# PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS

1918.

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OF THE

# ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS,

HELD AT LAHORE,

*4th—8th January 1918.*


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## THE ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS, 1918.

The All-India Conference of Librarians (the first of its kind) met in Lahore on January the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th, 1918. It was summoned by the Government of India, after local Governments had been approached on the subject, in response to the growing interest taken in libraries and the problems which they present. The time and the place were selected because the Science Congress began its sittings at Lahore on the 9th January and it was thought that some persons might find it convenient to attend both meetings in succession. Local Governments, the Universities, the departments of the Government of India, and the Science Congress were invited to nominate representatives ; and most of them did so. Two librarians were sent from Native States. A few other specialists in library administration were selected. Other bodies might suitably have been represented and some indeed requested such representation. But it was deemed undesirable for purposes of discussion to have too large a gathering. The Conference was open to the public.

The main questions which it was intended to discuss were reciprocity between libraries, methods of subject-indexing, the compilation of catalogues of periodicals of scientific value, the training of library assistants, the compilation of catalogues of manuscripts, and the library resources available in India. Supplementary subjects were suggested— the indexing of Indian periodicals by the publishers of the "Athenæum," the appointment of reference librarians in big libraries, the issue in bulletin form of bibliographies of selected subjects, the publication of a complete subject Index to Indian Government Reports, Blue Books, etc., the utilization of Central libraries by Municipal and District Board libraries on payment of an annual contribution, the founding of an itinerary school for training librarians, the formation of " travelling " libraries for the staffs of *mufassal* schools, and the formation of a library Bureau.

The Government of Bombay proposed as suitable topics the institution of central provincial libraries, the organisation and management of small libraries, the compilation and distribution of complete lists of books published in each province, the provision of machinery for the selection of books for Indian libraries, the best method of recording issue and return of books so as to facilitate tracing of books issued, open *versus* locked shelves, and the best preventive of book worms and white ants.

Other topics were suggested from other sources. But it was manifestly impossible to traverse so wide a field in the time available. The larger issues were selected and the suggested topics were worked into these as far as possible. If the main recommendations of the Conference are carried into effect, there will be ample scope for interchange of ideas upon details of library administration.

In order to expedite business, some of the subjects were discussed by Committees or sections of the Conference. These sections were formed as follows :—

*Section A* (*Methods of subject-indexing*).—Mr. J. R. Henderson, Mr. P. B. Gothoskar, Mr. S. C. Roy, Mr. J. Mark Hunter, Lala Labhu Ram, Mr. J. Van Manen, Mr. E. A. Radford, Mr. G. Samms-Hudson, Dr. G. T. Walker, and the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sharp.

*Section B* (*Compilation of catalogues of Scientific periodicals*).—Mr. S. W. Kemp, Dr. N. Annandale, Dr. W. F. N. Woodland, Dr. K. S. Caldwell, Dr. J. L. Simonsen, Mr. A. S. Hemmy, Mr. R. G. Allan, Mr. W. Raitt, Mr. T. R. J. Ward, Captain H. Wilberforce-Bell, and Rai Sahib Pandit Daya Ram Sahni.

*Section C* (*Training of Library Assistants*).—The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Richey, Mr. A. C. Woolner, Lala Mukand Lal, Mr. C. Nagappa, Mr. P. A. Wadia, Dr. J. C. Weir, Mr. Jadu Nath Sarkar, Mr. T. D. Sully, Mr. S. C. Banerji, Mr. J. M. Mitra, Mr. J. A. Chapman, and Mr. Newton M. Dutt.

*Section D* (*Exchange of books*).—Mr. J. A. Chapman, Mr. J. R. Henderson, Mr. E. A. Radford, Dr. W. F. N. Woodland, the Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Richey, Mr. V. H. Jackson, Mr. R. G. Allan, Mr. J. Mark Hunter, Dr. J. C. Weir, Dr. K. S. Caldwell, Mr. A. S. Hemmy, Dr. J. L. Simonsen, Mr. W. Raitt, Mr. T. D. Sully, Dr. Gilbert T. Walker, Mr. T. R. J. Ward, Dr. H. H. Hayden, Captain H. Wilberforce-Bell, Mr. G. Samms-Hudson, and Dr. N. Annandale.

*Section E (Compilation of catalogues of manuscripts).*—Mr. J. Van Manen, Mr. Jadu Nath Sarkar, Mr. S. C. Roy, Rai Sahib Pandit Daya Ram Sahni, Mr. A. C. Woolner, and Mr. S. W. Kemp.

*Section F (Catalogue of Indian vernacular periodicals).*—Mr. P. B. Gothoskar, Lala Labhu Ram, Lala Mukand Lal, Mr. Newton M. Dutt, Mr. C. Nagappa, Mr. P. A. Wadia, Mr. S. C. Banerji, Mr. J. M. Mitra, and the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sharp.

The resolutions adopted by these sections were further discussed in full session of the Conference and were passed either in their original form or as modified by the general opinion. In order that the original form of these resolutions may be preserved, they are printed as appendix A. But all resolutions adopted in full session are reproduced in the body of these proceedings, whether discussed only in full session or previously discussed in a section, and, in the latter case, whether modified or not. Appendix B reproduces two proposals brought forward by Mr. Nagappa and by Mr. Van Manen which could not be fully discussed owing to want of time. It should also be recorded that, though the question of author-catalogues was not specifically considered, the Conference accepted a suggestion made by Mr. Van Manen to the effect that any discussion on this subject should be preceded by an enquiry into the best system of uniform dealing with Indian names.

It was decided by the Conference not to print the discussion. The main part of this record therefore consists of the resolutions actually passed. Where not otherwise stated, the subjects of these resolutions were discussed in full session. Where it is stated that a subject was discussed in a section, it is to be understood that the resolution was passed in its final form by the Conference as a whole. The resolutions are recorded, not in the order in which they were passed, but with reference to their logical sequence.

Resolution I deals with the preliminary work of making a census of libraries; Resolutions II to VIII with the kind of assistance which libraries may render to each other and to the reading public with a view to making their resources more accessible, guiding the reader and giving advice on purchases and the general means suitable to these ends; Resolutions IX to XIII with the making of subject-indexes and catalogues in order that those means may be facilitated and for other purposes; Resolutions XIV and XV with the training of assistant librarians and the appointment and pay of trained librarians; Resolution XVI with the steps which should be taken with regard to paper, in order that the permanence of books, periodicals and records may be ensured.

Papers on various subjects were sent in, before the Conference met, by Messrs. Chapman, Woodland, Woolner, Dutt, Nagappa, Charlier, Fraser, and Lala Labhu Ram.

