

There is more excuse for disappointment in Chapter XII, "The Costs of Library Service," not in the information it assembles on the relative sizes of college library budgets and on possible economies in cataloging processes, but in its omission of any discussion of the costs of service to readers, of the expenses of open-access stacks, of the cost of a library staff "knowing more about the work carried on in the several departments"—i.e., the cost of carrying out Dr. Branscomb's most important suggestions.

Finally, "Bridging the Gap" (Chapter XI) might well have been made the concluding chapter. The library staff at present cannot even "lead the horse to water," but this book suggests certain changes by which they may work with the instructors in this and may better justify the instructors' efforts. Suggestions include, for example, modifications in emphasis in the program of many libraries, greater faculty concern for student reading and other library matters, changing the status of the librarian, and reworking the library program with greater knowledge about the work carried on in the several departments of instruction both in general and in individual courses. The application of such general changes might, the author suggests, result in specific changes such as: more intelligent judgment on the number of duplicates required for various titles, modification of circulation rules which would adjust these more exactly to the reading demands of the course, preparing supplementary bibliographies, small exhibits on special topics, more adequate assistance in connection with themes and special assignments, exploiting the reference librarian for reference work instead of for information about the mere locations of things, certain

developments in which the instructor is moved into the library, location in the library of more classes other than seminars, simplification of instruction by the librarian in bibliography, and the use of the library and more such instruction in connection with departmental courses. In all this, Dr. Branscomb has given us good leads.—*Henry B. Van Hoesen, Brown University, Providence.*

The Medieval Library. James Westfall Thompson. University of Chicago Press, 1939. 682p. \$5. (University of Chicago Studies in Library Science.)

THIS monumental contribution to the history of intellectual development has been produced by Professor Thompson, now at the University of California, formerly professor of medieval history at the University of Chicago and lecturer on the history of libraries in its graduate library school.

In the production of this noteworthy work the author has been assisted by several of his present and former students at the universities of Chicago and California, Ramona Bressie writing the chapter on "Libraries of the British Isles in the Anglo-Saxon Period;" S. K. Padover, the chapters on "Byzantine Libraries," "Jewish Libraries," "Muslim Libraries," and "German Libraries in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries;" the late Isabella Stone, "Libraries of the Greek Monasteries in Southern Italy;" Geneva Drinkwater, "French Libraries in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries;" Claude H. Christensen, "Scandinavian Libraries in the Late Middle Ages;" Dorothy Robathan, "Libraries of the Italian Renaissance;" and Florence Edler de Roover, "The Scriptorium."

The subject matter is treated by periods:

Part I, "The Early Middle Ages;" Part II, "The High Middle Ages;" Part III, "The Close of the Middle Ages and the Italian Renaissance." Part I concerns itself with "Early Church Libraries," "Early Monastic Libraries," "Libraries of the Carolingian Renaissance;" in Parts II and III the libraries of the various countries are treated. The book concludes with Part IV, "The Making and Care of Books in the Middle Ages."

While the chapters in the body of the work are mines of detailed information, they resolve themselves necessarily almost into catalogs. Part IV, however, is much more general in nature and will make an especial appeal to the professional librarian dealing as it does with "The Scriptorium," "Library Administration and the Care of Books," "Paper, the Book Trade, and Book Prices," "The Wandering of Manuscripts." The book is provided with a brief "Historical Index." A vast amount of bibliographical reference and guidance is given in the footnotes.

The significance and value of Professor Thompson's herculean achievement is obvious. In the first place it is the first book in English or in any other language to give "a comprehensive survey of the history of books and libraries in the period of the manuscript." As such it can be hailed as a striking monument to American scholarship. In the second place, the work is a priceless gift to all those whose special interest is centered in the Middle Ages. It is a vast storehouse of detailed information throwing additional light on many phases of medieval life. Not only does it bring out into relief the work of the church in gathering into itself, preserving, and passing on the spiritual and intellectual fruits of the ancient world but it illustrates as never before the details of

the process. Space permits the indication of only a few of the multifarious conclusions and facts brought out in the work.

