

## LAST WORDS

WITH PLANS well advanced for construction of the first unit of the new Library, the time is ripe for a consideration of the problems of building a real university library in terms of the books which are to go into it rather than merely the space to house additional thousands of volumes. A faculty committee, working in close cooperation with committees of the Trustees and the architects, drew up during the summer a "first program draft," which included a survey of present facilities and holdings of the Library, recommendations for the proposed site (now determined as that at present occupied by the former Preparatory School dormitories), and proposals for the requirements of the new Library. Among the last proposals, under the heading of "Philosophy of Service," are some sound recommendations for facilities and arrangements which will give maximum value to the collections for (1) undergraduate and faculty reading, (2) scholarly research, and (3) custody of rare materials.

Under the heading of "Growth Assumptions" in this report are some interesting figures. In 1920 the Rutgers Library had only 100,000 catalogued volumes. In the next twelve years the number was doubled, and in the past twenty years (since 1932) the size of the Library was doubled again, making the present figure 400,000. The Committee assumes an average annual growth of 20,000 volumes, at which rate it will take twenty-seven years to reach the million mark, and fifty-two years to reach the ultimate goal of 1,500,000 volumes, the capacity of the Library as now planned. But the problem of building a first rate university library is somewhat more complicated than can be comprehended in a mere statistical analysis. Particularly for a library which started so late to build its collections for fundamental research in various fields, the task is herculean and must rest heavily on the several research scholars and specialists in every department of the University. Since the important gaps in the Library's collections will inevitably be in out-of-print books, only the untiring vigilance of every scholar aware of the bibliographical lacunae in his field and ready to alert the Librarian to opportunities in auction and antiquarian booksellers' catalogues can assure the University of an end result worthy of the enterprise.