It was intended to print these as a portion of the proceedings. But in view of the desirability of curtailing reports this intention has been abandoned.

An interesting feature of the Conference was the dissertation given on the second day on paper preservation by Mr. Raitt. By general request the discussion which followed the lecture has been recorded. Resolution XVI arose out of it.

## Proceedings of the Conference.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sharp, in welcoming the members, referred to the work already done by the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the library Committee of the Board of Scientific Advice, and similar bodies. He hoped that this Conference (the first of its kind) would inform people of the activities of these bodies and that it would be valuable in bringing together specialists from different parts of India, acquainting them with the material at hand and helping them to consider how that material could be made current property. He emphasised the representative character of the gathering and surmised that it would not fail to produce happy results.

The main subject of the Conference in his estimation was the mobilisation of library resources in a country where the seeker after truth was necessarily often cut off from books. Mr. Sharp enumerated some of the principal libraries in India and discussed the procedure to be followed at the Conference, the formation of sections for the discussion of various topics, etc.

He invited the members to inspect the methods pursued at the Punjab University Library and certain exhibits which had been brought by Mr. Chapman and Mr. Newton M. Dutt. He thanked Colonel Stephenson, the Principal of the Government College, Lahore, for placing the college hall and staff-rooms of the college at the disposal of the Conference. Finally, he pointed out that the programme might be criticised as framed largely for advanced students and specialists, but said that more general questions could be taken up and that any proposals which would benefit the specialists would benefit also the general reading public.

The Conference then proceeded to discuss the agenda, partly in full session, partly in sections. The resolutions recorded in these proceedings were passed. At the close of the Conference the President summarised the work which it had done and thanked the members for the interest they had taken. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the President.

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## Resolutions passed by the Conference.

### Resolution I.—*Census of Libraries.*

(1) That the first step to be taken in any measure of reciprocity is the compilation of a census of libraries in India. That the Government of India be requested to compile and publish such a census after consulting the Councils of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the authorities of the Madras University Library and the Imperial Library and such other authorities as the Government of India may deem it desirable to consult as to the kinds of information to be given in the census regarding each library.

(2) (*i*) That the nature of the libraries to be included in this census with reference both to the number of books and to their contents shall be decided by the Government of India, the Conference merely suggesting that a purely numerical limit is no test of the value of a collection. The census should include collections of manuscripts and should apply to libraries in Native States as well as in British India.

(*ii*) That the information to be collected in the census should include the location of each library, the date of its foundation, its ownership, its income, its staff, book budget, accessibility to the public and conditions of admission, the number of printed books, the number of manuscripts, pamphlets and periodicals, and the nature and date of the catalogue.

### Resolution II.—*Reciprocity between Libraries.*

(1) That the principle of inter-borrowing of books between libraries of all kinds be adopted as far as may be deemed practicable.

(2) That it is desirable to divide India into a number of circles within which facilities should be adopted for the circulation of books and periodicals, and that an equal number of distributing centres be formed, each centre being used as a bureau of information and a borrowing agency for its own circle and also for inter-circle purposes.

(3) That these circles might at first be North-east India (centre Calcutta), North-west India (centre Lahore), Bombay (centre Bombay city) and Madras (centre Madras city). The arrangement for Burma would have to depend on railway and university development. Such an arrangement would not put an end to the free lending now practised by some libraries, *e.g.*, Pusa. The larger circles might be expected gradually to break up into smaller circles.

(4) That the Government of India should in consultation with the local Governments determine the number of circles and the limits and centre of each circle and the nature of the distributing agency.

RESOLUTION III.—*Assistance to students and isolated research-workers.*

That, regarding Library activity as constituting a normal and integral concern of the Government—of ever increasing importance—in its civilizing and educational functions, this Conference recommends that the Government of India should be asked to declare it their policy with regard to the Libraries under their control, in every case to recognise the principle, inherent in modern library conceptions, that the needs and requirements of the individual *bonâ fide* student or researcher isolated in the outposts or remote spots of Indian territory (including the Native States) should be met with all facilities and sympathetic assistance, as far as is compatible with the interests and the due protection of all other classes of students and readers.

This declaration of principle involves a recognition of the fact that the existence of a limited amount of literary resources, collected in a limited number of centres, to serve the needs of students spread over an abnormally large area, requires special methods, quite different from those sufficient for European conditions, to meet such needs.

RESOLUTION IV.—*Facilities for soldiers.*

That the attention of the Government of India be called to the lack of facilities for reading and study, other than that of military art and science, by British soldiers in India. This Conference suggests that the provision of such facilities be taken into consideration in consultation, through local Governments, with the public librarians of the various circles.

RESOLUTION V.—*Supply of information regarding works on any particular subject.*

That libraries should regard it as an important part of their duties to recommend works to any persons seeking information on the subject with which they are especially concerned.

RESOLUTION VI.—*Exchange of books, mainly duplicate copies (discussed in Section D).*

(1) That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that exchange and transfer of books and periodicals available for exchange and transfer should be carried out wherever possible and that there be a bureau of exchange controlled by the central agency of each circle to facilitate such transfer and exchange of books and periodicals between libraries within that circle.

(2) That books regarded as superfluous, which any library wishes to discard, should be offered to some central institution such as the Imperial Library.

(3) That there be also a central bureau of information for all India, preferably the Imperial Library, to facilitate communication between the local bureaus.

RESOLUTION VII.—*Purchase of books.*

That this Conference is of opinion that the compilation and circulation of lists of books recommended for purchase by the Central Library, in each circle, and, if possible, others, to specialists and smaller libraries, is desirable.

RESOLUTION VIII.—*Purchase of periodicals.*

That this Conference recommends that Committees or heads of the principal libraries co-operate in order to avoid the purchase of duplicate sets of the less common scientific and other periodicals.

RESOLUTION IX.—*Subject-indexing* (*discussed in Section A*).

That the following steps be taken :—

(*a*) *As regards books other than serial publications.*—Subject-indexing of a simple type (such as the British Museum or London Library index) is desirable in general libraries, for the tracing of books in any single library, and in other libraries, and for avoiding needless duplication between libraries. While it is impossible to impose on all libraries a uniform system of subject-indexing, the fact that there are very few such indexes in India would make this easier, and anyway it may be possible to maintain a central index in one or more central libraries or bureaus. The difficulty would be to find the staff to compile. The central institution or institutions might maintain a staff; but this would be expensive and probably impracticable. Such a scheme would be much facilitated if all libraries, or at least the majority, were to adopt single uniform index cards and send them to the central bureau for redistribution. Even where the standard index is not used it should be possible, either through the library staff, or through a special staff, to arrange for the uniform indexing of new accessions. And, if India were divided into circles for this purpose, the work of uniform indexing would be greatly facilitated.

