

Orleans, Little Rock, and Galveston; and in such smaller towns as Orangeburg, S. C.; Warrenton, Va.; Greenville, Ga.; Milledgeville, Ga.; Gallatin, Tenn.; and Jonesborough, Tenn. The fact of a publishing business in some of these Southern towns is undoubtedly explained by Confederate efforts to establish an independent literature as well as an independent nation, but not all the publications were within the war period, and the war certainly does not explain publishing efforts at Manchester, N. H.; Tidioute, Penna.; Mansfield, Ohio; Richmond, Ind.; or Galesburg, Ill.

Book catalogs have been described as the most dulcet of reading. How much more can be said for a bibliography; what vistas of the imagination it opens without even demanding that its books be read! There is fascination enough in just the title of such books as *The Fiend's Delight*, or *The Chester Family*; or, *The Curse of the Drunkard's Appetite*, *The Physiology of New York Boarding Houses*, *Kick Him Down Hill*, *Ten Old Maids*, and *Five of Them Were Wise and Five of Them Were Foolish*, and *The Masked Lady of the White House*.

For years "not in Wright" has been an aimed-for note of book dealers. The publication of *American Fiction, 1851-1875* will make such a note more desirable than ever to them. In truth, however, such a note usually means that a title was legitimately rejected from Mr. Wright's list. Such is the quality of his work that the notation of a book's Wright number is accolade enough.—*Richard B. Harwell*.

## Norwegian Librarianship

*United States Influence on Norwegian Librarianship, 1890-1940*. By J. Periam Danton. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1957. xii, 91p. \$2.00 (University of California Publications in Librarianship, vol. 2, no. 1).

During the past one hundred years or more the United States and the Scandinavian countries have influenced each other in many different areas—political, religious, humanitarian, scientific and technical, cultural, and educational. Quite properly scholarly attention first turned to the overwhelming fact

of emigration from Scandinavia to the United States which involved the movement of about two and a half million people from these small countries to new homes in North America. The classical American works on this subject by such scholars as Theodore Blegen and George M. Stephenson began to appear in the early 1930's. Since then scores of articles and books have been published on both sides of the Atlantic dealing with various aspects of the interaction between the Scandinavian North and America. For example, one might mention Einar Haugen's work on the Norwegian language in America, Franklin D. Scott's survey of Swedish student reactions to the United States, and most recently Carl Anderson's study on the acceptance of American literature in Sweden.

The remarkable influence of American librarianship in Norway has, until now, been only briefly noted in American library literature. The work under review is a detailed investigation of this influence, showing how seventy-one Norwegian librarians, who studied in the United States at various times during a period of fifty years and who later became leaders in their profession, brought about a revolution in library practice in their own country through the introduction of American bibliothecal methods and ideas. As the author indicates, this group, in absolute terms, seems to be small and insignificant, but he amply illustrates that its members had a positive effect on the cultural life of Norway which was far out of proportion to their number.

The study begins with a brief summary of Norwegian library history and is followed by an exposition of the activities of the two pioneers of the Norwegian library revolution: Hans Tambs Lyche, editor of the influential Norwegian fortnightly review *Kringsjaa* which carried many articles familiarizing its readers with American libraries and librarianship, and Haakon Nyhuus who in 1898 became director of Oslo's municipal Deichman Library. Lyche came to the United States in 1880 and stayed several years. He was first employed as a railroad engineer and later served as a Unitarian minister. Although never a librarian he was always an alert observer of cultural activities in general and libraries in particular. Nyhuus became a

cataloger at the Newberry Library, Chicago in 1891 and there came into contact with a number of American colleagues who were especially able and progressive. Through them he was soon introduced to the kind of librarianship taught at the first American library school in Albany. Both men returned to Norway convinced that the outmoded library systems in their country should be reformed. The articles on American libraries which Lyche published in *Kringsjaa*, many of them translations and summaries from original pieces by such men as John Cotton Dana and Herbert Putnam, and later, the innovations that Nyhuus introduced at the Deichman Library, awakened an interest in American library training among other Norwegians, and soon they came to the new American professional schools in greater numbers than did students from any other European country. The author's third chapter analyzes the flow of these students to the American schools, and an appendix gives a list of the faculty members believed to have been most influential in their training.

Further chapters of the book give specific examples of the ways in which these students put their American training into practice, how their new ideas affected the development of technical processes, readers' services, building design and the choice of equipment in Norwegian libraries and, finally, how their views influenced professional education and organizations. The last chapter contains a summary, a discussion of causes, and conclusions. The study deals largely with public and school libraries in Norway. The scholarly and special libraries were relatively little influenced by American librarianship principally because the chief research library and the most influential, that of Oslo University, already had a century of steady growth and tradition behind it and felt little need of new impulses. Nevertheless, even in this area, some American influence was evident. Several special libraries adopted a modified Dewey decimal classification. Academic libraries showed some interest in the open-shelf, open-access concept, and in 1925 the University Library modernized its loan system following the American model rather than the German. Further, a new wing built for the University Library had as its proto-

types the New York Public Library and Harvard's Widener Library; the librarian, Wilhelm Munthe, had come to this country especially to study American university library buildings. Metal library shelving imported from America was adopted at the Technical University during the administration of a Norwegian graduate of the Albany school. However, the scholarly libraries were generally opposed to the formal education offered in library schools, preferring instead their own training programs.

