

such interesting topics as student unrest, political interference, influence of foreign professors, and even curriculum. Significant details are sometimes glossed over (or dropped out entirely) while other facts are repeated several times in a vain attempt to help the reader deal with the foreshadowings and flashbacks. The unjustified-line, cold-type format is legible but uninviting and the placement of running heads annoying. The bibliography seems adequate and the index seems somewhat better than those found in other Scarecrow books.

The carpings of reviewers must be discounted; this is an informative work and is worth every bit of the effort it takes to digest it.—*Perry D. Morrison, University of Oregon.*

British University Libraries. By K. W. Neal. Published by the author at 7 Church Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, England, SK9 6HH, 1970, 149p. 35s.

An Introduction to University Library Administration. By James Thompson. London, Clive Bingley, 1970. 136p. 35s.

It is interesting that the spring of 1970 should produce two volumes on the subject of university library administration, treating the facets of the subject in almost the same order, quoting widely from many sources, much preoccupied with the "Parry report," filling about 140 5½" x 9" pages, and selling for 35s. Yet these two are quite different works and a single review, I believe, is appropriate for proper comparison.

The authors are well-known librarians; Neal, a Senior Lecturer at the Manchester School of Librarianship and Thompson, the Librarian of Reading University. Both authors attempt to compress the essence of university librarianship into about a hundred and fifty pages, which results in a cross between a library science course syllabus and a *Reader's Digest Condensed Books* version of Wilson and Tauber (to which, incidentally, Neal never refers). The order of topics treated is similar though not identical: general functions of a library system, library government, committees, departmental libraries and collection organization, finance, staff, selection procedures and

policies, cataloging, binding, circulation, periodicals, public instruction in library use, library building planning, and library cooperation—an order reasonably dictated by logic, if not custom.

Because of the shortness of the works, the chapters can only cover briefly the salient features of the subject at hand. To remedy this, Neal gives a list of "Other Reading" at the end of each chapter. Thompson's bibliography would lead, of course, to more extensive discussions. The problems that are caused by this brevity are typified by the chapters on building design. Neal realizes the complexity of the subject and devotes rather more pages to the discussion (twenty, to be exact) but is then seduced by this quantity of space into attempting to outline details of matters such as furniture, lighting, and air conditioning. Thompson is more general and contents himself with eleven pages, mostly consisting of a summary of Ralph Ellsworth's *Planning the College and University Library Building*, but such a brief discussion is almost worthless from the standpoint of information.

It was noted above that the authors quote widely, but both their method and, more interestingly, their sources vary. Neither use footnotes, but Neal is quite precise giving page numbers in parentheses in the text and a bibliographically complete citation to the article at the end of the chapter. Thompson gives enough information in the text to enable one to identify the cited work in the bibliography at the end of the book. Such minutiae aside, however, it is more interesting to note that of something over two hundred citations in Neal, only fifteen were of U.S. origin, while of forty-five works cited by Thompson, thirteen were U.S. And this points to the essential difference in the two works as far as utility to an American student is concerned. Neal has limited himself to the British scene, discussing in much detail aspects of British librarianship and British libraries. Thompson tends to paint with a broader brush, discussing in more general terms the philosophic principles which pertain to library policy and administration. That both are knowledgeable and experienced librarians is obvious, but one has a feeling that

Neal is more interested in the trees than the forest—particularly British trees.

It is highly doubtful that these works will be of any value to librarians in this country. Some of Thompson is acceptable as an introduction to librarianship for the neophyte. For others, the most one could do is to acquaint one's self with some general attitudes of British librarians toward a number of British library problems.—*Gustave A. Harter, University of Florida.*

Physical Sciences. The Royal Institution, Library of Science (being the Friday Evening Discourses in Physical Sciences held at the Royal Institution: 1851-1939). Ed. by William Lawrence Bragg and George Porter. Barking, Essex, England: Elsevier Publishing Co., Ltd. 1970. 10v., illustrated. £63.

Visualize a crisp winter evening in 1860, a warm room filled with the sweet aroma of pipes and cigars, and several men discussing the evening's agenda. On this particular evening, one of the speakers is John Tyndall who is to speak on "The Influence of Magnetic Force on the Electric Charge." Sir Tyndall's discourse is only one of several that will be presented for discussion this evening, and is, as are many of the discourses, an illustrated lecture. You can place yourself in this room by reading a report of Tyndall's discourse plus those of Faraday, Brodie, Maxwell, Spottiswodde, Kelvin, Rayleigh, Rutherford, Heilbron, and many others, which are in the ten-volume work, *Physical Sciences*.

The discourses cover physics and chemistry and are either in the form of a descriptive abstract or in the complete text. The eighty-nine years covered encompass a span of time which saw a change from classical physics to new physics and the emergence of the basic concepts of structural organic chemistry and valency. "This series of Discourses therefore represents a cross section of the growth of physics and chemistry in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century and represents a great turning point in the history of the physical sciences."

The ten volumes are arranged in chronological order with a table of contents in each volume. The lack of a general index does prevent the scholar from locating a particular essay when he is not sure of the exact date. Three additional series are now in preparation covering Astronomy, Earth Sciences, and Biological Science. After publication of these, further discourses will be published in four series covering Medical Sciences, Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, and History and Philosophy of Science.

For the history of science scholars, this collection of "Friday Evening Discourses" should prove to be a valuable source of information. It is unfortunate that the fifty years prior to 1851 had no regular publication of accounts or abstracts of presented lectures to be preserved in the manner that Sir William Bragg has done so well.—*H. Robert Malinowsky, University of Kansas.*

Tolkien Criticism. An Annotated Checklist (The Serif Series, no. 11). By Richard C. West. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1970. 73p. \$4.25.

Richard West compiles the writings and criticism of J. R. R. Tolkien, whose meteoric rise in popularity in this country followed the paperback reprinting of his trilogy, *Lord of the Rings*, in 1965. *Tolkien Criticism* aptly serves as a chronicle of the Tolkien phenomenon, and the author has chosen a fitting time to release his bibliography—late enough to capture important recent criticism of Tolkien's works, but prompt enough to provide the scholar and Tolkien enthusiast with a most welcome symposium when interest in this English author is running high.

Interest in J. R. R. Tolkien extends far beyond the characters and plot of the *Rings* trilogy, but there is little doubt that the trilogy has become the focal point for serious discussion of the man and his works. The American paperback reprinting of *Lord of the Rings*, by Ace and Ballantine in 1965, ten years after its original publication, caught the college campuses in the right mood for a whopping good tale of high adventure, set in a colorful fairyland