One method of dealing with existing collections would be :—

(1) that a small number of copies of such a compilation as the London Library subject-index or a bibliography should be sent out by, say, the Imperial Library to a number of chosen libraries;

(2) that the staffs of those libraries should place a mark against each of the books entered in the compilation that is in those libraries;

(3) that they then place a mark against each entry in their own catalogues for a book that is not entered in the compilation received from the Imperial Library;

(4) that they then return the marked compilation to the Imperial Library, sending with it the marked copies of their own catalogues; and

(5) that a general library which wants a copy of the index or bibliography mentioned in (1) should assist in completing the marks in the copy which it will keep.

(*b*) *As regards periodicals.*

(1) It is desirable that other libraries co-operate in the compilation by the Imperial Library of a subject index of articles of interest to Indianists in 'non-scientific' periodicals.

(2) A Committee should be formed to consider the non-scientific periodicals of interest to Indianists to be dealt with and the method and scope of subject-indexing, consisting of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Scholfield, Mr. Surendra Nath Kumar, Mr. Brajendra Nath Seal, Mr. Dodwell, Mr. S. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, Mr. Rushbrook-Williams, Mr. Woolner, Lala Labhu Ram, and Mr. Van Manen, with power to add to their number from Bombay and other centres.

(3) This work would have to be done in India; but, if the sub-committee appointed so decide they should be at liberty to approach the publishers of the "Athenæum."

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RESOLUTION X.—*Compilation of catalogues of periodicals of scientific value* (*discussed in Section B*).

*Part A.—Catalogues in preparation.*

(1) (*i*) That it be a recommendation to the Government of India that they catalogue the scientific periodicals available in various institutions in India in accordance with the scheme adopted by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in their Calcutta catalogue.

(*ii*) (*a*) In consideration that one catalogue for all India would have been more serviceable than one for the contents of the Calcutta libraries and another

for those of the libraries of the rest of India, this Conference recommends that no revised edition of either catalogue be published without a reference to a Conference of Librarians.

(*b*) In consideration that an arrangement of the titles of the periodicals under such headings as Botany, Geology, Zoology, etc., might have been preferable to the arrangement under 'Europe,' 'America,' etc., and the names of towns, this Conference recommends that no revised edition of either catalogue be published without a reference to a Conference of Librarians.

(2) That the Government of India be requested to publish at the earliest possible date all information available concerning scientific periodicals in libraries outside Calcutta in the form of a volume or volumes in succession to the catalogue of periodicals in Calcutta now being published by the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

(3) That in view of the urgent need for information about the scientific periodicals available throughout India, the Government of India be requested to depute a special officer to edit, and supervise the publication of, the successive volume or volumes.

(4) That the Conference is further of the opinion that the work would be expedited and rendered more reliable if the officer appointed were permitted to correspond direct with the authorities in control of the different libraries. The Conference also considers it essential that the officer appointed should visit at any rate the more important libraries in the different centres in order to check the information supplied.

(5) That on completion of publication of all the volumes of the catalogues, a complete subject index of the titles of periodicals in it should be prepared and published as soon as possible. The Conference, however, does not consider it desirable that the publication of the catalogue should be delayed for this purpose.

(6) That it be a recommendation to the Government of India that all libraries, the periodicals in which have been catalogued, should be instructed to inform the Government of India whenever (*a*) they have obtained periodicals not hitherto entered in their catalogue, (*b*) they have filled up blanks in the file of periodicals, and (*c*) they have ceased to obtain periodicals entered in their catalogue. That the Government of India should circulate this information to all libraries in a convenient form annually. That, as soon as it seems desirable on the basis of this information either an appendix to or a new edition of the whole catalogue should be published.

*Part B.—Appointment of a Committee to consider what further action should be taken.*

(1) That the Conference considers it desirable that a Standing Committee should be appointed in connection with the question of cataloguing scientific periodicals and that this Committee should meet at suitable times, such as the meeting of the Indian Science Congress, to discuss proposals brought before it by the Government of India or to suggest to the Government of India any further proposals. That this Standing Committee should consist of five members one of whom should be one of the General Secretaries of the Indian Science Congress.

That the other members of the Standing Committee should be Dr. Gilbert Walker, Mr. S. W. Kemp, Dr. W. N. F. Woodland, and the Librarian of the Imperial Library *ex-officio*; and that the Committee be empowered to fill in vacancies in its body subject to the approval of the Government of India and to add to its number.

(2) That in the opinion of the Conference the catalogue of periodicals available in various institutions in India should include eventually all periodicals so available which are devoted to research and scholarship.

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RESOLUTION XI.—*Compilation of catalogues of manuscripts* (*discussed in Section E*).

1. That the proposed census of Indian libraries should mention the existence of every collection of manuscripts and drawings, including plates, in India, in whatsoever language, with the briefest possible indication of their nature.

2. That any information of a similar nature relating to collections of manuscripts in private ownership should be incorporated wherever possible.

3. That the Government of India take steps at an early date to compile and publish brief lists of all manuscripts of value in India hitherto uncatalogued and also to secure the publication of such catalogues of manuscripts as are still unpublished. The *Catalogus Catalogorum* might serve as a model for such lists of manuscripts as this Conference recommends.

4. That a specially qualified officer or officers should be put in charge of this work.

5. That the particular attention of Government be invited to the necessity of the methodical collection of all the extant manuscripts written in languages which are in danger of extinction. (In the Lepcha language, for instance, only 3 manuscripts were known in Europe and only 4 titles were mentioned by European scholars up to a year ago; but a private collector has succeeded in collecting 75 manuscripts covering 20 titles.) The Asiatic Society of Bengal may be requested to institute enquiries on this matter in consultation with local research societies.

RESOLUTION XII.—*Compilation of catalogues of Indian vernacular periodicals* (*discussed in Section F*).

(1) That the Government of India be asked to make and publish an inventory of the vernacular periodicals, periodicals dealing with technical matters and popular educational science.

(2) That any such inventory be in English, with mention of the vernacular in which each periodical is published.

RESOLUTION XIII.—*Publication and distribution of a list of books and periodicals published in India* (*discussed in Section F*).

That, as quarterly provincial lists of books and periodicals published in each province are already made and distributed and as it is understood that the Government of India are considering the publication of an annual consolidated list for the whole of India, no specific proposal is called for under the third question put forward by the Government of Bombay.

