

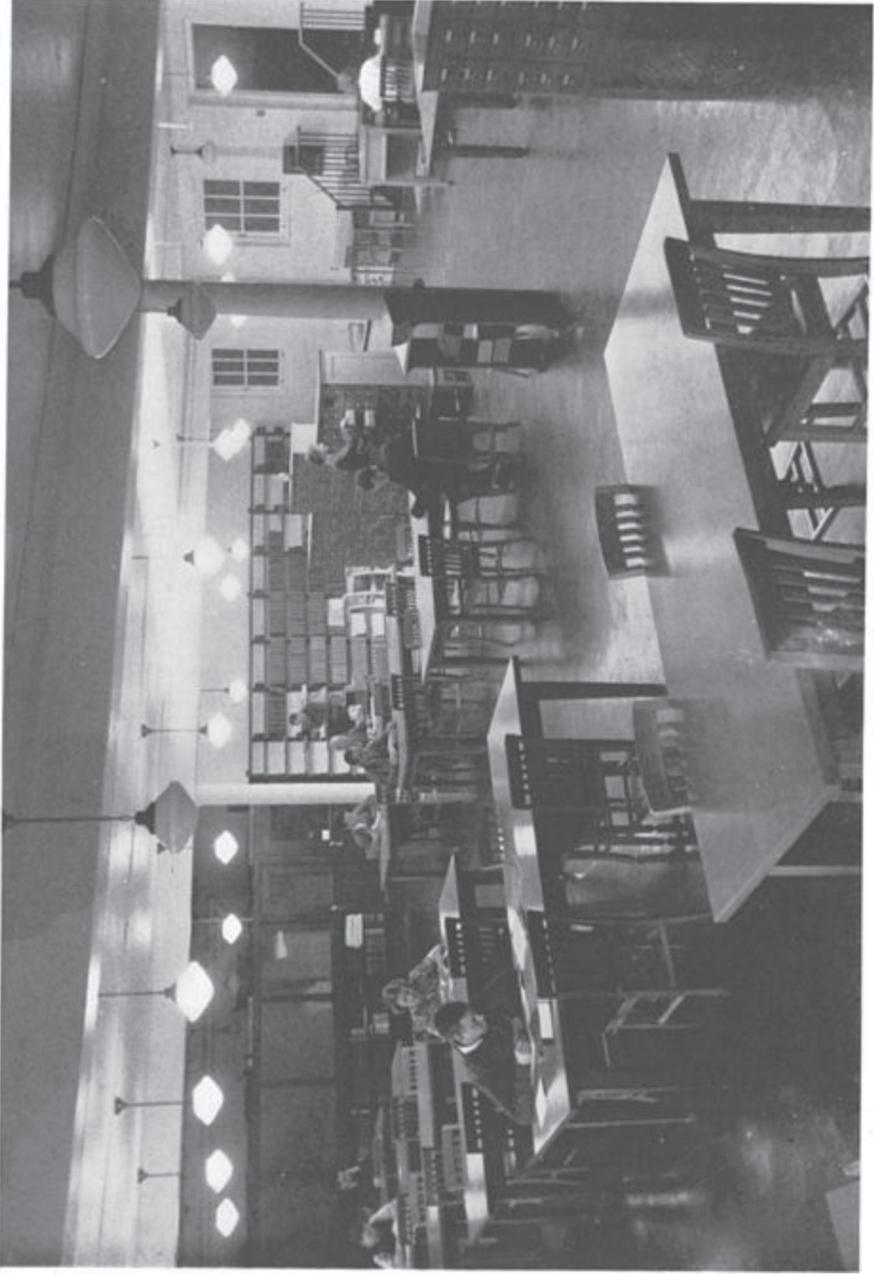
THE LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

By JACOB G. LIPMAN

During the past summer the Library of the College of Agriculture was moved into very greatly enlarged quarters. Stacks were built below the old floor level of the large lecture room in the Administration Building of the College Farm, and above these a reading and catalogue room was placed. Dr. Lipman, who planned this expansion, has worked for a fine agricultural library during the forty years that he has been on the Rutgers faculty. In addition to the many hundreds of books which he has given to the library in the past, he recently presented his own special collection of 25,000 pamphlets on soils, soil bacteriology, and plant nutrition, and 3,000 volumes of scientific periodicals and books.

