

THE MEDICAL JOURNAL OF
MALAYA,
Vol. XV, No. 1, September, 1960.

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA IN SINGAPORE
(Faculties of Arts, Law & Science)

LIBRARY

September, 1960

with

MEDICAL LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

LIBRARY NOTES

September, 1960

This month the first two items in our Periodicals section are of some local interests.

LN6 (AP8) *Eastern horizon* is a new monthly review published in Hong Kong and the first two numbers received make exceptionally pleasant reading. It does well to describe itself as a "popular cultural magazine" for despite Joseph Needham's thoughtful "Dialogue of Europe and Asia" in the first number, the general tone is light. The editor's aim is "to present Asia in the widest possible way and so contribute to a better appreciation of Asian life and culture . . . East and West should, and can, meet on one new level". The level appears to be weighed in favour of the social sciences and humanities with some emphasis on art and literature. Writers in the first two numbers, apart from Joseph Needham, include Edmund Blunden, Mulk Raj Anand and Malaya's Ee Tiang Hong of Malacca. A pleasing feature of the journal is the photographic section which shows a considerable improvement in the second number. Book reviews are another feature of the review.

LN7 (AS8) *World list of future international meetings*, published by the Library of Congress, promises to be most useful to readers here. Staff members planning study leave, new graduates seeking overseas experience, expatriates on home leave, will all find this monthly publication valuable. Each issue covers a succeeding 3-year period so that the August number to hand takes us to July 1963. Each issue is in 2 parts, the first covering "science, technology, agriculture and medicine" and the second, "social, cultural, commercial and humanistic" meetings. The value of each number is increased by a subject and sponsor index.

J.M.W.

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THE LIBRARY AND ITS MICROTTEXTS

As this month's list includes the first entries in an important legal microcard series it is an appropriate time to write something on the holdings of this library in microform or microtext, i.e. books produced on photographic film or paper at high reduction ratios.

Microfilm materials fall into two main types: micro-transparencies and micro-opaques. Of the first type, the microfilm or 35 mm. strip film, has been familiar to readers for many years. It is most suitable for reproducing long runs of periodicals, newspapers, etc., and is convenient for anything best referred to by date or serially as produced. This Library's most notable holdings in this field include *The London Times* from 1785 to date as well as valuable mss. material on Asian history from the India Office Library, including the Straits Settlements Factory records and the Java Factory records.

The second type of transparency is the microfiche, a 3" x 5" sheet film with full-size heading indicating title and content of the microfiche. It will take approximately 50 pages to a sheet and can be stored like a catalogue card. As it is self-indexing it is invaluable for quick reference. This Library does not possess a machine adapted to reading microfiche but it is hoped to purchase one in 1961. Microfiches can be reproduced by a library photographic unit. Nanyang University has one already and a new cheap microfiche camera will soon be on the market here enabling this Library to produce its own microfiches.

Micro-opaques fall into two main types: the micro-card (3" x 5") and the microprint (9" x 6"). The former is identical with the microfiche but is opaque and some of the newer samples are two sided enabling 100 pages to be reproduced on one card. It is more durable than microfiche and in the same way, through a legible heading, is self-indexing. It cannot be produced locally and must be ordered from a publishing firm just as one would order a book. This library has some important sets on microcard including the American journal of physiology, the *Annalen der Physik* and T. J. Dibdin's London theatre.

The microprint (9" x 6") differs only in size from the microcard and it can take 100 pages on one side. The only set this Library has is the British Sessional Papers of the 19th century and this comprises 6,000 volumes.

No one can deny that microform material is more trouble to read than normal text but its increasing use is due to the need for preservation (especially where fragile paper is concerned), for the saving of storage space (as much as 95% of space can be saved) and above all, to the non-availability of material in any other form. Large sets bought in microform are normally cheaper than books.

This Library has (in complete volumes, excluding periodical articles, etc.) the following holdings: — Microfilms: 1,600 volumes.

Microcards: 3,000 ..

Microprints: 6,000 ..

LN8 (Microcard) *Law reports for England and Wales* (mainly pre-1865). The volumes listed in our Law section this month are the first to come in of an important set which eventually will comprise nearly 350 volumes of important reports which were not included in the great reprint of the English Reports. They are being reproduced in microform by Oceana Publications and many have been out of print for years. Most of them represent valuable English Common Law sources.

A LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT

It is not the place of these notes to give reviews in fields that are adequately covered by the recognized reviewing journals yet occasionally a title on the booklist can be overlooked and in this particular case very few reviews have reached Singapore to date.

LN9 (HN770) "*Upper Nankin Street, Singapore*" by *Barrington Kaye*, formerly of the Social Research Unit here, will certainly add lustre to our University of Malaya Press. This sociological study of Chinese households living in a densely populated area will probably make its primary appeal to the trained sociologist and welfare worker in this part of the world.

Apart from the local interest, however, the selection of the research area, the phasing of the survey and its interview incentives are all important as a study in social survey methodology.

Yet it is hoped that not only the sociologist will study this book. Anyone who lives in densely populated areas in S.E. Asia will find the study an absorbing one and will want to thank Mr. Kaye and the Dept. of Social Welfare which co-operated so well with him.

J.M.W.