RESOLUTION XIV.—*Training of assistant librarians* (*discussed in Section C*).

(1) That this Committee considers it desirable (*a*) that the assistants of such libraries as desire it, should be given facilities for learning library work in the Imperial Library, Calcutta, the Punjab University Library, and the Baroda Central Library; (*b*) and that these institutions should be invited to undertake the training of small groups of such assistants or any persons desiring training as library assistants the Librarian of each institution having the right of rejecting any persons applying for training.

(2) That the training mentioned in Resolution (I) should be for not less than six months at a time, and include any or all of the following subjects:—

(*i*) Issuing and receiving books.

(*ii*) Drawing up orders for books and checking new books when received.

(*iii*) The work of a reference librarian.

(*iv*) Classification.

(*v*) Method of cataloguing.

(*vi*) Subject indexing,

(*vii*) General Library management and economy.

(*viii*) Such general intellectual training as the Librarian considers possible and desirable.

(3) That the institution of an itinerary school is considered impracticable.

(4) That library assistants after undergoing their preliminary training should receive a further training in special libraries for special kinds of library work, and that technical and scientific librarians should be approached with reference to the facilities that could be granted.

(5) That with regard to the resolution that reference librarians should be appointed in University and large public libraries it is observed with satisfaction that some libraries have made a beginning in this direction, and it is hoped that these and other libraries will extend or introduce this special department of library work as far as their resources may permit.

(6) That an Indian Library Association should be formed which might, among other activities, consider the desirability of publishing a journal.

RESOLUTION XV.—*Appointment of trained Librarians.*

That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that all large libraries in India should employ trained librarians on adequate salaries with adequate clerical staffs where necessary.

RESOLUTION XVI.—*Paper preservation (arising out of Mr. W. Raitt's paper).*

(1) That the Conference considers it of the highest importance in reference to the future history of libraries that scientific and historical investigations into the deterioration of paper and binding of different kinds in different climates and under different conditions should be prosecuted without delay.

(2) That the Conference desires to impress upon Government that there exists an urgent and immediate necessity that a supply of paper capable of permanent preservation in India should be obtained and maintained in this country and that paper of a suitable quality should be employed for all written records of permanent value, all printed matter of the same nature and all plates reproduced by the different processes in use. Further that this be brought to the notice of the India Office in order that suitable paper may be chosen for publications likely to be used in India but printed in England.

## Paper read by Mr. W. Raitt, F.C.S., on Paper Preservation in India.

I do not intend to occupy your time very long this morning with the subject of deterioration of paper in India for the very good and sufficient reason that as yet very little is known of the subject. It is intended, I understand, to institute a scientific enquiry into it and it has occurred to me that this is an excellent opportunity to meet the chief sufferers and observers of the disease and obtain from them, at first hand, their experience of its symptoms and to use the information you are thus good enough to afford me as a beginning of the enquiry, hoping to be able on a future occasion to address you again on its results.

The subject is not new either in England, America or Germany. In each of these countries it has received more or less attention and been more or less successfully combated but the assistance we can get from any of these investigations is small owing to the very patent fact that they all deal with deterioration in cold or temperate countries. With all perishable articles, and especially with all that are based on Cellulose, there is no factor of deterioration so potent for mischief as the alternately hot dry and hot damp of the average tropical atmosphere coupled with the extraordinarily fertile conditions which such a climate provides for the multiplication of fungoid and other destructive organisms and insect pests. We have, therefore, causes to deal with with which the before-mentioned enquiries had no concern.

I do not think I can be of any greater use to you on the present occasion than to indicate briefly the lines and directions in which deterioration in a climate like this is possible and ask you to inform me whether the deterioration you have observed conforms to such lines and in which direction it is serious and which negligible. If I venture to make suggestions as to treatment and cure, you will understand these are merely tentative and not as yet the result of experiment and trial, and are intended solely to obtain an expression of your opinion as to whether they sound possible and offer a line of experimentation worth trying.

Paper has been described as 'an aqueous deposit of vegetable fibre,' a description which leaves much to be desired in lucidity but is about as near to scientific accuracy as we can get in five words. Such vegetable fibre when separated, as it must be when prepared for moulding into a sheet of paper, from all the incrusting material with which it is united in the plant whether that be ligneous, pectous or starchy substance, is isolated to the true cell wall of the vegetable substance and is found to be a chemical entity of invariable composition to which the name *cellulose* has been given. There are several types of cellulose each of them invariably true to its own composition but each differing from the others and it is in this variety of type and composition that we find the beginning of our troubles. We have, first and most important, that which we know as normal cellulose with the formula $C_6 H_{10} O_5$—that is, 6 molecules of carbon combined with 5 of water. Of this, cotton fibre is the typical example but most of the bast fibres, that is the ring of fibre underlying the cuticle and over the wood as you find it in such plants as flax and hemp, also belong to it. Consequently it follows that all papers made from rag are composed of normal cellulose. Now normal cellulose is well known to be one of the most inert substances in existence under all ordinary conditions. Witness its universal use as filter paper in chemical laboratories where it is daily brought into intimate contact with chemical solutions of all kinds yet without change. In fact, except by such drastic measures as fire and strong mineral acids, normal cellulose produced from linen and cotton rag is indestructible and unchangeable, and of this you cannot have a more striking proof than the one I now present to you, *viz.*, a scrap of paper dug up from a cemetery of a buried city of Central Asia by Sir Aurel Stein which can be authoritatively ascribed to the 5th or 6th century A. D.—as fresh and crisp as if it had been made only yesterday. True, the conditions under which it has been preserved—dry desert sand—are ideal, but still think of fourteen hundred years without the slightest change either in chemical composition or appearance.

Therefore, I think, it is safe to assert that none of your complaints will have reference to documents or books, dated previous to 1860. You may have a few between 1860 and 1870, still more from 1870 to 1880 and many more between 1880 and the present date, each of these dates roughly marking off an era distinguished by the introduction of one or other of the rag substitutes which now compose about 80 per cent. of the 9 or 10 million tons of paper annually produced. It is to these that I think your complaints will chiefly refer.

