

Electronic and Photo-conductive Methods (e.g. Xerox), and Thermic, Catalytic and Other Methods (e.g. Thermofax).

In general the chapters of each sub-section consist of a descriptive text that is complete yet concise. This is followed by illustrative material if available. Next comes a bibliography, and then a listing of manufacturers and apparatus by country of origin. After this appears a section of descriptive literature from cooperating manufacturers, generally in the form of reprints of the specification pages of advertising brochures. At present this section provides only a most incomplete coverage of the firms listed in the division before it. It is hoped that other manufacturers will heed the invitation made in the editorial note: "An appeal is made to all readers and users to supply the editors with comments, additions and corrections so that gradually the manual will become less tentative in form and contents. . . ."

One must criticize this manual for the difficulty of interpreting the information in the listing of equipment. It is an arduous task to tabulate the inconsistent information supplied about their products by the manufacturers of reproduction equipment. It can be done however, as exemplified by the tables in the UNESCO Survey (*UNESCO Survey of Microfilm Use 1951*. Paris, UNESCO, June 5, 1952. 43 pp.).

Interest about and concern over the problems of communications appear to be issues facing all libraries today. The universality of this manual makes it a necessary reference tool for all but the smallest institutions. Ralph Shaw in his introduction sums it up in this manner: "It is, therefore, an attempt to enumerate the methods for reproduction and selection available so that these methods can be studied in relationship to all the other conditions in reaching a decision as to which is the best method for reproducing any given publication, at any given time, in any given place."—Hubbard W. Ballou, *Columbia University Libraries*.

## Foreign Medical Periodicals

*Union List of Foreign Medical Periodicals, 1941-1952*. Japanese Medical Library Association. Tokyo, Japan, Kokusai Shobo Ltd., 1954. 124 p.

In 1942, the third edition of the *Union List of Periodicals in Medical Schools* was published by the Japanese Medical Library Association in keeping with its policy of contributing to the development of Japanese medical science and the facilities for research in the field of medicine. Although a number of the Association's subsequent publications—*Union Catalogue of Medical Works in Medical Schools* (six volumes published, three in process), *Catalogue of Japanese Medical Periodicals* (1941), *Classification of Medical References* (1936), and the *General Index of Foreign Medical Works for the Last Ten Years* (1951) have in some respects had features which served the 1942 list in a supplementary capacity, the first direct descendant and accurate indicator in the true sense of being a union list, is the work reviewed in this statement—the *Union List of Foreign Medical Periodicals, 1941-1952*.

This work, however, is distinctly different from the parent publication in several respects. First its language media makes it a tool of value not only for the Japanese medical practitioner and research specialist, but for medical men and women the world over. In addition to the publications being listed by title in the language of a publication's origin, the locator device (symbols) and its key are in English, rather than in Japanese characters as in the 1942 edition. The one exception noticed in the matter of titles being listed in language of origin is the Russian *Arkhiv anatomii histologii i embriologii* (*Archives russes d'anatomie, d'histologie et d'embryologie*). In the 1942 edition the main entry was in Russian with a French translation.

Paucity of Russian titles notwithstanding, it may be said that the scope of the work, in listing the libraries' holdings, is universal in coverage. There are 1734 titles listed. These are located in the holdings of the 77 cooperating major medical libraries of Japan.

Where the 1942 periodical list was compiled with several parts and sections, much of it entirely in Japanese, the present smaller, more compact work, is in a single alphabet by title arrangement. The pages are double columned with the first word of each title in heavy black type which stands out clearly, providing a means for rapid finding. Preceding each first word in the margin is the title's numbered listing in fine type. Each entry lists the title

and place of publication. Below each listing are the capital letter symbols indicating the library or libraries in which the titles are located, with the volume number, the year in parentheses, the issue number, viz:

- 1618 VIRCHOWS Archiv für pathologische Anatomie und Physiologie und für klinische Medizin. Berlin.  
BR FS NM WK 321(1951)-  
CB 321(1952)2-

Presumably, when a volume is complete and the entry open, the year only is shown. In a few instances certain inconsistencies in entry data were noted. Instances of indicating holdings by months of issue instead of by numbers for a single title within a single entry were noticed, viz:

- 1062 MODERN drugs  
SN 1952  
TAH 1952 1 4 7-8 10-  
TS 1952 Jan. Apr.

But such inconsistencies appear infrequently; and although this reviewer had been appraised of one error in entry and of one publication incorrectly having two entries under two different titles for the same periods, these points were not observed.

This publication was begun, according to the editors, during the latter part of October or early November, 1952. Six months later, the participating librarians had completed submitting the data requested relating to their library holdings—a noteworthy achievement. The editorial committee completed its compilation and sent the work to the printer in the summer of 1953. That it remained in the printer's hands unduly long and was not ready for distribution until March 1954 is regrettable, for a considerable time lag in the currency of the list's entries resulted.

Yet, by and large, the publication of the *Union List of Foreign Medical Periodicals, 1941-1952*, is a creditable achievement. Not only is it a valuable addition to medical bibliographic tools, but its completion is a tribute to the individuals responsible for its undertaking, and to those who put much time and effort into the work. It is decidedly a step in the right direction of furthering cooperative undertakings for the general gain of bibliographic control and librarianship in Japan. Librarians of Japan, as a group and individ-

ually, may well observe and profit from the example of fruitful results stemming from cooperative professional enterprise. It is an approach to bibliographic control which, for the most part, is superior to individual bibliographic pursuit which, in the past, has been a strong tendency among librarians in Japan.

The *Union List of Foreign Medical Periodicals* is a further contribution to the development of interlibrary loan practices in Japan, and as such, it is an essential tool in the medical literature field. And, outside of Japan, as well, it may serve as an excellent universal checklist of medical serial publications.—*Robert L. Gütlér, Japan Library School, Keio-Gijuku University, Tokyo, Japan.*

## Historians, Books, and Libraries

*Historians, Books, and Libraries: a Survey of Historical Scholarship in Relation to Library Resources, Organization and Services.* By Jesse Hauk Shera. Cleveland, Western Reserve University Press, 1953. xvi, 126 pp. \$3.50.

"History is little more than romance to him who has no knowledge of the succession of events, the periods of dominion, and the distance between one great action and another." So wrote Dr. Johnson nearly two hundred years ago, in a plea for adequate knowledge of chronology. Perhaps everyone will grant that dates and chronology are important, although most people feel no personal obligation to keep them in mind. But the record of historical scholarship both before and since Dr. Johnson is one of continuing uncertainty as to the meaning of history. Perhaps Herodotus, who implied that history really was little more than romance, seems about as adequate to many readers today as do Vico, Carlyle, Taine, Spengler, Beard, Toynbee, and the Marxists, all of whom by their differing philosophies have written history as prophecy. Many earnest followers of the great von Ranke have become so enmeshed in all "the facts as they happened" that they are unable to determine the truth, a difficulty the *New York Times* has likewise found puzzling. It is therefore scarcely astonishing that