

delve in dusty shelves for equally dusty answers. Weeding the AMA Library has indeed posed problems for the future. What new books shall we consider buying to fill up empty classifications? Whom shall we depend upon for other material? The libraries in the Chicago area are rich in resources; and as a first step in true regional cooperation we should ask ourselves constantly, whether the edition be old or new, "Is this book necessary?"

Pamphlet Weeding

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Policies as to withdrawal and elimination of selected materials, the process of so-called "weeding" of the book collection, must of necessity vary with usage and need in each individual library. As the largest medical library in an extensive area in the South, the joint administration of the Rudolph Matas Medical Library of Tulane University and the Orleans Parish Medical Society Library does little "weeding" in its book collection, since many smaller libraries depend on the larger libraries when in need of older and less used materials.

The elimination process is applied, however, to the libraries' very useful collection of pamphlet material. The term "pamphlet" is applied to unbound items of less than 100 pages which are either original material (not reprints) or reprints of articles which the library does not possess in the original form. Items selected for inclusion in this collection are noted in a separate pamphlet accession record and bear a distinctive label marked "Orig. Pamph." and the author's name. These pamphlets are filed by author in flat drawers in steel files located in open stacks. Entry in the general catalog is made under author and subject, with only "Orig. Pamph." as a location symbol, since filing by author eliminates the necessity for additional marking. A separate shelf list is kept for purposes of inventory.

This simple method for recording this material makes it economically feasible to include in the collection many items which are of reference value for only a limited period, such as the introductory descriptions of new drugs. Such pamphlets, appearing some time in advance of articles in periodicals, carry reference lists showing the studies on which the new investigation has been based. The collection has heavy use.

Just as it is important to have pamphlet material of this kind for its immediate reference value, it is also important that such items be eliminated from the files as they are superseded by more extensive studies in periodicals and in

books. Our pamphlet collection undergoes a thorough "weeding" every two or three years. Items no longer useful are withdrawn and discarded. Groups of items by one author, or on one subject, are drawn for binding in a "collected" volume; catalog cards in the latter case, are revised to serve as analytics to the bound volume.

The pamphlet collection is thus considered to be a fluid one and is held at approximately 10,000 to 12,000 items. It is an economical method of making available material which often presents a problem in a library both as to organization and to use.

Erratum

Our attention has been drawn to a misstatement in the paper which appeared in the October 1951 issue on p. 277. In 1932 Dr. C. M. Louttit published a list of 1084 journals in psychology and related fields with a subject index in his *Handbook of Psychological Literature*, Bloomington, Indiana, Principia Press, 1932, pp. 137-239.

Dr. Louttit, who is the Editor of *Psychological Abstracts*, has called our attention to the omission. He has informed us that he has compiled a new list of psychological journals which will be included in a forthcoming book.