These materials were forced on the attention of the paper-maker by the rapidly growing demand which began in the sixties and which in England received an enormous stimulus by the Education Act of 1870. The old-fashioned supplies of raw material became wholly inadequate and recourse was had in turn to straw, esparto and wood, and your troubles are due to the fact that these were used indiscriminately without any regard—and indeed for many years without any knowledge—of their real chemical composition. We know now that they are not true normal cellulose, that while their basic formula is the same, $C_6H_{10}O_5$, yet the molecule is combined with varying and uncertain quantities of oxygen and is further capable of absorbing, under suitable conditions, still more oxygen with disastrous results to its structure and durability. These types we distinguish from normal cellulose by the name oxy-celluloses—$C_6H_{10}O_5 + O_n$

Lastly we have to note the introduction of *mechanical* woodpulp (as distinguished from *chemical* woodpulp) which is not a true cellulose at all but is merely the unaltered wood fibre reduced by grinding. We speak of it as ligno-cellulose to distinguish it from true wood-cellulose from which the ligneous matter has been eliminated by chemical processes. This is the cheapest material of all and therefore forms a considerable proportion in all modern papers in which cheapness is the most desirable character. The average London newspaper consists of 20 per cent chemical woodpulp and 80 per cent of this mechanical woodpulp.

If three papers, one of a pure rag or normal cellulose writing, another an esparto or chemical woodpulp printing, *i.e.*, an oxycellulose, and a cheap newspaper, *i.e.*, a ligno-cellulose, are heated for 24 hours in an oven at a temperature of 108° to 105° centigrade, the first will undergo little if any change, the second will be slightly discoloured and reduced in fibrous strength, while the third will be quite brown and extremely brittle and *both the latter will have increased considerably in weight by*

*combination with oxygen.* These changes in the oxy and ligno-cellulose, thus brought about rapidly, are what occur slowly in ordinary temperatures and especially under the extremes of heat and moisture found in India and in a large measure explain the troubles of which you complain. The oxy-cellulose, produced from esparto and wood, if manufactured under certain conditions which I will presently refer to, can be kept under a certain amount of control and used for fairly permanent records, but ligno-cellulose, ground wood, is wholly beyond control in its greediness for oxygen and should never be used except for the most ephemeral publications.

One other chemical change to which cellulose is liable is Hydrolysis. If it is boiled in weak solutions of mineral acids like sulphuric or hydrochloric it is converted into a non-fibrous brittle substance having the composition $C_{12}$ $H_{20}$ $O_{10}$ $+2H_2$ O to which the term hydro-cellulose has been applied. Here again a similar change occurs, but much more slowly, when paper is exposed to free acid at ordinary temperatures. Here, also again, the conditions of the Indian climate predispose to such change more rapidly than in temperate latitudes. Free acid may exist in the atmosphere especially in towns but is much more likely to be introduced into the paper during manufacture by carelessness in the quality of the alum used for sizing. An essential of any approved specification for paper required for any permanent purpose is therefore total absence of free acid.

These changes, which occur in the chemical composition of paper, oxidation and hydrolysis, slowly and insidiously on the book shelves will, I think, account for much of the trouble. They both result eventually in a destruction of the fibrous character of the substance of the paper until it will not bear handling without crumbling into powder.

Still these oxy-celluloses, or some of them at least, are capable of being manufactured into papers of a fairly permanent character provided due care is exercised in their manufacture or, to put it in another way, their destruction by slow oxidation and hydrolysis may be very rapidly hastened by impurities introduced into their composition. I have already alluded to free acid as one of these, another is an excessive amount of China clay introduced as a cheap loading. The more clay the less fibre and less resistance to deteriorating influences. Then there is the use of starch introduced partly to assist the fibre to carry a large amount of clay and also for the more legitimate purpose of assisting the calendering or glazing of the surface. I think it would be wise to exclude starch entirely from any specification of paper intended for use in India. It acts as a strong attraction not only to destructive insects but to those ferments and organisms with which the Indian atmosphere is so highly charged, especially during the monsoon. Cellulose is not a tempting form of provender to either of these forms of active life and neither the tunnels made by boring insects nor the discoloured patches produced by colonies of organisms are evidences of a partiality for it. The attraction in both cases has been the starch. Even the best quality of paper made from pure normal cellulose is not entirely free in damp climates from this form of attack. In this case the attraction is the gelatine which has been used in sizing and which may amount to as much as 5 per cent of the whole. I should be glad to know whether you have observed either insect depredations or fungoid and bacterial attacks on old books and documents or upon modern ones of the edition-de-luxe quality for which hand-made paper has been used. If so, it is almost certain that the gelatine has been the attraction and fortunately this is a complaint for which there is a simple cure. One further question I would like to put before leaving this phase of the subject. Has it been observed that the paste used by the bookbinder is an attraction to insects, who afterward attack the paper ?

Some of the effects of the Indian climate have already been alluded to. I would like, for a few moments, to discuss them more fully. The atmosphere is at all times full of living microscopic organisms, some beneficial but most deleterious, and no more favourable conditions can be offered for the rapid propagation of the latter than those of the monsoon with its combined heat and damp. These find ready made propagating mediums in the starch and gelatine which may form constituents of the paper and in the paste used in binding. Now the most favourable condition for their propagation is a dead motionless monsoon atmosphere. Were it not for the fact that the atmosphere is practically always in motion it is probable

they would so increase that any other kind of life—our own included—would be impossible. Their chief enemy is movement of the air. An isolated mass of air, provided the isolation is complete, soon becomes sterilised and harmless, hence the efficacy of a hermetically sealed container as a protector from microbic and fungoid attack, but if your container is *not* hermetically sealed, if, like the ordinary book almirah or library cupboard, it is merely a more or less insect proof casing enclosing a mass of still dead air, sufficiently pervious to the outer atmosphere to receive continued fresh supplies of organisms and the moisture laden air in which they thrive, and yet is wholly protected from that perpetual motion of the atmosphere which is the chief means of holding them within bounds, then you are simply storing your books in ideal incubators for the propagation of their enemies. Without making any dogmatic assertion I suggest to you that more efficient protection could possibly be obtained from cases and cupboards built on the principle of allowing the fullest possible freedom and movement of air within and through them, while at the same time excluding predatory insects, and that such movement of air might be usefully stimulated by efficient ventilation of the rooms and buildings, such ventilation going to the length of creating violent artificial currents for short periods once or twice during the day. Where electricity is installed this would be a simple problem and it might even go the length of providing the building with filtered air which was tolerably free from destructive organisms. I invite your criticism of this suggestion.

