state universities which Rockefeller and Gates thought was profound—another example of telling too much yet not enough.

Academic librarians will be further disappointed at the lack of attention to the development of the university libraries. Data certainly was available in the McMullen (1949) and Archer (1954) dissertations for a few paragraphs on this topic.

Storr does mention the fact that Melvil Dewey was offered the librarianship but turned it down. In a flash of interpretation he adds, “Harper never did find a first-class university librarian—and this perhaps was his greatest and most puzzling failure as an academic organizer.” Harper’s failure may not be unrelated to the fact that money for books and equipment was often at a premium. A central university library, named for Harper, had to wait until after his death.

No doubt Chicago alumni will want this book, as will most university libraries. College librarians and those with only a mild interest in the history of higher education can pass it up without much trauma.—Edward G. Holley, University of Houston.


Library cooperation, forever extending and developing, is the kind of topic on which a new book is always welcome. Mr. Jefferson himself remarks that since the War there has been probably more talk about library cooperation than about anything else in librarianship. In a larger sense, of course, cooperation among libraries is all part of the current world mood; politically, economically, and socially, it seems a matter of enlightened fact that “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Quite apart from any of this, Mr. Jefferson’s admirable survey is welcome in its own right. Following a general history of library cooperation (in three parts: from the beginnings to 1931, from 1931 to 1945, and postwar developments), he describes the present British national network for interlending, with its two-tiered pattern of national central library/regional library bureaus interlending, and direct lending through the national central library of university and special libraries. His next group of chapters deals with cooperative acquisition, cooperative storage, and exchange and redistribution. He then turns his attention to scientific and technical literature, treating first the national schemes for its cooperative provision, and then the local schemes. Mr. Jefferson is aware that in cooperative ventures the needs and problems of the various types of library differ widely; hence he goes on to devote a chapter to special libraries, another to academic libraries, and finally one to public libraries. His remaining three chapters cover the tools of cooperation (such as bibliographies and union catalogs); international cooperation; and, in conclusion, plans and prospects for the future of library cooperation. He supplies a bibliography, the sections of which parallel his arrangement of chapters, and an index.

It is a pity that the American publishers of this book do not make clear in its title that Mr. Jefferson is really concerned only with British library cooperation. True enough, the Farmington Plan and the Scandia Plan and the activities of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft are described in the chapter on cooperative acquisition, and US schemes for cooperative storage are fully treated in the subsequent chapter; but this is only because acquisition and storage are such important aspects of cooperation, and Mr. Jefferson would not have been able to find much to say regarding either of these if he had confined himself to Britain’s less significant efforts.

Nevertheless, this book is a most creditable achievement. The material is succinctly marshalled and agreeably presented. The author is not concerned with exhortation or high-flying: just good sense, sound judgment, and above all, a conviction that “the interlibrary loan, like patriotism” is not enough, but that library cooperation must be regarded as having an everwidening connotation.—James Thompson, University of Glasgow.


This book is an introductory work for beginners and those with a little experience working in private law libraries. The em-