BOOK REVIEWS


The editor of this very worthwhile book is Librarian in Charge of the Division of Technical Services of the Public Library of South Australia. He found that many of the texts, to which he wished to refer students, were out of print and difficult to obtain, and therefore decided to collect a number of them together in this single volume. The basic reason for inclusion of a particular item is its importance to the development of cataloguing theory. The value of the book can be judged from the fact that all the nine items are essential readings for students of cataloguing and classification in this country and only two of them are in print.

The arrangement of the texts is chronological and the items included are as follows: (1) a selection from Panizzi's evidence before the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the constitution and government of the British Museum, which was originally published in 1850. (2) Selections from Cutter's Rules for a dictionary catalogue, 1876. (3) An abridgement of Dewey's Introduction to his classification, 1876. With the 'original' spelling. (4) E. Wyndham Hulme's articles on the Principles of book classification from the Library Association Record of 1911 and 1912. (5) J. Kaiser's paper on Systematic indexing given at the Aslib conference in 1926. (6) Bliss's paper on Theoretic principles of bibliographic classification from the Transactions of the International Federation of Documentation, 1938. (7) A reprint from the Journal of Documentation, 1949, of Ranganathan's article on a Self-perpetuating scheme of classification. (8) Andrew Osborn's article on the Crisis in cataloguing which originally appeared in the Library Quarterly in 1949. (9) A selection from Lubetzky's critique of the A.L.A. Cataloguing Code, 1949.

As can be seen, several of the items deal with classification, but Mr. Olding is concerned with the whole area of cataloguing, and classification is very much a part of this. It is always possible to play games with a book of this kind and ask why such and such an article was not included, but, as can be seen from the list of items, Mr. Olding has included several important texts. His book should be warmly welcomed, especially by students who will be saved much time by its publication.  

BRIAN REDFERN.


This volume is very similar to the first volume (which was reviewed in The Indexer, Vol. 5, No. 3, p. 150) in content and coverage, but it is larger by 93 pages, having two more chapters; in fact four chapters have been dropped and six fresh ones added. As a review of the year's literature it is excellent; one would wish sometimes that there was a little more information—but there is always a reference to an article or book in the bibliography at the end of the chapter.

The index shows a little improvement, but it is difficult to understand why in a book produced by Americans, who are such masters of the use of acronyms, these have not been used as headings whenever possible. Usually the reader is referred to the full name, which is largely unknown. There is an appalling inconsistency in this matter; sometimes the entries are under the acronym followed by the full name and the page number(s), with a reference from the full name, as IMRADS, but sometimes there is no reference from the full name (see EDUCOM); sometimes the pages are given following the full name, with a reference from the acronym followed by the full name, but sometimes the acronym reference is omitted, for example, EURATOM; there is confusion at NASA, for the first of six entries under this heading is a 'see also' reference to the full name National Aeronautics and Space Administration (which unusually does not include the acronym) where there are no entries or references to the other entries under NASA. On the page to which one is referred at the full entry, its name is not mentioned but the reference is to a NASA publication. The same circumstances exist in respect of Language for Utility Checkout and Instrumentation Development; this name is only mentioned in the index to refer one to LUCID; when one turns up the pages mentioned under LUCID there is no mention of the full name. In at least one case, INSPEC, the page numbers appear under both the acronym and the full name. It would have been a much more lucid index—and the users would be less infuriated—if this had been done in every case, and in very few would it have been necessary to have set an additional line of type in order to include the page numbers.

L.M.H.

39