munication between persons and schools which were planning or already had technician programs (nearly fifty in all). Such problems as curriculum standardization, core curriculum, professional attitudes toward the technician, salary scales, geographic barriers relating to employment opportunity, and level of instruction were discussed.

Rose Vormelker, now President of ALA’s Library Education Division, gave the encouraging keynote talk midway through the meeting and stressed that the work of the technician must be carefully defined, that courses must be designed to meet national accreditation by library and educational associations (but, alas, MLA is nowhere mentioned), and that the defined position must be included in the U. S. Department of Labor’s Dictionary of Occupations so that high school guidance counselors are made aware of the field.

The other formal papers discussed programs which were in operation and the differences between the Canadian and the American approach to technician training.

The most significant achievements of the meeting were its establishment of ongoing officers to organize a 1967 workshop in October and a 1968 conference, and the decision to publish a directory of library technology programs and interested persons.

This booklet should be required reading for all those interested in library education and especially for those MLA committees which the Board has charged with the development of certification standards.

The concept of the library technician is not a new one to the Medical Library Association; Gertrude Annan spoke eloquently on its behalf at the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship (Bulletin 52: 72–80, Jan. 1964). Rose Vormelker quotes Victor Hugo in calling the technician concept an “idea whose time has come.” Let us join with the forty-seven pioneers at this meeting and face the challenge of accurately defining our professional duties and accepting the technician as a valued and important member of the medical information team.

Irwin H. Pizer
Syracuse, New York

Harrish, Barbara, ed. Classified Checklist of Medical Reference Books and Monographs. Detroit, 1967. (Wayne State University, School of Medicine, Library and Biomedical Information Service Center. Report No. 35, April, 1967.)

This report on medical reference books and monographs is a continuation of the excellent work Dr. Pings and the Detroit group are doing for the hospital library. The checklist of approximately 2,500 titles was compiled from a survey of the nine health science institutions that comprise the Central Medical Library Service of Detroit. Each entry includes the NLM classification number, main entry, place of publication, publisher, date of the latest edition, and whenever possible, price. The number of hospital libraries actually owning the title and the number of hospital libraries which judge the title suitable for their collection is also indicated. The arrangement is practical and easy to use. The first section on reference works is subdivided into such categories as Directories, Dictionaries, and Bibliographies. These large groups are further subdivided into broad subject areas such as Surgery, Endocrinology, etc. The inclusion of Film Catalog and Factbook, Tables, and Statistical Handbooks as reference categories carries out the useful concept of the list as a working tool. The reference section is followed by section of Texts and Monographs also subdivided into broad subject areas. A main entry index is included.

Barbara Harrish, the editor, states in the introduction that all of the entries have been prepared in machine readable form so that updating is facilitated. New editions are planned if a sufficiently enthusiastic response is evoked. Any medical librarian would find that these titles constitute a basic core collection to check against their library holdings; the smaller hospital libraries will find it a valuable book selection aid. Let us hope the list will continue to appear in future editions.

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