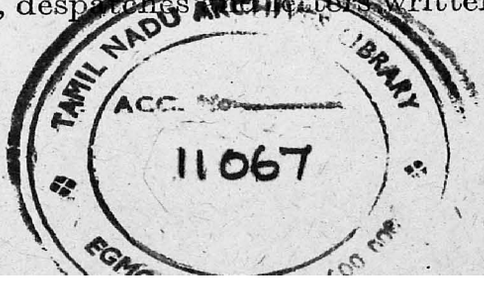
It is certainly necessary that the subject should be investigated. From what I know, as a paper-maker, of the rag substitutes which have been introduced during the last fifty years and of the impurities which their use has fostered I think I am safe in predicting that fifty years hence most of the books published during the last fifty years, as well as most of Government's written and printed records, will be unreadable while those of an earlier era will still be quite sound. You must not blame the paper-maker. On the one hand his old well tried reliable material, rag cellulose, proved totally inadequate in amount for modern requirements, and on the other he has had to meet the modern craze for cheapness at all or any or no cost. The chief delinquent is the Government of India with its meticulous regard for effecting an imaginary economy of the final fraction of the last pie of the price of their purchases. At least this is true so far as their own documents and records are concerned. With a climate to contend with, which is infinitely more destructive than that of temperate lands, they are yet the last to give the subject any consideration. Fortunately it is not too late to find a remedy. I think it will be quite possible to establish specification of papers suitable for the uses to which they are put and the length of time they are required to last and to institute improved systems of storing and preserving both documents and books, and that without calling upon Government to undertake any additional large expenditure.

In conclusion I beg to ask for your assistance and experience in reference to the following questions :—

1. Have you found any deterioration of paper produced prior to 1860 or in hand-made (or machine-made) rag papers manufactured since ? If so, of what nature ?
2. In modern papers what is the nature of the deterioration—discoloured blotches or crumbling to powder when handled ?
3. Bookbinder's paste—does it act as an attraction to insects which afterwards attack the paper ?
4. Ventilated book cases.
5. Will publishers print your copies on a special paper if it is provided for them ?

## Discussion on Mr. Raitt's paper.

Mr. Mark Hunter said that he had occasion to consult the Madras official records belonging to the middle of the 18th century. He found some of them in a very bad state and unsafe to handle under a fan. In the India Office the records of the corresponding period, *e.g.*, despatches, letters written in India, and apparently,



on papers of the same quality as the Madras Records were in a very good condition. It would seem therefore that papers that would last indefinitely in England would deteriorate in India very soon.

Mr. Chapman said that he had a list of books in the Imperial Library published between about 1790 and 1870 at different places, drawn up, the papers of which had perished badly. He had sent the list to the British Museum the authorities of which reported that in every case their copies of the books were in perfect condition and that there was no sign of deterioration of papers except an occasional "foxing." He had suggested to the Government of India that an enquiry into the causes of the perishing of paper should be undertaken and he was strongly against the postponement of any such enquiry till after the war, as the investigation might take a long time and on its results would depend in what way library buildings in India should be designed. There were two or three library buildings about to be constructed. One was the Madras University buildings; and there was the question of a new building for the Imperial Library or an adaptation of an existing building for it.

Dr. Annandale thought that any such enquiry should take into account the differences in the climates in different parts of India. He was of opinion that the climate of Calcutta was in many respects superior to that of the Punjab in respect of paper preservation because the former place was less susceptible to extreme changes in climate. He would deprecate any idea of confining such an enquiry to Delhi or Simla and he hoped that the matter would be borne in mind when an enquiry was instituted.

Mr. Howard said that he had in his possession a book dealing with library construction in America. That book laid great stress on ventilation of book-cases and he thought that the ventilation of libraries was a most important question to be considered in this connection. Messrs. Chapman and Raitt agreed with Mr. Howard and the former said that he had striking proof of what was happening in a library the air of which never moved.

Dr. Annandale was of opinion that book binders were to a certain extent responsible for the deterioration of paper in this country. The green and blue dyes used by them specially attracted certain insects which perhaps excluded others from entering the books.

Mr. Raitt suggested that publishers in England might be induced to print copies of publications specially meant to be sent out to India on special papers.

Mr. Samms-Hudson thought that the suggestion was impracticable.

Dr. Walker was of opinion that the Commerce and Industry Department should be asked if something could not be done to give effect to Mr. Raitt's suggestion. It was possible to approach it from a business point of view because it meant business to us and business to publishers. Mr. Samms-Hudson said that publishers in England must take into account the public demand for publications at low prices as the bulk of each publication would be sold in England and they must therefore take into consideration the type which would be most readily demanded by the public in England.

Mr. Kemp thought that scientific papers in India might be printed on papers of the special kind described by Mr. Raitt.

Dr. Annandale referred to the practice of the British Museum of printing 24 copies of all their publications on special high grade paper, but this paper he was inclined to think was unsuitable in the tropics. He also referred to the special difficulty of getting imperishable paper for illustrations. He thought that the publishers of scientific papers were not doing the right thing in publishing the illustrations on perishable papers.

Mr. Raitt thought it was rather difficult to get papers for printing illustrations that would last a long time, but said that it was possible.

Mr. Chapman said that in most cases in which the paper of old books had deteriorated. the plates were as good as new. He knew of only one case in which

the plates had perished while the paper remained in a satisfactory condition. He said that Mr. Scholfield was inclined to think that the perishing of plates had some connection with the tissue paper used in protecting illustrations. Mr. Scholfield was in the habit of removing such tissue paper.

Mr. Samms-Hudson said that the photo-mechanical process blocks, *i.e.*, halftone illustrations, now used were responsible for the use of paper which quickly deteriorated as it was loaded to a great degree with China clay and starch which, Mr. Raitt had already pointed out, attracted the pests which destroyed paper. In answer to a question as to why it was often found in old books that the ink of illustrations came off on the opposite page, he pointed out that it mostly occurred where the book was illustrated with steel engraving as the ink lay in bulk on the papers and not impressed into the paper as with the type and woodcuts. Steel engravings did not lend themselves to such rapid deterioration.

Dr. Annandale was of opinion that certain scientific books printed in England were specially unsuitable for the Indian climate, the papers cracked and became hard and brittle. He was of opinion that this should be brought to the notice of the India Office.

Mr. Van Manen said that as a side issue he would like to point out that all the copies of valuable books meant for India should not be sent out at the same time ; that some should be retained and sent out to replace those which perished.

Mr. Raitt drew the attention of the Conference to the remark made by Mr. Charlier in paragraph 9 of his note in which he had suggested that the experts in agriculture should be asked to advise whether it would be possible to grow in India esparto grass, alcohol and papirus reed which he thought would, along with linen rags, make the most durable paper.

Mr. Raitt thought that this suggestion was agriculturally impossible and probably commercially unsound. The paper manufacturer lived on nature's waste and on whatever other people rejected.

Mr. Van Manen enquired whether it was possible to introduce paper such as was used by the old Rajputana manuscript writers.

Dr. Annandale suggested that it was extremely desirable that the value of indigenous paper should be investigated. There was a tendency to ignore indigenous products and methods which he greatly deprecated. He also referred to the danger of getting experts out to recommend entirely new articles without taking into account indigenous products.

