

The Postwar Role of Libraries

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IF OUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS—with their contents specifically addressed to discussions of librarianship and assorted library problems and speculations—may be regarded as our textbooks and required reading, there is a contiguous field of periodical publication which should very properly be looked upon as recommended collateral reading for librarians serving in institutions of higher learning.

The Editor of *College and Research Libraries* has suggested an inspection of recent issues of some of these allied publications and the citation of those articles which may mold our thinking about the role of libraries in the postwar world. What follows is, therefore, suggested reading from the June, July, and August, 1943, issues of eight selected journals. Three of these are publications specifically prepared for laborers in the limited vineyard of higher education; two are aimed at a less restricted audience of educators; and the remaining three, though they should probably be classified as "general" magazines, address themselves largely to those whose interests are pointed toward activities in higher academic fields. There has been, it must be confessed, little more in the way of thoughtful criteria in the selection of these eight journals than proximity on nearby reading room shelves,

but no article is cited which does not appear to make some contribution worth our consideration to the growing mass of suggestions concerning the educational era that lies ahead.

Only rarely, it must be admitted, in such articles as these does one come upon a specific reference to the obligations or potentialities of the library. The mandate for librarians, however, is none the less implicit, and sometimes richly so, in these discussions. By them you may be impelled to readings between the lines, to concrete adaptations of vague suggestions, or to particularizations and local applications of general ideas. Articles like these contain pertinences of many sorts to the library problems which will face us. Certainly as administrative officers and as contributors to decisions concerning the educational trends and policies of their institutions, librarians must and will want to keep themselves informed of the thoughts and controversies and plannings which concern that section of the educational world in which they are to continue to operate.

The May issue (v. 29, no. 3) of the *Association of American Colleges Bulletin* does not come within the dates proposed for this article but it is, at the time of writing, the most recent issue of a publication which college librarians should watch. It would be particularly unfortunate to miss this number for it contains an important committee report (p. 269-74) with President James P. Baxter's introductory com-

ment on it: the report (adopted by the Commission on Liberal Education of the Association of American Colleges) of the Committee on the Re-Statement of the Nature and Aims of Liberal Education entitled "The Post-War Responsibilities of Liberal Education" (p. 275-99). The issue contains as well three pertinent articles: President Algo D. Henderson's "A Proposal for Saving the Humanities" (p. 175-80); (reprinted from the March 1943 *The Catholic University Bulletin*) the Rt. Rev. George Johnson's article entitled "The Financial Outlook for Privately Supported Institutions of Higher Learning" (p. 181-86); and President Charles E. Diehl's "Postwar Liberal Arts Education" (p. 196-201).

The *American Association of University Professors Bulletin* (which has in its April issue such relevant articles as Hardin Craig's "The Universities after the War" and Gerald Barnes' "Education for 1950") reprints (with a different preamble) in the June number (vol. 29, no. 3, p. 412-31) the text of the committee report cited in the preceding paragraph. This report is followed (p. 432-33) by a statement concerning the Universities Committee on Post-War International Problems.

The *Journal of Higher Education* (June 1943, v. 14, no. 6, p. 285-88, 342) contains Norman Foerster's "A University Prepared for Victory."

Turning to the less specialized educational press, there is in the latest available

issue of *The Educational Forum* (May 1943, v. 7, no. 4, p. 369-74) Harl R. Douglass' "Essentials of a Post-War Educational Program," which discusses pre-college obligations and opportunities as well as those of higher education. In *The Educational Record* (July 1943, v. 24, no. 3, p. 293-305) President Robert Clothier, of Rutgers University, writes on "The War Training Programs and Post-war Education."

General Magazines

Three "general" journals remain. In the midst of other suggestions on "securing the peace" there is in the *Journal of the American Association of University Women* (summer 1943, v. 36, no. 4, p. 228-29) a section on "Women's Part in the Post-War World." The inclusion of two letters in *The American Scholar* (summer 1943, v. 12, no. 3, p. 381-83) permits me not only to cite them but to remind you of the earlier appearance (in the spring issue) of Wendell Willkie's "Freedom and the Liberal Arts." In *American Oxonian* (July 1943, v. 30, no. 3, p. 127-35) there is reprinted from the preceding February *Reader's Digest*, Robert Moses's "Consult the Average American about the Postwar World" with the valuable addition of three letters of comment by President John W. Nason, of Swarthmore College, Professor Bernadotte Schmitt, of the University of Chicago, and Superior Court Judge Frank G. Swain, of Los Angeles.