

LAST WORDS

IT APPEARS at the present writing that by the end of 1955 the Library of Rutgers University will have a home equal to that of most of the major university libraries in the country and superior to all but a few in efficiency, modern equipment, and the conveniences and amenities available to those who work and study in it. Friends of the Library and all those who have a love of books and faith in liberal education should be pleased with the prospect and grateful to those whose enthusiasm and efforts have brought to realization what was for many years only a Utopian dream in the minds of a few. The Librarian, Professor Donald F. Cameron, has in the leading article of this number of the *Journal* paid tribute to Governor Driscoll for his strong support of the project for a new library building for Rutgers and his successful efforts to get the legislature to approve the appropriations necessary for its construction. That tribute should be extended to include the Librarian himself, whose long range planning, contagious enthusiasm, and tactful persuasion have helped immensely to make the dream come true, and President Lewis Webster Jones, whose first concern on coming to Rutgers in 1951 was for the expansion and housing of this nucleus of all true education, and who put the new Library ahead of every other building need in his recommendations.

In their enthusiasm for the splendid new structure, the Friends of the Library should not forget, however, that the building is not the Library. A few years ago a certain Western university boasted a magnificent new library built with palatial grandeur and costly decoration. It was a show place for tourists, but members of the faculty were embarrassed when their colleagues in other universities asked questions about its contents.

It is a truism that cannot be too often repeated that all great university libraries owe much of their distinction to an active body of friends among alumni and others interested in the welfare of the institution and cognizant of the value of books as instruments of a liberal education. Is it too much to expect that in a state as rich as New Jersey there should be a vigorous and growing body of Friends of the State University's Library, capable of enriching it with collections that are worthy of its new premises?

L.A.M.