offset printing, mass production of cheap reprints, a shift from verbal to pictorial presentation, all these factors seem to spell the doom of the typographic art as a valid expression of intellectual content.

Jan Tschichold's *Designing Books* is a vivid demonstration of the kind of values we stand to lose if we surrender thoughtlessly and without a struggle to forces primarily motivated by efficiency demands and economics. That is one important function of this book. From this follows another one: The loss of these standards is by no means a matter of inevitable necessity. The task of meeting the cultural challenge of mass production lies still much more before than behind us. Such books as Jan Tschichold's are important yardsticks of quality against quantity. Above all, they demonstrate the values that may very well prove capable of transfer or redefinition in mass production, if enough people believe that such a thing is not unimportant. This is a question in which the vote of the library profession carries a great deal of weight.—*Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, New School for Social Research.*

Library Practice Abroad

Biblioteksproblem; några synpunkter på biblioteksarbetets organisation och rationalisering. Ed. by Valter Ahlstedt, Knut Knutsson, Folke Löfgren. Stockholm, Natur och Kulter, 1952. 172p. Sw. Kr. 8.25.

The Bibliotekstekniska Klubben is a group founded in Stockholm in 1943 to bring into open discussion some of the more urgent problems of modern librarianship. The present volume contains six essays, five by Swedish librarians and one by a Danish librarian, which were presented to the club. Four of the contributors are members of the staff of the Stockholm Public Library; and all three of the editors, including head librarian Knut Knutsson, are officers of the same library. There are English summaries of each of the essays on p. 167-172.

The first three essays deal with problems of cataloging and classification. Valter Ahlstedt, an amanuensis at the Stockholm Public Library, writes on "Enhetskatalogisering" ("uniform cataloging" rather than "unit cataloging", as defined in the English summary). Ahlstedt argues for intrinsic uniformity based on the three main functions of the catalog

(entry, description, and location). He frowns on the stern rigidity of codes such as the Anglo-American and the Prussian *Instruktion,* the two most influential, which enforce uniformity rather than encourage it. In his essay on "The Relations between Cataloging and Administration" E. Allerslev Jensen, an inspector in the Danish Directorate of State Libraries, reviews some of the American discusions of cataloging problems during the last decade and studies their applicability to the Scandinavian scene. He argues for simplified inter-Scandinavian cataloging rules with printed cards issued coordinately with the national bibliography (precisely what was started within the last year by the Deutsche Bibliothek at Frankfurt am Main). His contention that cataloging as a technique is subordinate to the basic purposes of the library represents a refreshing viewpoint.

Carl Björkbom, librarian of the Royal Technological University in Stockholm, contributes a study of "Principles of Bibliographical Classification" in which he expounds the virtues of a "synthetic classificatory language" as opposed to natural language. He uses the Decimal Classification as the point of departure for his discussion. He points out that classification is not to be viewed primarily as a scheme for arrangement of books on the shelves but rather as a device for the codification of knowledge (thus making it an indispensable tool in the mechanization of bibliography).

Folke Löfgren, "first librarian" at the Stockholm Public Library, reports on the result of job analysis and work measurement at his library, an operation which resulted in substantial reassignment of clerical and professional duties through reduction of the professional staff and expansion of the clerical staff.

Pertrus Jonsson, an amanuensis at the Stockholm Public Library, examines the peculiarly Scandinavian problem of satisfying the claims of creative writers for a certain subsidy based on the circulation of their books in public libraries. ("The Library Fee Question" is a somewhat misleading translation in the English summary.) In Denmark and Norway creative writers receive a subsidy based on the circulation of their books in public libraries; and while the Swedish Writers' Guild has made similar demands, Jonsson rejects them for an alternative pro-

gram of his own providing for increased subsidies to Swedish authors on a somewhat different basis. It would seem clear that the larger a country is, the less applicable is the demand of an author for a subsidy as reimbursement for free circulation of his books.

The last essay, by Helge Berthelson, an amanuensis at the Stockholm Public Library, deals with the libraries of the Uppsala student corporations (not "fraternities" in our sense of the word, as the author of the English summary translates *nation*). Ranging in size from 2,000 volumes in Gotlands Nation to some 34,000 in Vestmanlands-Dalas Nation, these libraries go back to the eighteenth century. Recent proposals include a union catalog (in process) and the establishment of a library of curricular reading to be selected from the present holdings of the corporation libraries.

This first collection of lectures at the Bibliotekstekniska Klubben is at once an informative and a provocative volume, and readers will look forward to the publication of a second series. —*Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky Libraries.*

Punched Cards

Punched Cards; Their Applications to Science and Industry. Edited by Robert S. Casey and James W. Perry. New York, Reinhold Publishing Corp., 1951. viii, 506p. $10.00.

Though the general problem of the organization of knowledge and the specific matter of discovering the ways in which bits of data are interrelated are perhaps as old as recorded history, both have recently become matters of great and pressing concern. As the amount of time and money going into scientific research increases, the failure of conventional methods of literature control gives rise to experimentation with various mechanical devices. This book is a collection of papers on practices and philosophies developed for the most part by scientists who see the punched card as ". . . opening up new possibilities for coping with the growing mountain of research publication." (p. 9)

Over thirty individuals with first-hand experience in using punched cards or with an interest in them as a possible basis for solving the problem of bibliographic control have contributed to this book. Leading off with a

rather brief but fairly detailed description of the major varieties of punched cards, the editors then have rounded up a group of 14 case histories in a variety of fields, 10 papers on basic issues such as coding, indexing, and classification, and one on future possibilities, and have reproduced as the last section the extensive bibliography previously made available through the American Chemical Society.

As with most collections, the papers vary in quality considerably, and are to some extent repetitious. A few of the contributors approach their subject as though they had discovered both a problem and a solution hitherto unknown. Consequently, some bits of specious reasoning and rather elementary statements of philosophy are included which may amuse or annoy, depending on the reader. Some of the papers included are to be found in other sources, and few of the ideas expressed in the book are unique. However, for either the specialist with a problem to solve, or for the general librarian who proposes to keep informed on recent developments, *Punched Cards* should be of interest. For the specialist, it provides a handbook dealing with such specific matters as the spacing of code fields to such general considerations as a theoretical discussion on the number of combinations possible with various codes. The specialist will find a kind of ready-made literature search more complete than he could develop for himself for ten dollars' worth of time.

The general librarian will find less of interest. *Punched Cards* adds little, if anything, by way of new or unusual thinking; indeed, some may be annoyed by the rather airy dismissal of topics which have baffled experts in classification for years. For example, what constitutes "ample capacity for future expansion" of either a coding system or a classification scheme? Some of the papers in this book approach that problem, but none proposes any generally acceptable answer. Nonetheless, the book does provide a review of the uses of punched cards—both hand-sorted and machine-sorted—in information services of various kinds.

One of the most valuable parts of *Punched Cards* is its twenty-five page annotated "Bibliography on the Uses of Punched Cards." This reviewer had occasion to make extensive use of the bibliography in its original form (in the *Journal of Documentation*) and found it to be the most helpful single source of