

mals or patients treated, the dosage, route of therapy, number of treatments, the authors' conclusions regarding a beneficial effect, the percentage of complete regressions if obtained and the reference.

It would be appreciated if all available reprints of published work in this field or any unpublished results which may be used are sent to the undersigned.

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THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION

A RECENT letter which I have received from Dr. Reinhard Dohrn, director of the Stazione Zoologica at Naples, contains some items in addition to those given in Dr. Harrison's communication in *SCIENCE* of March 31. Dr. Dohrn reports that the station is in limited

working order, and that the library, which had been taken to a place of security in the country, has now been returned, with the loss of a very few volumes. Since the libraries of the various university institutes have suffered great damage, the value of the station library is greater than ever before. It is being used considerably by scientific workers from the laboratories of biochemistry in the American military hospital. Unfortunately, some of the important instruments such as the spectrograph, the stufenphotometer and galvanometers have been seriously damaged. Dr. Dohrn indicates that the reestablishment of contacts with former workers at the station would be greatly appreciated and that expressions of interest by friends of the station would constitute valuable spiritual help at this particular time.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library.
By FREMONT RIDER. xiii + 236 pp. New York:
Hadham Press. 1944. \$4.00.

It is now ten years since microfilm copying was begun in an American research library as a means for the convenient, economical and efficient distribution of the periodical literature of science to those engaged in research. This application is still largely ignored by librarians who see only in micro copying technics a means for augmenting their collections.

In the present book, the author, who is librarian of Wesleyan University, goes very much further in this direction by proposing the micro-card republication of as much of the accumulated and current cultural and scientific literature as may be possible. The need for this is postulated on the evidence that representative college and university libraries in this country have doubled in size every sixteen years. At this rate, the library of Yale University, which in 1938 had 2,748,000 volumes, one hundred years hence will have approximately 200,000,000 volumes which will occupy over six thousand miles of shelves and require a staff of over six thousand persons.

A solution of this growth problem has been sought by such expedients as weeding out, use of storage warehouses, operational economics and cooperation among groups of libraries. None of these means has been found to more than scratch the surface of the problem. The solution proposed by the author consists in reducing the size of books to that of a library catalogue card. These micro-cards would have printed on the face, in addition to the name of the author,

title, format, publisher and cataloguing indications, a résumé of the subject-matter of the publication. On the reverse of the card, there would be a micro-print reproduction of the complete book. In the case of periodicals there would be a separate card for each article published in them.

By this method, reference libraries would gradually be converted from bound volumes on shelves to catalogue cards in filing cases. The many advantages which would result are described in the most convincing manner. Impressive estimates are given of the economies which would result. In general, this is one of the most thought-provoking books about libraries which has appeared in recent years.

Due to the vast numbers of micro-cards which would have to be made under this plan, it is proposed to subdivide the work among libraries. The republication of existing and future cultural and scientific literature would thus become a library enterprise conducted as a special sort of publishing business. This is quite a departure from the generally accepted notion that both public and research libraries are public institutions, no activity of which is ever conducted on a commercial basis.

The technic by which micro-cards are made requires that two copies of each book be first trimmed of the margins surrounding the text. The separate leaves thus prepared are pasted with rubber cement in regular aligned sequence on a large 3×5 foot piece of binder's board. This composite sheet is then photographically reduced in size to the standard 7½×12½ centimeter catalogue card. It is assumed that in editions of probably never less than five hundred copies the selling price will be five cents each.