

of books than in some American institutions. In one other respect too, Scandinavian libraries may become models rather than recipients of foreign influences. As the smaller "undeveloped" countries of the world begin to establish their library systems they might logically turn to Scandinavia where some conditions prevail which more closely parallel their own: the existence of small but distinctive national language groups, implying special problems and opportunities in such areas as book publishing and bibliographical control; limited financial resources which provide challenges that the Scandinavians have met by imaginative planning and intelligent state support of their libraries. Thus, both from the point of view of what we may learn and what we can point out to others as worthy examples, we should be aware of Scandinavian librarianship. Toward this end we may hope that other studies of this kind will be made in this country.

In the reviewer's opinion this work would have been considerably strengthened by a chapter early in the book relating Norwegian library development to the broader intellectual and social history which preceded it. The period of the "Modern Awakening" in Norwegian literature, for example, is mentioned only briefly in the last chapter, but as Hanna Astrup Larsen writes elsewhere, "The importance of the epoch can hardly be stressed too much. It is possible to trace every new development in modern Norway to the literature which in the 1870's was dominated by . . . Ibsen, Bjørnson, Lie and Kielland." Without the ferment that it caused, American library influence in Norway could hardly have taken root. It is only within the historical context that the reform of Norwegian libraries becomes fully understandable. The American example in librarianship stood ready but would have been left unnoticed if many a Mrs. Alving had not had the courage to read the books which the old authoritarian Pastor Manders condemned without ever examining.

The volume is indexed, has several useful statistical tables and a map showing the location of places mentioned in the text. The author is well acquainted with the Norwegian and American sources of the material and has carefully annotated his work. Aside from the reservation noted, this is a most re-

liable investigation of the subject and a source of considerable information about Norwegian libraries generally.—*Thomas R. Buckman, University of Kansas Libraries.*

Chemical Literature Retrieval

Progress Report in Chemical Literature Retrieval. (Advances in Documentation and Library Science, Volume 1.) Gilbert L. Peakes, Allen Kent, and James W. Perry, eds. New York: Interscience Publishers, 1957, 217 p. \$4.75.

In 1956, over ninety thousand articles of chemical interest were abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts*. If one considers the literature which has been published, the two-fold problem of keeping up with the current literature and searching the accumulated literature is appreciated. Despite the fact that chemistry is considered the best bibliographically organized science, present methods of information storage and retrieval in this subject are considered inadequate. The problems are complex. There are, for example, an estimated six hundred thousand organic chemicals, each of which can and often should be indexed from a number of levels.

Considerable work is now being done by industrial libraries, governmental agencies and other organizations on finding and trying out improved indexing methods. The present volume, which is based on two symposia of the division of Chemical Literature of the American Chemical Society, describes some of this work. Individual chapters deal with case histories of hand- and machine-sorted punched card installations, coding of organic chemicals, description of punched card equipment, and some "long-hair" thinking about documentation problems. Notably missing are discussions of manual correlative indexing systems (aside from brief comments by Mortimer Taube) and discussions of traditional library indexing systems.

Two of the fourteen chapters (eleven and thirteen), are almost identical to two chapters in volume two of this series. (Volume two appeared several weeks before volume one). Chapter two is very similar to, though not as detailed as, two chapters in Casey and Perry's book on punched cards which was published in 1951.

Unlike other "Advances in" types of publications, and unlike volume two of this series, this book does not (nor do I think it intends to) give an overall view of documentation.

The book will make interesting introductory reading for chemical librarians who are not familiar with documentation literature.—*Gerald Jahoda, Esso Company, Linden, N. J.*

ACRL Microcard Series—Abstract of Titles

VLOEBERGH, HELEN ELIZABETH, 1920—

A history of the New York State Library from 1815 to 1905. Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1957. (viii, 76 l. diagr., tables. 28cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 83) Thesis (M.S. in L.S.)—Catholic University of America, 1955. Bibliography: 1. 75-76. 3 cards. \$.75.

As at other state depositories, law was for a long time the principal collection at New York State Library. However, as time went on, a more comprehensive collection was developed and by 1875 New York State Library totalled 95,000 volumes, making it the largest collection of its kind. The foremost name in its roster of directors is that of Melvil Dewey. At the time of Dewey's resignation in 1905 his library still ranked first among the state libraries and fifth among the libraries of America. Today it is a branch of the State Education Department of New York and thus holds a position which is unique among state libraries.

HUDON, EDWARD GERARD, 1915—

The library facilities of the Supreme Court of the United States: a historical study, Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1957. (iii, 88 l. tables. 28cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 84) Thesis (M.S. in L.S.)—Catholic University of America, 1956. Bibliography: 1. 82-88. 3 cards. \$.75.

The study concerns itself with the library facilities which have officially been available to the Supreme Court of the United States throughout its history. It is, to a considerable extent, a detailed examination of the book collections which the Supreme Court has used officially throughout its history to do its work and covers the period, 1790-1954. The investigation shows that the history of the library facilities of the Supreme Court has, in effect, been a process of evolution from meager beginnings to an admirable

collection of 180,000 volumes housed since 1935 in a building of its own.

HARVEY, JOHN FREDERICK, 1921—

The librarian's career; a study of mobility. Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1957. (vii, 230 l. tables, 28cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 85) 6 cards. \$1.50.

This monograph reports the results of a sociological analysis of the occupational mobility reported by a selected group of librarians. The job histories of 1,300 chief college and public librarians were examined against hypotheses concerning three types of vertical mobility—by position level, library size, and advancement level—and four types of horizontal mobility—by type of library, kind of library work, geographic mobility, and mobility into librarianship. Conclusions were reached on such topics as the factors associated with rapid and slow advancement in the profession, the extent of mobility among librarians, and personal characteristics related to advancement.

HOLDER, ELIZABETH JEROME, 1914—

A history of the library of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, 1892-1945. Rochester, N. Y., University of Rochester Press for the Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1957. (144 l. 29cm. ACRL MICROCARD SERIES, no. 86) Thesis (M.S. in L.S.)—University of North Carolina, 1955. Bibliography: 1. 121-128. 4 cards. \$1.00.

When the State Normal and Industrial School for white girls opened in Greensboro, N. C. in October, 1892, its library was a small collection of donated books housed in a classroom. Between 1892 and 1945 the school became successively the State Normal and Industrial College, the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial College, the North Carolina College for Women, and the Woman's College of