

material, but even so one is surprised to find the chapter on "Libraries in Hospitals" dealing with all sorts of libraries, medical school libraries as well as medical sections of public libraries. There is little in the chapter on "Cataloguing and Classification" except outlines of various medical classification schemes, the finding that in 1957 nine out of 109 British medical libraries were using sheaf catalogs, and the fact that author catalogs are essential.

Mr. Thornton, the medical librarian at St. Bart's in London, has provided us with some useful works, but the book under review is not one of them. It is to be feared that the hope expressed—"that all medical librarians will find material for discussion in the summaries of controversial topics"—is entirely vain.—*Frank B. Rogers, University of Colorado Medical Center.*

Répertoire des Bibliothèques d'Étude et Organismes de Documentation. Publié sous l'égide de la Délégation Générale à la Recherche Scientifique et Technique. 3 vols. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1963. 1233p. 85 n.f.

This guide presents information on nearly twenty-four hundred French scholarly libraries and documentation centers. Since the present work will, for most purposes, replace the *Répertoire des Bibliothèques de France* (3 vols., Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1950-51), the user's first reaction is to compare it with its predecessor. At the outset he notes the basic similarity: a directory of libraries and documentation centers with information presented on a fixed number of points and with an index to facilitate use. The differences between the two compilations fall into three groups: (1) scope, (2) information presented, and (3) arrangement.

The later directory has a narrower scope than the earlier; it includes only scholarly libraries and documentation centers and thus contains no information on the central lending services of the *départements* or on certain municipal libraries (even for those which are included there is no mention of lending and children's services or of branches). Beyond metropolitan France two libraries (in French Guiana and Guadeloupe)

are included as well as one in Monaco, but gone of course are listings for Algeria. Neither Martinique nor Réunion (both in the earlier list) figure here. Nevertheless, total coverage has increased from 1634 to 2382 institutions, or about 45 per cent.

Each entry contains the following information: name of library or documentation center; name of parent organization to which it belongs; address, telephone number, cable and teletype address; hours of service and dates of annual closing; purpose and activities of parent organization; lending policies; subject strengths and special collections; statistics (1960) of volumes, additions, periodicals currently received and of other forms of material held; classification used; catalogs available; documentation (*i.e.*, special bibliographical tools and services to facilitate the reader's work); translation services; union catalogs to which information is supplied; publications; photoduplication services; historical data and references. Although this corresponds generally to information found in the 1950-51 guide, three items (reading rooms; administration, including the names of the director and department heads; and source of funds) have been dropped, while three (classification, documentation, and translation services) are new. The fullness of entries varies, those for the larger libraries being longer and more complete than those for the smaller. As one might expect, the longest entry (I, 60-72) deals with the Bibliothèque Nationale; divided into eleven sections, it covers general information and the library's departments (*viz.*, Maps, Acquisitions, Prints, Printed Books, Manuscripts, Oriental Manuscripts, Numismatics, Music, Serials, and the Annex at Versailles). The average listing seems to require between one-quarter and one-half page. In a few cases the *Répertoire* merely serves to indicate the existence of a collection, since little information is provided other than that access is strictly limited.

Users of the earlier compilation will recall that it devotes one volume to Parisian libraries, one to those in the provinces, and one to documentation centers. The new version incorporates the last category into the first two groups. The first volume, however, now comprises not only organizations in Paris but also those in the two surrounding

départements (Seine and Seine-et-Oise); and the arrangement of entries has also changed. The division into four parts (the Bibliothèque Nationale, the University of Paris, general libraries, and special libraries) has given way to an alphabetical arrangement by name of organization (from Abbaye Sainte Marie to Yacht Club de France). This has resulted in a considerable number of listings under such generic entry words as association, center, institute, laboratory, library, school, and society; the user with an inaccurate memory will of course search in vain for an entry under "Association" when the organization happens to be "Société," but fortunately the key word entries in the index will solve most difficulties of this type. One undesirable result—at least to this reviewer—is that this practice scatters the libraries of the University of Paris through the volume (the index does not bring together all collections belonging to the same organization). Those interested in this very important (but complex) group can only do what this reader did: scan the entire volume, where he will find 117 entries (the first being no. 84, the last no. 958), plus three more in the supplement. Of the university's seven libraries of first magnitude, four appear under Université de Paris (nos. 953, 954, 955 and 957), and the remaining three under their own names. (While this same objection applies in theory to the fifteen provincial universities, no city's listings begin to approach those for Paris in number or complexity, and hence a relatively easy scanning of entries will produce the desired result.)

Volume II presents data for the remainder of the country, now grouped under cities rather than *départements*. By way of contrast with over eight hundred institutions in Paris (excluding those in Seine and Seine-et-Oise), entries for other leading cities total as follows: Grenoble 43, Lille 63, Lyon 68, Marseille 42, Strasbourg 71, and Toulouse 51.