Mr. Raitt said that recently he was making enquiries in Kashmir on paper-making. In some places in Kashmir he found that paper manufacturers used identical methods which were followed by paper manufacturers in Persia about five hundred years ago and in China about two thousand years ago.

Mr. Dutt asked Mr. Raitt whether he was correct in assuming that he advocated open shelves as against closed almirahs. He remarked he had seen a book-case made by a friend of his which was covered by zinc which kept out insects and provided a current of air by means of very small holes.

Mr. Raitt said that he certainly advocated open book-shelves provided that the ventilation of the room was good.

Dr. Annandale pointed out that in Travancore they used glass cases with holes for inserting boric acid cotton. He thought that if books were aired and dusted, their life would certainly be prolonged.

Dr. Annandale suggested dipping in kerosine oil as another method to keep away insects and Mr. Raitt pointed out that he could not advocate this as it would loosen the texture of the papers and so form lurking places for pests.

Mr. Chapman enquired whether the use of corrosive sublimate was dangerous. Mr. Raitt did not recommend this as it was dangerous to handle in preparing the books. Twenty-five years ago he was asked by the India Office to recommend a blend of gelatine which would be especially suitable to India and he suggested the addition of a microscopic quantity of bin-iodiæ of mercury to the gelatine.

Mr. Sharp (the President) thanked Mr. Raitt for his interesting paper. His note had elicited an interesting discussion. He said that the question might be discussed under two aspects ; in the first place from the aspects of the librarians, who might collect a list of books with necessary particulars, including dates of publications, which had been destroyed or which had deteriorated in different libraries situated in different parts of India, and secondly from the point of view of a chemist, who would investigate the causes and suggest remedies. He thought that some of the librarians might enter into correspondence with each other and make out such a list.

Mr. Chapman said that he had already a list of books belonging to different libraries in different parts of India the paper of which had perished, and he had also collected specimens of paper from such books. He thought he was already in a position to supply the necessary information to the chemist who might be appointed to investigate the matter.

Thus closed the discussion on Mr. Raitt's paper.

# APPENDIX A.

## *I.—Report of Section A (Methods of subject-indexing).*

Subject-indexing of a simple type (such as the British Museum or London Library index) is desirable in general libraries, for the tracing of books in any single library, and in other libraries, and for avoiding needless duplication between libraries. While it is impossible to impose on all libraries a uniform system of subject-indexing, the fact that there are very few such indexes in India would make this easier, and, any way, it may be possible to maintain a central index in one or more central libraries or bureaus. The difficulty would be to find the staff to compile. The central institution or institutions might maintain a staff, but this would be expensive and probably impracticable. Such a scheme would be much facilitated if all libraries, or at least the majority, were to adopt a single uniform index, in which case, each library might make its own index cards and send them to the central bureau for redistribution. Even where the standard index is not used it should be possible, either through the library staff, or through a special staff, to arrange for the uniform indexing of new accessions. And, if India were divided into circles for this purpose, the work of uniform indexing would be greatly facilitated.

One method of dealing with existing collections would be :—

1. that a small number of copies of such a compilation as the London Library subject-index or a bibliography should be sent out by, say, the Imperial Library to a number of chosen libraries;
2. that the staffs of these libraries should place a mark against each of the books entered in the compilation that is in those libraries;
3. that they then place a mark against each entry in their own catalogues that is for a book not entered in the compilation received from the Imperial Library;
4. that they then return the marked compilation to the Imperial Library, sending with it the marked copies of their own catalogues; and
5. that a general library which wants a copy should assist in completing the marks in the copy which it will keep.

### Resolution.

(*a*) That it is desirable that other libraries co-operate in the compilation by the Imperial Library of a subject index of non-scientific periodicals containing articles of interest to Indianists.

(*b*) That a committee be formed to consider the non-scientific periodicals of interest to Indianists to be dealt with and the method and scope of subject-indexing, consisting of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Scholfield, Mr. Surendra Nath Kumar, Mr. Brajendra Nath Seal, Mr. Dodwell, Mr. S. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, Mr. Rushbrook-Williams, Mr. Woolner, Lala Labhu Ram and Mr. Van Manen, with power to add to their number from Bombay and other centres.

(*c*) That the work would have to be done in India; but, if the sub-committee appointed so decide they should be at liberty to approach the publishers of the "Athenæum."

## *II.—Report of Section B (Compilation of catalogues of periodicals of scientific value).*

### *Part A—Catalogues in preparation.*

*Resolution 1.*—That it be a recommendation to the Government of India that they catalogue the periodicals available in various institutions in India in accordance with the scheme adopted by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in their Calcutta catalogue.

(*This motion was carried by a large majority.*)

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Howard that it would be more convenient to those who wished to refer to this catalgogue if the periodicals were arranged under the headings of subjects. It was explained that this suggestion was difficult, if not impossible, to carry out and the amendment was lost.

*Resolution 2.*—That the Government of India be requested to publish at the earliest possible date all information available concerning scientific periodicals in libraries outside Calcutta in the form of a volume or volumes in succession to the catalogue of periodicals in Calcutta now being published by the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Resolution 3.*—That in view of the urgent need for information about the scientific periodicals available throughout India, Section B suggests that a request should be submitted to

the Government of India that a special officer should be deputed to edit, and supervise the publication of, the successive volume or volumes.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Resolution 4.*—That the Section is further of the opinion that the work would be expedited and rendered more reliable and that the cost would be considerably reduced if the officer appointed were permitted to correspond direct with the authorities in control of the different libraries. The Section also considers it essential that the officer appointed should visit at any rate the more important libraries in the different centres in order to check the information supplied.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Resolution 5.*—That on completion of publication of all the volumes of the catalogue a complete subject index to it should be prepared and published as soon as possible. The Section however does not consider it desirable that the publication of the catalogue should be delayed for this purpose.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Resolution 6.*—That it be a recommendation to the Government of India that all libraries the periodicals in which have been catalogued should be instructed to inform the Education Bureau whenever (*a*) they obtain periodicals not hitherto represented in their catalogue, (*b*) they fill in blanks in the file of periodicals, and (*c*) they cease to obtain periodicals entered in their catalogue. That the Education Bureau should circulate this information to all libraries in a convenient form annually. That as soon as it seems desirable on the basis of this information either an Appendix to or a new edition of the whole catalogue should be published.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Part B.*—Whether a Committee should be appointed to consider what further action should be taken.

