

Editorial

The transfer of the editorial offices of American Documentation to the School of Library Science of Western Reserve University is doubly significant. At Western Reserve, during the decade of the 1930's, the late Robert C. Binkley carried out his extensive work on the new methods for reproducing research materials, a series of studies in techniques and costs which have become classics in their own right, and which have laid the very foundation for the development of documentation in the United States.

Furthermore, the School of Library Science at Western Reserve was certainly one of the first, if not actually the first, to recognize the importance of documentation to the widening horizons of librarianship, and to include in its curriculum for the training of future librarians a course, under the direction of Helen M. Focke, in the principles, practices, and techniques of documentation. Thus, in a very real sense, the historical development of documentation as a recognized academic discipline has come full circle; and this new recognition of Western Reserve University as a focal point of research and instruction in documentation is a peculiarly fitting acknowledgement of the pioneering achievements in which this university may feel a justifiable pride.

In accepting his duties the new editor is deeply aware of the magnitude of the responsibilities that he has assumed. The publication of American Documentation is certainly one of the major activities of its parent association, and, indeed, for most of the members of the American Documentation Institute it represents the most important single contact with the profession. Thus, to maintain the highest possible level of editorial excellence is the first obligation of the new editor. But, "I cannot take from the bottle more than I have put in," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson during the trying years of his editorship of the young Dial. To keep "the bottle" well filled — to maintain a relentless search for important and significant manuscripts — is the first responsibility, not only of the editor and his associates, but of every member of the Institute. With this cooperation and support we can, I am sure, make "AD", in the years ahead, a real and vital force for the improvement of documentation and its coordination with the larger profession of librarianship of which it is becoming an increasingly important part.