THE birth of both the College of Agriculture and the Experiment Station may be traced to the Land-Grant Act of 1862. This Act provided for the establishment of state institutions for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey accepted the Federal grant in 1864, and later in the same year designated Rutgers as the Land-Grant College of New Jersey. Following that action, a scientific curriculum was established at Rutgers College on an equal footing with the old classical curriculum. The undergraduates were referred to as classical and scientific students, respectively.

Agricultural publications had appeared even in the modest collection of books of Queen's College. Since most of the students came from farm homes, they maintained a certain interest in agriculture, even though they were planning to become lawyers, ministers, or physicians. Some of the orations delivered by the undergraduates of the early nineteenth century had to do with agricultural topics; hence the demand for reference material. There was an Agricultural Society which existed in New Brunswick in the first half of the 19th century, and some of the books from the collection of the Agricultural Society found their way to the shelves of the Philoclean and Peithessophian Societies. Because of this growing interest in agriculture, some of the members of the faculty added to their personal collections books dealing with agricultural and allied subjects. Many of



The New Agricultural Library

these eventually came into the college library. Certainly this was true of Dr. George H. Cook, who came to Rutgers from Albany, and served as Professor of Agriculture, State Geologist, and Director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station after its founding in 1880.

When the State Agricultural Experiment Station was established by an act of the Legislature in 1880, an effort was made to provide, in a more systematic way, reference material on agriculture and the agricultural sciences. An exchange was maintained with other experiment stations founded prior to the passage of the Federal Hatch Act in 1887. After that time, publications in the form of bulletins, circulars, and reports began to appear at most of the experiment stations. Exchange arrangements were set up and agricultural publications began to accumulate very rapidly. At our own institution, when State appropriations were used for the purchase of books and other printed material, the items so acquired were labeled to indicate the fact that they were bought with the aid of State funds. It will be found that library accessions are so marked as to show that State, Federal, and private funds have been used in the building up of an agricultural library both at Rutgers and at the State Experiment Station.

With material accumulating at such a rapid rate, the space available in which to house the books became cramped. To relieve the congestion, funds were made available to Rutgers in the fiscal year 1937-38 for converting the large auditorium in the Administration Building into a reading room and a stack room. The latter is located below the reading room and has space for 75,000 to 100,000 volumes. Files of technical and scientific publications directly or indirectly relating to agriculture are maintained in the library of the College of Agriculture, which is a branch of the University Library. Naturally the publications of other American experiment stations, of the Federal departments in Washington, and of foreign experiment stations and agricultural societies are well represented in the collection of the College of Agriculture Library. In every branch the collection is growing rapidly through purchase and gift. Particular mention should be made of the specialized collection relating to British agriculture. In this field we have not only rare books of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, but

also some incunabula. In addition to the English agricultural books, important French, German, Italian, and Russian publications are represented in the library of the College of Agriculture. The specialized fields of soil science, plant breeding, entomology, plant pathology, and plant physiology are especially strong. Good collections have been accumulated to cover the fields of animal breeding and nutrition, horticulture, poultry husbandry, dairy husbandry, agricultural economics, and agricultural engineering. Since 1915 the increasing number of graduate students, many of them from foreign countries, has called for the purchase of special items. The coming here of graduate students from abroad has also stimulated the exchange of publications with universities and experiment stations in foreign countries. The files of the publications of forty-eight experiment stations and of the Federal Department of Agriculture are also reasonably complete, though occasional items are missing.

The Dean of the College of Agriculture recently gave his collection of scientific and technical books and pamphlets to the College and Station Library. The collection of pamphlets is a particularly notable one since it includes not only bulletins and reports from American and foreign experiment stations but also reprints and doctoral dissertations. Some of these date back to the early years of agricultural research. The gift includes also files of about 30 scientific and technical periodicals. Among them are the journals of the American Chemical Society, the *Journal of the American Society of Bacteriology*, the *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy*, the *Journal of the American Public Health Association*, and other American and foreign journals and magazines. A gift which was received from Mr. James Turner of Montclair has made it possible to bring the binding of these journals up to date. In the collection there are also many books recently published relating to general or specialized fields of chemistry, physics, microbiology, genetics, forestry, economics, sociology, and other fields of human interest. Most of these books were received for review purposes in *Soil Science*, and are, therefore, first editions. There are also sets of proceedings of academies and of Federal and State reports. Through this gift much of the specialized material in soil science will be made available to the other members of the faculty and staff of the College and Station.