*Resolution 7.*—The Section considers it desirable that a Standing Committee should be appointed in connection with the question of cataloguing scientific periodicals and that this Committee should meet at each meeting of the Indian Science Congress to discuss proposals brought before it by the Government of India or to suggest to the Government of India any further proposals. That this Standing Committee should consist of four members one of whom should be one of the General Secretaries of the Indian Science Congress.

That the other members of the Standing Committee should be Dr. Gilbert Walker, Mr. S. W. Kemp, and Dr. W. N. F. Woodland and that the Committee be empowered to fill in vacancies in its body subject to the approval of the Government of India.

(*Carried unanimously.*)

*Report of Section C (Training of library assistants).*

Resolved.

I. That this Committee consider it desirable (*a*) that the assistants of such libraries as desire it should be given facilities for learning library work in the Imperial Library, Calcutta, the Punjab University Library, and the Baroda Central Library; (*b*) and that these institutions should be invited to undertake the training of small groups of such assistants or any persons desiring training as Library Assistants, the Librarian of each institution having the right of rejecting any persons applying for training.

II. It is recommended that the training mentioned in Resolution I should be for not less than six months at a time, and include any or all of the following subjects :—

(*i.*) Issuing and receiving books;

(*ii.*) Drawing up orders for books and checking new books when received;

(*iii.*) The work of a reference librarian;

(*iv.*) Classification;

(*v.*) Methods of cataloguing;

(*vi.*) Subject indexing;

(*vii.*) General Library management and Economy;

(*viii.*) Such general intellectual training as the Librarian considers possible and desirable.

III. The institution of an itinerary school was considered impracticable.

IV. With regard to the suggestion that reference librarians should be appointed in University and large public libraries this Committee observes with satisfaction that some libraries have made a beginning in this direction, and hopes that these and other libraries will extend or introduce this special department of library work as far as their resources may permit.

V. This Committee considers that some Association of librarians and library assistants should be formed, and publish (or subsidise) a quarterly Journal.

The Association should not conduct examinations.

*Report of Section D (Exchange of books, chiefly duplicate copies).*

I. That in the opinion of this section it is desirable that an exchange of duplicate books and periodicals should be carried out wherever possible, that there be a bureau of exchange, conducted by the central agency of each circle to facilitate the transfer and exchange of books and periodicals between libraries within that circle.

II. That there be also a central bureau of information for all India, preferably the Department of Education, to facilitate communication between the local bureaus.

*Report of Section E. (Compilation of catalogues of manuscripts).*

1. That this Committee recommends that the proposed census of Indian libraries should mention the existence of every collection of manuscripts in India in whatsoever language (including plates and drawings) with the briefest possible indication of their nature.

2. That this Committee recommends that any information of a similar nature relating to collections of manuscripts in private ownership should be incorporated wherever possible.

3. That this Committee recommends that the Government of India should take steps at an early date to compile and publish brief lists of all manuscripts of value in India hitherto uncatalogued and also to secure the publication of such catalogues of manuscripts as are still unpublished. The *catalogus catalogorum* might serve as a model for such lists of manuscripts as this Committee recommends.

4. That in view of the fact that there are very large and valuable collections of Oriental manuscripts in the Native States which have not been catalogued or even properly arranged as yet, this Committee is of opinion that it is specially important to compile and publish lists of the manuscripts in the Native States as quickly as possible.

5. That this Committee recommends that a specially qualified officer or officers should be put in charge of this work.

6. That this Committee recommends that press lists of the important historical records in the Government archives (both Imperial and Provincial) up to 1817 be published with short descriptive notes.

7. That this Committee recommends to the particular attention of Government the necessity of the methodical collection of all the extent manuscripts written in languages which are in danger of extinction (in the Lepcha language for instance only 3 manuscripts were known up to a year ago, but a private collector has succeeded in collecting 75 manuscripts covering 20 titles).

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*Report of Section F (Compilation of catalogues of Indian vernacular periodicals, and distribution of complete lists of books published in each province.)*

RESOLUTION.

(*a*) That the Government of India be asked to make an inventory of the vernacular scientific periodicals (which can easily be done from the quarterly returns of published books) and to send this list together with some specimens of the periodicals to the Standing Committee which will deal with the cataloguing of such periodicals in other languages and that the Standing Committee be asked to advise whether a catalogue of vernacular scientific periodicals be published as an integral part of that catalogue of periodicals, as an appendix or separately.

(*b*) That any such inventory and the subsequent catalogue be in English, with mention of the vernacular in which each periodical is published.

(*c*) That, as quarterly provincial lists of books and periodicals published in each province are already made and distributed, and as it is understood that the Government of India are considering the publication of an annual consolidated list for the whole of India, no specific proposal is called for under the third question put forward by the Government of Bombay.

# APPENDIX B.

## I.

Mr. Nagappa brought forward the following proposals for the consideration of the Conference :—

that in the opinion of the Conference it is very desirable that there should be a regular library school under a professional library expert, say on the model of the New York State library school, in connection with at least one large library in India ;

that the Conference recommends that outlines or elements of Library Science in its important aspects be added to the curricula of Commercial High Schools, Vocational and Technical Schools and of the courses for the Secondary School leaving Certificates as an optional subject ;

that it is very desirable and advantageous in the opinion of the Conference to make a short course in library methods and working compulsory for teachers of the secondary and higher grades and that it is therefore recommended that outlines of Library Science including bibliographies of children's books and school reference literature be added to the curricula of Teacher's Training Courses and University Normal Courses in India.

As a supplement to the above resolutions he suggested the adoption of the following resolution. It was decided that these proposals should be recorded in the proceedings.

" In this connection and as a substantial preliminary to the above resolutions I beg to move as follows :—that this Conference considers it very desirable that every large library in India should provide itself with a trained librarian."

## II.

It was also decided to record the following resolution moved by Mr. Van Manen :—

It is the opinion of this Conference that the Government of India should be recommended to consider the policy of putting its departmental and other libraries of sufficient value and extent under the charge of professional librarians assisted by special staffs where required :—

(*a*) In order to relieve professional Scientists and Departmental officers now charged with library duties in addition to their own primary duties from the burden of a work by nature foreign to their professions, and one that makes considerable demands on their labour and time.

(*b*) In order to arrive at the best possible internal management of such libraries in the matter of cataloguing, indexing, shelving and general administration.

(*c*) In order to promote a general policy of enhancing the value and utility of existing collections of literary resources under Government control, by rendering them as easily and freely available to the general public, and especially the serious student, all over India, by lending and otherwise, in so far as compatible with, and with complete safeguarding of, the special departmental or other needs and requirements which such collections are primarily meant to serve.



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