Through the efforts of Lyche and Nyhuus and their followers the "spirit" of the American library movement was brought to Norway. The American library philosophy was adopted almost without change by the school and public libraries, and as the author points out, "The revolution was not solely or even primarily one of devices, mechanics, and procedures, important though these were as a means to an end. It was, rather, a change in the concept of the role and function of the library, a change that gradually transformed the institution from the little-used storehouse that it traditionally had been to the center of free, pervasive, and diversified service that we know today." This result, as documented here, is indeed an impressive example of international cultural influence and at the same time a significant chapter in our own library history, witnessing to the strength and vitality of the American library movement as it was reflected abroad.

In retrospect, Norwegian librarians writing recently have expressed the opinion that the American system was introduced rather uncritically and that now Norwegian libraries are more independent of foreign influences. Inter-Scandinavian cooperation in library matters grows in importance today while American influence is rapidly declining. Present Norwegian librarianship follows a middle way between what is regarded as the "American technique of efficiency" and "traditional European scholarship in library work."

It may well be that in future years this middle way will attract other American librarians to study the library systems of Norway and its Scandinavian neighbors where often a happier balance has been achieved between smooth management and knowledge

of books than in some American institutions. In one other respect too, Scandinavian libraries may become models rather than recipients of foreign influences. As the smaller "undeveloped" countries of the world begin to establish their library systems they might logically turn to Scandinavia where some conditions prevail which more closely parallel their own: the existence of small but distinctive national language groups, implying special problems and opportunities in such areas as book publishing and bibliographical control; limited financial resources which provide challenges that the Scandinavians have met by imaginative planning and intelligent state support of their libraries. Thus, both from the point of view of what we may learn and what we can point out to others as worthy examples, we should be aware of Scandinavian librarianship. Toward this end we may hope that other studies of this kind will be made in this country.

In the reviewer's opinion this work would have been considerably strengthened by a chapter early in the book relating Norwegian library development to the broader intellectual and social history which preceded it. The period of the "Modern Awakening" in Norwegian literature, for example, is mentioned only briefly in the last chapter, but as Hanna Astrup Larsen writes elsewhere, "The importance of the epoch can hardly be stressed too much. It is possible to trace every new development in modern Norway to the literature which in the 1870's was dominated by . . . Ibsen, Bjørnson, Lie and Kielland." Without the ferment that it caused, American library influence in Norway could hardly have taken root. It is only within the historical context that the reform of Norwegian libraries becomes fully understandable. The American example in librarianship stood ready but would have been left unnoticed if many a Mrs. Alving had not had the courage to read the books which the old authoritarian Pastor Manders condemned without ever examining.

The volume is indexed, has several useful statistical tables and a map showing the location of places mentioned in the text. The author is well acquainted with the Norwegian and American sources of the material and has carefully annotated his work. Aside from the reservation noted, this is a most re-

liable investigation of the subject and a source of considerable information about Norwegian libraries generally.—*Thomas R. Buckman, University of Kansas Libraries.*

## Chemical Literature Retrieval

*Progress Report in Chemical Literature Retrieval.* (Advances in Documentation and Library Science, Volume 1.) Gilbert L. Peakes, Allen Kent, and James W. Perry, eds. New York: Interscience Publishers, 1957, 217 p. \$4.75.

In 1956, over ninety thousand articles of chemical interest were abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts*. If one considers the literature which has been published, the two-fold problem of keeping up with the current literature and searching the accumulated literature is appreciated. Despite the fact that chemistry is considered the best bibliographically organized science, present methods of information storage and retrieval in this subject are considered inadequate. The problems are complex. There are, for example, an estimated six hundred thousand organic chemicals, each of which can and often should be indexed from a number of levels.

Considerable work is now being done by industrial libraries, governmental agencies and other organizations on finding and trying out improved indexing methods. The present volume, which is based on two symposia of the division of Chemical Literature of the American Chemical Society, describes some of this work. Individual chapters deal with case histories of hand- and machine-sorted punched card installations, coding of organic chemicals, description of punched card equipment, and some "long-hair" thinking about documentation problems. Notably missing are discussions of manual correlative indexing systems (aside from brief comments by Mortimer Taube) and discussions of traditional library indexing systems.

Two of the fourteen chapters (eleven and thirteen), are almost identical to two chapters in volume two of this series. (Volume two appeared several weeks before volume one). Chapter two is very similar to, though not as detailed as, two chapters in Casey and Perry's book on punched cards which was published in 1951.