

recent years. The facts were gathered during 1961 and the delay in publication is to be regretted, but fortunately it can be anticipated that the picture will be brought up to date by the comprehensive study of Canadian libraries soon to be made by Lowell Martin.

The provincial libraries, as defined by Dr. Beard, comprise the legislative library and the library extension agency of each of the ten provinces. The first third of his book is devoted to an account of their historical development; the remainder is a description and comparison of them as they were in 1961, with chapters on organization, personnel, resources, administrative services and functions, reader services, and the "present versus potential role of provincial libraries." Published information on the libraries was supplemented by an extensive questionnaire and by personal interviews. In addition, sixteen leading Canadian librarians representing institutions other than provincial libraries replied to a questionnaire that dealt with the place that provincial libraries ought to have in province-wide systems of library service.

The ten provinces are perhaps even more diverse than the fifty states, and their legislative libraries and extension services vary widely. It is clear that Canadian librarians are not prepared to advocate any single pattern of organizational and governmental framework for provincial libraries, but agreement is more general when functions, services, and resources are considered, and Dr. Beard's recommendations appear to be thoroughly sound. He advocates legislation to provide a sound legal base for those provincial libraries that do not now have one; emphasis on better use of personnel and in-service training; formulation of acquisition policies; agreements with other libraries for sharing of responsibility in building resources; closer cooperation with graduate library schools; a campaign for federal aid to libraries; definition of the population for whom direct reader services are to be provided; improved statistical records; and establishment of minimum standards. He observes also that further research is needed on the library extension services, which in some provinces are provided by agencies

other than the regular library extension agency, and that further investigation is desirable of salaries, working conditions, personnel policies, and other factors affecting staff morale.

There are frequent references to the ALA *Standards for Library Functions at the State Level*, but individual provincial libraries have not been compared with state libraries. It would have been interesting to explore the likenesses and contrasts at least to some extent, but Dr. Beard has succeeded very well in doing the job that he set out to do: he was provided an excellent foundation for further study and planning. —*Edwin E. Williams, Harvard University.*

***Information Work Today; Papers Presented at a Symposium for Information Workers Held at Liverpool School of Librarianship in September, 1966.*** Ed. by Bernard Houghton. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books & Clive Bingley, 1967. 119p. \$4.50.

A need exists for short courses designed specifically for industrial information workers who are new to the field. The short course appears to be a more practical training alternative than either in-service training or graduate study since it is both difficult to devise a thorough in-service training program and expensive for an organization to give employees leaves of absence for long periods of time.

*Information Work Today* is a compilation of ten lectures presented as a short course sponsored by the Liverpool school of librarianship. The course is for professional workers and, as such, is considerably more detailed and concentrated than a comparable course for clerical workers would be.

The lectures present a broad survey of industrial information service. The first two lectures, by D. Mason and D. Ball, are applicable to any special library. The administrative and physical organization, the services which can be offered, the necessity of knowing the research interests of the users and of having personal contact with the users are described by them in non-technical language.

The real value of this course is that it

presents many of the numerous sources of information outside the immediate library collections which are available to British industry, and which are often overlooked. Descriptions of these sources comprise the major part of the lectures. There is an excellent brief description of the British patent system by F. Newby. Other lectures describe the public technical library services, commercial information sources, the organization and problems associated with the technical report literature, and special library cooperation in Britain. The last lecture, by B. C. Vickery, is an interesting introduction to the problems of organizing an information file. These problems could well be the subject of the next short course, if one is planned.

Since the sources cited are primarily British, the usefulness of this book is somewhat limited for American industrial information workers. However, within the stated objectives of the course—that is, as an introduction to British industrial information work—it fills the need for information at this level.—*Ted Srygley, University of Florida.*

**Health Sciences Librarianship.** By Irving Lieberman. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1967. xii, 216p.

To many medical librarians the established pattern of medical education seems to be one which library education might profitably follow. The characteristics of this pattern are that the teaching is done by *practitioners* of the art, and an internship follows to consolidate the teaching. With such a model constantly before them, it is not surprising that the medical librarians at an invitational conference on education for health sciences librarianship held in Seattle in September 1967 should find themselves pulling in a different direction from the library educators. Predictably, the specialist librarians were concerned with cutting out the inessentials to get to the vital concern of specialized education, while the generalists inclined to the superimposing of specialized information onto a core common to all library training. Amicability seems to have prevailed, perhaps unfortunately. Participation was no doubt a sal-

utary experience but the published report includes little that is new except turns of phrase, and will hardly serve, as its editor hoped, as "a framework which any graduate library school might use in developing a program for health sciences librarianship."

Dr. Brodman trenchantly states the need for all librarians to develop their own interface with the machine. Dr. Kronick jovially implies that the whole thing may be premature because there is insufficient data about the nature of the work to be done in medical libraries. Dr. Bodemer correctly indicates that the history of medicine is one of several developing "social science" areas which will result in increasing demand on medical libraries from people outside the medical community, but he probably exaggerates the importance of medical history in the total picture. Dr. Pings hints at the great gap between theorizing and doing in library education when he says that the library school is presently the only institution that has the facility to sponsor and develop new *hospital* health science educational programs. (That will be the day.)

The present state of medical library educational programs is fairly well documented in the proceedings. The conclusions of the meeting, such as they were, are adequately summed up by Dr. Lieberman, and some gratuitous bulk is added by the inclusion of twenty-two pages of biographies of the participants.—*G. S. T. Cavanaugh, Duke University.*

**Progress of Libraries in Free India; Being a Symposium on Library Science by Some Eminent and Experienced Librarians of India.** Ed. by N. B. Sen. New Delhi: New Book Society of India, 1967. 247p. \$6.

This compilation is similar to the editor's *Development of Libraries in New India*, which was published in 1965. It consists of twenty-eight articles on a variety of topics related to libraries and librarianship in India. Most of the articles are by Indian librarians and teachers of library science who are well known and highly regarded in India, with a few articles by non-librarians also included. Unfortunately, the editor has not organized the material in any