their various fields. When Keyes Metcalf, for example, delivers a full treatise on book stack selection, there is little more to be said on the subject.

In the section dealing with furniture selection for the library, Martin Van Buren, Edna Voigt, and Edward G. Stromberg bring to the discussion a tremendous amount of knowledge, experience, and wisdom.

The panel discussion on specification writing and bidding procedures for furniture and shelving fills a gap in the existing literature of the subject, and the librarian faced with his own specification writing could probably do a good job after careful perusal of this section. Hoyt Galvin, Homer Lombard, and Hal Syren deserve credit for having brought enlightenment and even interest and excitement to an otherwise extremely technical and mundane chore.

William Hawken has two excellent short addresses on (1) equipment and methods of photocopying and (2) equipment and methods in the production of full-size copy from microtext. These are constantly changing, and we must have someone like Mr.
Hawken bring us up-to-date about once every twelve to eighteen months.

Joseph Treyz has a section on equipment and methods in catalog card reproduction. His paper is a carefully formulated, beautifully organized, and succinct treatment of another all-important problem facing librarians today.

Until relatively recently, the average "general" librarian would hardly have deigned to be reading such eminently "practical" professional material. But at the present time, there is no one responsible for library administration and operation on however high and philosophical a level who can conscientiously avoid the responsibility of keeping himself informed on how libraries are being automated.

Perhaps because there has been so little in print on it, to me the most interesting paper presented was Martin Van Buren's on furniture selection for the library. It is particularly interesting because he introduces his expert treatment of the subject by giving a historical background which includes not only library furniture but, more basically, library architecture itself. He manages somehow to crowd into a very few pages a really fine historical running start.—William H. Jesse, University of Tennessee.

Books Briefly Noted

Almanac of Naval Facts. U. S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, 1964. 305p. $3.50.


International Union List of Communist Chinese Serials; Scientific, Technical and Medical with Selected Social Science Titles. Comp. by Bernadette P. N. Shih and Richard L. Snyder. Cambridge,