Although Volume III contains supplementary entries and a list of cities and towns represented in the work arranged by *département*, it is devoted chiefly to an extensive index (146 pages), which deserves comment. This section contains in a single alphabet various kinds of entries: acronyms for all organizations so designated in the

Paris region and a selection of those located elsewhere; former names of libraries, if a significant change has taken place; key words in names (especially useful for those names beginning with a generic term, as mentioned above); names of special collections; and subject entries. For the subject approach the introduction points out that some limitation in entries had to be made. Thus for libraries whose coverage is encyclopedic, only entries for subjects covered under the rubric "specialties" are provided. For such subjects as commerce, local history, and agriculture cross references lead to lists of cities with organizations like Chambers of Commerce, departmental archives, and libraries of the Direction des Services Agricoles, thus avoiding double listing under both subject and generic group. Each reference is to the number of the entry rather than to the page; subject listings give, in addition, the names of libraries. Generous use is made of cross references (both "see" and "see also"). To check on the accuracy of the index each item in the first three pages of "L" listings was searched; only two discrepancies appeared. One reference to Lamartine gave the correct number for the library but placed it in Aix-en-Provence instead of Aix-les-Bains. The other proved to be a blind reference; the Langeron collection does not appear in the entry cited (the Bibliothèque Municipale in Brest). The earlier *Répertoire*, however, lists both Langeron and Sardou collections for this library (neither mentioned in the present description); apparently entries from the earlier guide's index were incorporated into the present directory without checking to see whether deletions had occurred in the listing itself.

To summarize, the improvements in the present directory of French libraries are four: (1) increased coverage for scholarly collections, (2) better arrangement, especially the listing under provincial cities, likely to be more familiar than names of *départements*, (3) a single index instead of three, and (4) a better physical appearance, resulting from larger and more legible type and coated paper.

The volumes are well printed; there are extremely few printer's errors. Unfortunately they are paper-bound and the covers appear to detach with even the slightest use;

libraries will find it imperative to bind the volumes before making them available.—*William Vernon Jackson, University of Wisconsin.*

William Frederick Poole and the Modern Library Movement. By William Landram Williamson. (Columbia University Studies in Library Service, no. 13.) New York: Columbia University Press, 1963. x, 203p., ports. \$6.

William Frederick Poole (1821-1894) was one of the giants of librarianship. Yet there are probably few librarians who are familiar with his work, except for a vague awareness that he compiled the monumental nineteenth-century periodical index which bears his name. The library profession is fortunate indeed that William L. Williamson, Butler librarian, Columbia University, has revised his doctoral dissertation and produced the definitive treatise on Poole. Possibly the highest praise that can be given is that Williamson's biography does not read like a dissertation at all; it is an absorbing account of a "librarian whose career epitomized library development in the United States during the last half of the nineteenth century." Although Williamson apologizes for the lack of a complete picture of Poole the man because almost none of his private correspondence survives, he need not have. He has gleaned the public and printed sources well and there emerges a very human portrait of a man with a paternal interest in his subordinates, generous to his opponents, and zealous for his profession.

During the span of Poole's life he served as a student librarian at Yale, he was librarian of the oldest mercantile library (Boston) and the foremost social library (Boston Athenaeum), and he led two public libraries to greatness (Cincinnati and Chicago). His last seven years were years of "stress and strain" as he acquired collections, planned a building, and set the organization for what was to become one of the nation's great research institutions, the Newberry library. Williamson has recorded all of these activities with a clear insight into Poole's qualities as an administrator, both good and bad. Certainly one of Poole's most interesting innovations was his decision to use a sewing machine manufacturer in Europe

as a transfer agent for paying the bills of his European book dealers!

Here too is the story of Poole and the ALA. One of the legends of librarianship, propagated by its high priest Melvil Dewey, has to do with Poole's initial opposition to the 1876 conference. Williamson treats the Poole-Dewey clashes with a thoroughness and fairness which leaves little question about the case. The present reviewer would like to obtain that correspondence to which Poole referred when he said that he had letters which showed the truth of the matter and even called into question Dewey's own claims to having originated the conference idea. No doubt Williamson would also have found them intriguing; but as he earlier remarks, "A collection of books, perhaps a building, some reports, catalogs, and correspondence, and a set of dry statistics are the major things a librarian leaves behind him" (p. 17). It is almost inexplicable that some of the chief figures in librarianship felt so little need to preserve their private correspondence.

Poole did become one of the major forces behind the ALA and was said "never to be so happy as when he went off by train on one of his regular trips to attend the association's conference" (p. 92). The association was also an important factor in the preparation of the third edition of the *Index*. By assigning the work of indexing certain journals to a number of libraries, Poole brought into being the first really significant cooperative venture among librarians. Yet his was the chief work, that of editor, and he also indexed by far the largest number of journals himself. Poole was positive that a cooperative enterprise could succeed at length because the final authority and direction were in the hands of one individual.

One of the unusual facets of this book is the author's willingness to make interpretations in terms of today's situation. Of Poole's falling into difficulties in his later years through lax administration, Williamson comments "It is an unfortunate but perhaps necessary characteristic of librarianship that the head of a library can never pick out and concentrate upon one aspect of his library's operation to the neglect of the whole. . . . The history of librarianship in the United States is filled with sad stories of librarians