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[Scraps of memoranda found written on a pad. Forwarded by G.R.O., Jan. 1921]

THE COLLEGE OF THE BOOK

As illustrated in the *Picture* of Bodleian and Clarendon Schools at Oxford.

Used 1907

That there should be a college where men could learn everything relating to the Book from the preparation of manuscript & the whole mystery of authorship to the art of binding, everything from the manufacture of the paper to the type with which the book is printed, everything relating to the press and to the mart, everything about the history of Printing from Gutenberg to Hoe, everything about the precursors of the printed book, the papyrus, the rolls the parchments & the vellum, even about the old writing from the <sup>burnt</sup> bricks of *Aino* (Museum) everything about the care of books, the Library lore, how to stack & store books, how to catalogue how to distribute them, how to make vital living units in a community, everything that the student should know about the use of books his skilled tools in the building of his mind, that there should be such a college and that <sup>might could would</sup> it should be at Oxford is evident to anyone who knows the Bodleian Library & the



Clarendon Press. Here is a unique opportunity - let us see how it could be utilized.

There would be four great departments or schools of the College.

I. The School of Library Economics

① This takes the first <sup>place</sup> since here is the most urgent need in the development of British Libraries. There are today in Gt Britain & Ireland - Libraries with a total staff of about ( ? ) men and ( ? ) women. The work of this large army is more or less technical all requiring considerable some indeed very special skill and yet this has to be acquired in a haphazard way without any preliminary training other than that given in a general education. Entering as an assistant a young man picks up the routine of the work from his seniors who are usually too busy to do more than give him general directions. If intelligent he gradually learns the work and becomes a valuable member of the Library, knowing its methods



② & knowing its books and becoming the trusted friend of all who use them. The very best men engaged in Library work have grown up in this way self-taught in book lore, self-trained in book-care and there is much to commend in a system by which natural aptitude is brought out and the best men are promoted. On the other hand as everyone knows too often without any real love of books the young assistant soon reaches a stage when he is fit only to fetch & to carry or to do the most elementary routine in cataloguing. Under present conditions there is a career in Library work as a profession for which a special preliminary training is demanded and for which the candidates should be required to reach a certain standard before the best positions are open to them. How important in reality the profession is may be gathered <sup>(ered)</sup> from the reports of the Library Assoc of Gt Britain. Men of large responsibilities, of extraordinarily wide interests, & of



exceptional opportunities for directing young men [,] the heads of our great Libraries & their senior assistants should have positions in the community equal to that of the college professors whose work they often do in a quiet way. Hence the necessity of a broad preliminary training, & a wide field for development adapted to men who will occupy places of such importance.

(?) For those who are in our public libraries & the hundreds who are in the private libraries, a Bodleian school would furnish the necessary education as no such school exists in Gt Britain I give a sketch of the work based on existing schools in America & the Colonies .

## II The School of Bibliography

Everything relating to the printed word would be here dealt with in a series of seminaries in charge of skilled teachers well organized on the theoretical & practical such a school would be



thronged with undergraduates during term & persons interested in books would come from far and near for long vacation courses.

A The History of Libraries. This could be given in series of

(?) (?) a course of University Lectures by experts dealing with ancient, medieval & modern collections, public & private gen-

(?) eral & special (1) note A. Lecture list

B



## Lecture List - History of Libraries

## Course I.

- I & II The Assyrian Libraries. 2 lectures by Prof ---- of ----
- III The Ancient Egyptian Libraries
- ④ IV An attempted reconstruction of the Private Library of (?) mentioned by Plato
- V The Alexandrian Library
- VI Libraries in Rome

## Course II

Libraries in the Middle Ages

6 Lectures

## Course III

Modern Public Libraries

8 Lectures

## Course IV

Modern Private Libraries

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Imaginary Libraries

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History of the Bodleian 3 Lectures

Notes 1.



To carry out a scheme of this extent would require a rearrangement of existing conditions at the Bodleian & at the Press - changes which are urgently called for in both places.

- Provision should be made elsewhere for the greater part of the
- ① present collection - a separate fireproof building in
- communication with the present ones which would be devoted to ad-
- ① ministration, reading rooms, Department rooms and teaching rooms
- ① (note ( ? ) estimate) .

The new Press building already under consideration would have to be arranged with a view to certain teaching purposes & the bindery so enlarged as to meet the demands of the Bodleian.



III. The School of Bibliography

The book

- ⑦ A 1 Authorship - course of 4 lectures by ( ? )
- 2 Paleography -
- 3 History of Printing from Gutenberg to Hoe. 10 lectures.
- ② 4 Type, composition & ele[c]trotyping  
     Linotypes & Monotype Machines
- 5 Paper
- 6 Press - work & Presses
- ③ 7 Printers - Ink - Rollers &c
- 8 Illustrations & Illustrators
- 9 Lithography
- 10 Proof Reading
  
- B Bindings (a) History & exhibitions (b) Technique
- ④ (c) Book cloths - Book leathers (d) Cover - stamps & designs



## Publication &amp;c

- 1 Copyrighting
- 2 Publication
- 3 Reviewing
- 4 E Selling - wholesale - Retail - The travelling salesman -  
Subscription issues
- 5 F Auctions - History. 3 Lectures
- 6 G Where & how to buy books for a private library - special  
collections &c incunabula - rare collections