

house. It is already one of the most scholarly.

In reading this excellent book, this reviewer was reminded again of Thomas Carlyle's observation: "The ordinary histories of Kings and Courtiers were well exchanged against a tenth part of one good History of Booksellers." In these first hundred years, the history of the Methodist Publishing House is closely interwoven with the history of this country, for the former was influenced by and, as a significant part of the religious movement, was an influence on the latter. Running through the fabric of the Methodist Publishing House's past are some of the warp threads in the whole fabric of American history: the influence of an expanding frontier; the optimism and sectionalism which its broad horizons generated; inflation, depression, war, and industrial growth. This work will be of interest to students of American cultural history and the history of Christianity in America as well as of the history of American publishing and of Methodism.

It is a sad fact that so few comparable studies, indeed so few studies at all, exist of American publishing houses which have played an important part in our country's cultural history. The potential use of an adequate corpus of such works to scholars in several fields can as yet be only partially comprehended. The wealth of information found in this one work, however, suggests something of that potential.

The book is handsomely designed, well made, and copiously illustrated. Its price is remarkably modest.—*Robert D. Harlan, University of California, Berkeley.*

Floors: Selection and Maintenance. By Bernard Berkeley. Library Technology Program, no. 13 [Chicago: ALA, 1968]. 300p. \$12.50 (68-23014).

The book is organized in seven chapters as follows: (1) Selection Criteria; (2) Maintenance; (3) Resilient Floor Coverings; (4) Carpet; (5) Masonry Floors; (6) Wood Floors; and (7) Formed-in-place Floors.

These chapter headings indicate the scope of this work. The first chapter discusses all types of floor coverings in general, the advantages and disadvantages of each general type, pricing comparisons, and maintenance problems. After reading this chapter the librarian should be able to decide upon the general type of floor covering he will use. He can then select a specific type by further study of the appropriate chapter covering the general type selected.

The second chapter devotes forty-six pages to a comprehensive study of floor covering maintenance. It deals with maintenance supplies and equipment and their proper utilization. Although few librarians have control over maintenance practices, their understanding of the problems associated with them should improve their understanding of good and bad practices and should enable them to know what results to expect from any specific floor covering. This chapter, therefore, should not be passed over lightly.

The remaining chapters analyze specific coverings. Their description, installation, maintenance, refinishing, the removal therefrom of stains and burns, and other pertinent information pertaining to each is presented in excellent detail.

The author uses few footnotes but provides an exhaustive listing of selected references. An excellent index is also included. Twenty useful tables appear at appropriate places within the text. Some care should be exercised in using the tables, however, since they contain a few typographical errors. Photographs are used to illustrate the text.

This well-organized consolidation of important factors in the selection and maintenance of floor coverings is the only book of its kind. Every librarian responsible for the physical aspects of a library should be familiar with it. Moreover, although it is not a maintenance manual, persons responsible for custodial services will profit from it, as will architects, library building consultants, and planners.—*Charles Schliecker, University of North Carolina.* ■ ■