

## LAST WORDS

IT WAS A stirring satisfaction to watch the great steam shovel tearing up the Jersey shale on the site of the new Library in October and November. On September 22 the ground was first broken at a ceremony at which the speakers were President Jones and Governor Driscoll, who had been a staunch backer of the plans for the Library in his budget messages to the Legislature for the past two years. In keeping with the modernity of the plans for the structure, the Governor discarded the shovel for the steam shovel, whose controls he manipulated in the symbolic lifting of the first earth for the foundations of the building which will have a capacity for 1,500,000 volumes and which will be equipped with the most modern arrangements for facilitating study and research.

Contracts were let in September for all construction except the stacks and interior equipment. As of the present writing (November) the excavation is completed, and if the winter weather is favorable to construction it is expected that the foundations and the steel frame will be installed by May of next year. Barring unforeseen delays the building should be ready for occupancy in the autumn of 1955. The Librarian and his advisors are currently busy with the architects in working out the details of the stacks and interior arrangements.

A multitude of delectable ideas fills the mind, to paraphrase Boswell, in contemplating the pleasure of working in the new Library when the books are finally settled and it is opened to readers. The present plan to have reading areas in the stacks next to the books most likely to be used for a particular discipline (literature, history, social science, pure and applied science, etc.) is a happy one. Pleasant to the imagination also is the contemplation of graduate seminars in the heart of the stacks in the midst of the most useful and pertinent volumes, the individual studies for faculty and students, and the quiet and spacious rare book and manuscript room.

It is no secret that a plan is afoot to reanimate the organization of the Friends of the Rutgers University Library on the opening of the new building, nor that in our days of prosperity we hope to have many more friends, and all welcome. The fact that the Library will be able to house handsomely any gifts it may receive should encourage donors great and small. A hint to bibliophiles is sufficient.

L.A.M.