

# Charles Harvey Brown: The Man

IN AN ARTICLE in the March 1945 issue of *College and Research Libraries*, Charles Harvey Brown referred to the library as "a house by the side of the road, in which students and faculty congregate to prepare for their life work and to serve the ever-increasing demands of scholarship." The present special issue of *College and Research Libraries* is a tribute to a librarian who was able to put into practice this ideal that "the library is a service institution" and "is not an ivory tower." Whether Charles Harvey Brown, or Charlie Brown as he is known to his colleagues in libraries and on faculties, was concerned with the immediate administrative problems of the Iowa State College Library or with the question of the reorganization of the A.L.A., German periodicals, the education of librarians for scientific institutions and the problems of science libraries generally, the building up of resources of libraries, problems of Chinese libraries, or other major facets of American and international librarianship, there was a conclusion that could generally be drawn: he would get the job done.

The papers assembled for this issue are a testimony to the energy and productivity of one of America's outstanding librarians. In her comments at the Buffalo meeting, Blanche Prichard McCrum referred to Dr. Brown as "senior statesman of the A.L.A." She further recalled that he was also one of the founding fathers of A.C.R.L.

His bibliography reveals his versatility and the wide contribution that he has made to American librarianship. There is one side of Charles Harvey Brown, however, which has not been emphasized in the various articles which are included in this issue. This is his concern for the development of young librarians who could "carry the ball" after a period of guided training. For, in addition to his many other contributions, Charles Brown has been genuinely interested in elevating librarianship to the point where there could be no question about its claim to the status of a "profession." No librarian of an institution is able to perform on a high level of efficiency without the support and confidence of his staff. Dr. Brown, through his in-service program at Iowa State, has been influential in encouraging many young men and women to grow in their careers as librarians. Straightforward, able, honest, and unpretending, Dr. Brown has enjoyed the respect and admiration of many friends and colleagues, even when they disagreed with him, as well as the gratitude of countless students and faculty members who have benefited by his dogged determination to provide library service on the highest level.

It is pleasant to know that Dr. Brown is not giving up active librarianship at the moment. He intends to keep busy at Iowa State College Library, and, as we may all be sure, will retain interest in other problems of librarianship.—M. F. T.