

Mr. Davenport also gave one of his delightful lantern lectures, on French bookbindings.

The other features of the Conference were a public meeting, which was well attended, and a discussion on children's reading, the importance of which is at last being recognized.

J. B.

The two Congresses held at Brussels during the last week of August, the one on Bibliography and Documentation and the other of Archivists and Librarians, showed a distinct step forward in the international organization of librarianship and bibliography. The actual work done would have been more evident had the Belgian organisers shown less modesty. Their refusal to edit the questions sent in for discussion and the non-appointment of an agenda committee resulted in a congestion of business and the discussion of at least one or two topics which would have been better left alone.

The reports presented to the Bibliographical Congress by the various national delegates showed that the value of the organization of bibliographical knowledge is gradually being recognized. The creation of the Oficina Bibliográfica Nacional at Buenos Aires by decree of the President was looked upon as an important step. Unfortunately, the English delegates had no such cheering report to make, and could only say that English bibliographers were doing their best under very dispiriting circumstances. The Congress proceeded to endorse the Dewey classification and the card system, which it was hoped would be extended to publishers'

catalogues, and finally passed a resolution affirming the principle that each country should register all works published within its borders, and that such register should be compiled and issued with strict reference to bibliographical requirements.

Turning to the Congress of Archivists and Librarians, the English delegates took very little if any interest in the section of Archives, very naturally considering that the profession of archivist is practically unknown here. In the section devoted to Libraries and Librarians, however, English participation was considerable, and several resolutions were moved or amended by our delegates. The Congress declared in favour of professional education for librarians organized under the control of the national library associations, and further declared that librarians, in view of their professional status, should be treated as the heads of departments in the Civil Service and recompensed accordingly. A suggestion that a series of special libraries was preferable to a National Library was negatived on the ground that the usefulness of the great library was decreased by the taking away of part of its stock, and that this decrease of usefulness was not compensated by a corresponding increase in the value of the special library.

Many other topics came under discussion, ranging from the stamping of books (an international stamp was suggested in addition to that of the local library) to international loans of books, which it was agreed would be better arranged directly between libraries instead of, as at present, through diplomatic channels. A similar resolution on registration of

copyright to that passed by the Bibliographical Congress was carried without dissent.

The final session of the Congress resulted in the establishment of a permanent Commission charged with the organization of future Congresses.

Generally speaking, the feeling of the delegates at the conclusion of the Congress was that international gatherings of this character performed a useful function in bringing members of the same profession together from many lands. An interchange of opinion, it was felt, would lead to closer international co-operation in all those matters such as cataloguing rules, inter-library loans, the improvement of professional status, and many other matters which are urgently calling for the attention of librarians throughout the world.

R. A. P.