

initiate a work that would constitute the fulfilment of a vision doomed to failure a hundred years earlier but realizable now,

thanks to a century's progress in printing processes.—*Jens Nyholm, librarian, Northwestern University.*

Dissertations of 1943-44

Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities, 1943-44. (Number 11) Compiled for the Association of Research Libraries. Edited by Edward A. Henry. New York, H. W. Wilson Co., 1944. 88p.

This new list, the eleventh in the series and the fifth under the present editorship, again shows thoughtful editing and increasing usefulness. In general arrangement it is similar to previous lists. The seven main subject divisions have been retained but with literature and art now more appropriately headed Humanities. A few changes have been made in the subdivisions. Metallurgy has been moved from Earth Sciences to Physical Sciences, and Geophysics has been added to Earth Sciences. There is the usual author index.

The impact of the war upon graduate studies is reflected in the carefully prepared preliminary tables and introductory material. The number of dissertations presented has again declined. This edition lists 2117, the lowest number since 1930 and one almost 40 per cent lower than the high figure of 1941. A brief table showing the distribution by large subject divisions indicates the increase in studies in the physical sciences. Sixty-five titles, largely in chemistry, are withheld be-

cause they are "secret war research."

The most useful of the introductory tables will doubtless be the one showing the practice of publication and loan of dissertations, and the list of periodic abstracting publications. Although the practices of publishing and lending are too varied to be tabulated in exact detail, these two should prove especially valuable to librarians on the borrowing end of interlibrary loan. Study of the table showing the distribution of doctorates for the years 1934-35 through 1943-44 by subject and years and of the one showing their distribution for 1943-44 by university and by subject, will reward anyone interested in the general trends of graduate work on this level or in the relative strength of the various graduate schools represented.

The necessity for timeliness precludes the possibility of indicating in the annual issues notes regarding the actual publication of individual dissertations. It is to be hoped that at some not too distant date, however, it will be possible to have a cumulative index which will not only pick up the necessarily omitted titles but also show when dissertations have been published.—*Jean Macalister, reference assistant, Columbia University Libraries, New York City.*

Study of the Army Medical Library

The National Medical Library: Report of a Survey of the Army Medical Library Financed by the Rockefeller Foundation and Made under the Auspices of the American Library Association. Keyes D. Metcalf, Janet Doe, Thomas P. Fleming, Mary Louise Marshall, L. Quincy Mumford, and Andrew D. Osborn. xvi, 94p. Chicago, American Library Association, 1944.

Though we in this country have done some notable pioneering in the development of our municipal libraries, we have been slow in applying the same concepts of administration and service to our national libraries. Indeed,

until quite recent times we have scarcely thought of ourselves as having any national libraries. Outstanding as it has been for many years the Library of Congress, partly by virtue of its name, has taken a long while to establish itself in our consciousness as the national library of the United States. For a similar reason, the Army Medical Library (until about 1936 called by the still more restrictive name, Library of the Surgeon-General's Office), the largest medical library in the country, was the Army Medical Library to us and not the national medical library. The unfortunate result of all this