

Review Articles

Compact Book Storage

Compact Book Storage; Some Suggestions toward a New Methodology for the Shelving of Less Used Research Materials. By Fremont Rider. New York, The Hadham Press, 1949, 90p. \$3.00.

Mr. Rider begins this little book with an analysis of the fundamentals of book storage. While this analysis contains nothing new, it does constitute a good point of departure for the following chapters. Since the author recommends compact book storage primarily for little-used research materials, the question of segregation of these books from the much-used ones is a necessary second step in his thesis development, and in Chapter 2 he, "long . . . an apostle of segregation," restates concisely the arguments for it. Chapters 3 ("The Rube Goldberg Chapter") and 4 ("Rolling and Hinged Stacks") are superfluous. The first adds nothing to the development of the subject and the other does little more than describe something which is not recommended by the author. Part I, "Analysis," is concluded with a chapter on the factors involved in the conventional form of book storage.

Part II is called "Synthesis." Here the author reviews the opportunities for increased book capacity in existing book stacks, concluding that shelving by size is one of the best ways to effect space economies. Chapter 2 is perhaps the most important part of the book, for in it the author leads us logically to conclude with him that shelving books in an upright position is the principal cause of the low proportion of stack space actually holding

books. He recommends "boxing" for most books not shelved in an upright position, and then proceeds, in customary Rider fashion, to go into the greatest detail concerning solution of all the infinitesimal problems which arise when this system is put into effect. He is fully aware that binding policies are inextricably involved in the problem of boxing, and treats this important phase of the subject comprehensively. Mr. Rider then attempts, with varying success, to show the relative economy of compact book storage. Next, the author interrupts his thesis in order to answer questions which he assumes have arisen in the mind of the reader. Here he is not nearly so successful as he was in his widely-read *The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library*, where such questions were foreseen and answered during the development of the thesis, after the fashion of Arnold Bennett and many professional philosophers. The objections he cites were not at all the ones which bothered me most as I read his book. The final chapter discusses by-product advantages of boxing.

The book is interestingly written. The subject treated is very much worthwhile; the problems presented and the solutions suggested are of concern to all of us. While the author has aimed his book primarily at the large library, there is much in it which will be useful in small libraries. There are a number of typographical errors, but in general the format and physical appearance of the volume are good.—*William H. Jesse, University of Tennessee Libraries.*

Man and Pictures

From Cave Painting to Comic Strip. A Kaleidoscope of Human Communication. By Lancelot Hogben. New York, Chanticleer Press, 1949. \$5.00.

A new criterion can be added to those established not long ago by Russell Lines for the classification of the human species into high-, middle- and low-brow: whether or not one is irritated by this new book by the author of *Science for the Citizen* and *Mathematics*

for the Million. Hogben himself says in the foreword of his book that "it will please neither the high-brow nor the low-brow." On first sight, your reviewer was considerably irritated. Many of the readers of the *College and Research Libraries* will be likewise affected.

Seriously, the book which looks extremely stimulating and challenging, has annoying characteristics. There is obscurity in its style