

LAST WORDS

For most of the years of its history Rutgers has been a small undergraduate college. Graduate work in the arts and the pure sciences was negligible even up to and through the late war. Though it boasts an ancestry in the eighteenth century and is one of the nine original colonial colleges, its library is young. In fact, it is not unfair to say that, judged by standards of a modern state university, which it has become, the Library has had its beginnings in the present century. In the main, through the years of its most rapid growth, since the first world war, its most concentrated effort has been directed to the building of an undergraduate library. But, thanks to the foresightedness of its librarians and to the attentive ear they have always given to the research-minded members of the faculty in every field, the Library has quietly added year by year most of the fundamental research tools and many of the reference works in special fields which are essential to graduate study. In addition, partly by purchase, in which the Friends of the Rutgers Library have at times helped materially, and partly by generous gifts, the Library has enriched its holdings with considerable bodies, sometimes unique, of original source materials.

And now what next? The rapid increase of graduate enrollment should point the course, though following it is not always easy. With the superior G. I. generation which swelled the undergraduate ranks during the past four years now passing into the graduate classes, many gaps in the Library must be filled which were not so noticeable when the emphasis was mainly on undergraduate teaching. To accomplish this, routine acquisitions, though necessary, are often not adequate. Some boldness in acquiring large collections is imperative, particularly for a library which got off to a late start.

It is pleasant to be able to report that, thanks to the Rutgers Research Council, which furnished money for this most needed project, the vast quantity of manuscript material in the Symington Collection is now being catalogued and will soon be much more accessible to researchers. It is the hope of the Editor that the Library will repeat the "boldness" represented in this collection in other acquisitions.

—L. A. M.