As for libraries understood as a room, rooms, or building especially designed for the arranging of books in orderly fashion where they can be available for use on the spot—libraries in the modern sense of the word—these scarcely make their appearance before the fifteenth century. In the fifth, sixth, and seventh centuries a rectangular hole left in the thickness of a wall might serve to hold the bibles, psalters, service books, and the few works of the church fathers which constituted the indispensable core of any monastic or cathedral library. A chest or two kept in the sacristy might also be used as well as wooden presses. When during the Carolingian period and especially in the twelfth century, intellectual activities rapidly quickened, the production and accumulation of books so increased that better facilities for their storage and use became necessary. Then in the larger monasteries and cathedrals a separate room would be set aside for the copying of manuscripts, for their storage, and for their use. If the number of copyists, monks, and sometimes lay scribes was large enough (twelve or fifteen as the case might be), two rooms, one above the other, might be found: the lower room was the *Scriptorium* where the scribes did their work; the upper room was the library proper where shelves made their appearance. On these the books (many of them very large folios) were laid flat with their edges facing out. On the edge, rather than on the book, were inscribed author and title. Rough classifications were sometimes used. Catalogs, at first merely inadequate lists scribbled on a blank page or fly leaf, became fuller and more numerous. The

idea of a "union catalogue" even made its appearance about 1400 when an English Franciscan conceived the idea of making one for all the libraries of the Franciscan order in England.

The range of intellectual interests in the Middle Ages is reflected by an arrangement frequently found in the larger libraries in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. By this arrangement the material was divided into seven classes: (1) archives, (2) scriptural texts and commentaries, (3) constitutions, (4) council and synodal proceedings, (5) homilies and epistles of the fathers, (6) lectionaries, (7) legends of martyrdom. This took care of the religious and ecclesiastical material. Secular literature was placed by itself and divided on the basis of the seven liberal arts: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. The titles in these subdivisions (if the joint contents of various libraries be included) comprised the whole range of Latin literature as we have it today; by 1200, all the works of Aristotle in Latin translation, several books in Greek, and grammars of Greek and Hebrew; also Justinian's Code, Digest, and Institutes.

These few examples must suffice to indicate the varied contents of this invaluable work of reference. No brief review can hope to give more than a suggestion of the wealth of interesting material that it contains.—*Curtis H. Walker, Vanderbilt University, Nashville.*

A Comparative Study of Cataloging Rules Based on the Anglo-American Code of 1908, with Comments on the Rules and on the Prospects for a Further Extension of International Agreement and Co-operation. J. C. M. Hanson. University of Chicago Press, [c1939] 144p.

\$2. (University of Chicago Studies in Library Science.)

WHEN bookmen find at last the long desired "time to write" we are apt to look for the reminiscent fruits of observation and experience. From no librarian would such a book be more welcome than from James Christian Meinich Hanson, professor emeritus of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School, and dean of catalogers. Characteristically, however, the first book which Dr. Hanson issues from his well earned leisure is not leisurely, but a workmanly canvas of the technical basis for increased cooperation among librarians and bibliographers.

Taking from the *Anglo-American Catalog Rules* of 1908, the first 135 rules which deal with the choice of main entry forms, the author digests each in turn in the order made familiar to catalogers by long usefulness. Then systematically he summarizes the practice prescribed by the eighteen major cataloging codes of America and Europe. These codes are listed in the opening pages in full bibliographic detail. For citation in the text a shortened characteristic symbol is used for each. Thus, BM refers to the *British Museum Rules*, FR to the *Règles et usages* of the *Association des Bibliothécaires Français*. Included are two English codes (*British Museum, Cambridge University*), two German codes (*Munich, Prussian Instruktionen*), two Swiss codes (*Basel, Zurich*), two Italian (*Italian government, Vatican*), and one each Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish. Of these Dr. Hanson cites the Prussian the Anglo-American, and the Vatican codes as the most influential. Dates of issue vary from Cutter, 1904, to the *Vatican Norme*, 1931. The latter is now in process of revision and reissue and