

## Book Reviews

**Bibliographical Control and Service.** By Roy Stokes. New York: London House and Maxwell, 1965. 125p. \$4.95. (65-26280).

The purpose of this little textbook is a modest one, viz., to assist the student who is preparing himself for "Paper Four of Part One" of the recently revised examination syllabus of The (British) Library Association. The result, appropriately enough, is a modest publication in the writing of which one feels that the author, well known for his editorship of the much more distinguished *A Student's Manual of Bibliography*, was somewhat ill at ease in being obliged to follow strictly "the order of the items in the syllabus of this examination."

More than one American librarian must have been surprised in the past year or two by what would appear to be a minor explosion in England in the production of textbooks of librarianship. Time was when The Library Association, The Association of Assistant Librarians, and Grafton, with an occasional and usually more notable contribution from Allen and Unwin, just about covered everything. Today a small bandwagon seems to be rolling and on it we find Deutsch (the London publisher of *Bibliographical Control and Service*), Clive Bingley, Crosby Lockwood, Butterworths, and others. The situation is such that it might well call for a modicum of "bibliographical control" all on its own. Certainly it is a matter for regret that much of this greatly increased output is undistinguished, betraying obvious signs of hasty preparation and carrying with it the unmistakable odor of a British library school classroom (the author of the work under review is head of the Loughborough school of librarianship). Maybe the new examination syllabus is largely to blame for this sad state of affairs. From the evidence revealed in Mr. Stokes's textbook "Paper Four of Part One" must be something of a hotchpotch. In the first chapter, for example, we are brought up against the formidable forebodings of Vannevar Bush; in chapter 5 we are given such bits of information as: "One of these is the *recto*

page, which is the right-hand one when looking at the complete opening of a book while the *verso* page, or the *verso* of a leaf, is the one on the reverse"! Somehow one feels that the author was more on his home ground in this very useful chapter on "Contemporary Production Methods." The difficulty is seeing what it has to do with all that has gone before.

The major part of the book and, presumably, of "Paper Four of Part One" is concerned with a listing of the major general bibliographies, selection aids, and reference works, with which the student is expected to familiarize himself. Whenever possible, references to the Winchell or Walford numbers or both are given. This is a useful device and certainly saves what would otherwise be wasteful repetition. At the same time it scarcely enhances the appearance of the page.

The listings, like the whole publication, are comparatively modest and, in general, somewhat insular. This is perhaps inevitable in view of the purpose of the book. Certainly the librarian of any sizeable academic library in the United States would find the lists of little value as aids to collection building. Indeed there are times when insularity goes too far. Whatever they may do at Harvard, the Library of Congress spells catalog without the *ue*!

The book was produced in Great Britain—again modestly and at an original price of 18s, which is almost half the American publication price at the current rate of exchange.—*J. Clement Harrison, Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.*

**The Public Library and the City.** Ed. by Ralph W. Conant. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1965. xii, 216p. \$6.75 (65-27504).

In 1963, the Joint Center for Urban Studies (MIT and Harvard) and the National Book Committee sponsored a Symposium on Library Functions in the Changing Metropolis. *The Public Library and the City* is an edited collection of some of the papers presented at the symposium—not all of the papers delivered there have