

METHODS USED IN THE OXLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN
DEALING WITH MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL.

The Oxley Memorial Library came into the field of collecting much later than other well known libraries and has not acquired an extensive manuscript section. We have been successful, however, in building up an interesting, historically important series, which may be divided into the following groups : - (1) typewritten documents consisting of reminiscences, historical events written up and discussed by Queenslanders; (2) handwritten documents; (3) bound volumes, handwritten, such as letter books, minute books of associations, clubs, etc.; (4) archival material, such as the records of the penal settlement at Moreton Bay, letter book of the Bowen Custom House, etc.

Sections 1 and 2 are catalogued in the usual way by author, with an added entry under subject, with further entries as may be required, and the cards filed in the main dictionary catalogue. The material in each section is filed in closed cardboard boxes, and a notation is made on each entry in the catalogue referring to the number of the box in which the material is housed. In these sections, material may range from one (1) page to any number, but it has been found advantageous to bind a document of any length, and it is then filed with the main book collection.

The bound volumes, handwritten, in section 3, are catalogued in the same way as sections 1 and 2, but are filed on shelves in alphabetical order. Diaries, reminiscences, histories of suburbs, are also included in this section, if handwritten, and here too are score books of early cricket clubs in Brisbane.

Queensland has not yet made plans to collect archival material from the various government departments, but some volumes have been received from various sources. It is only a few years since the Register of Convicts at Moreton Bay was discovered, together with a Register giving Returns of Prisoners and Agricultural Produce at Moreton Bay. We have received odd volumes of letter books and case books from country court houses, a letter book from the Bowen Custom House commencing from the day of opening; early records of the goldfield town of Mayfield; records of the first Brisbane Hospital. These are arranged alphabetically on shelves.

In addition mention must be made of the collection of letters which were written by the Leslie Brothers, the

pioneer squatters of the Darling Downs to their parents in Scotland, and which are now in the Oxley. These have been arranged by writer, then chronologically within each group, and filed in folders in a steel filing cabinet. No entries have been made in the catalogue yet, as the arranging is not complete.

In the past, it has been difficult for students of early Queensland history to undertake research in the period 1824-59, as very few documents existed in Brisbane. The New South Wales Archives and the Mitchell Library are rich storehouses of this material, and the Queensland Government has now arranged with the Trustees of the New South Wales Public Library for microfilm copies of all documents relating to Queensland to be made. This will be a valuable adjunct to the collection of reels of microfilm copies of the documents in the Public Record Office, London, being made under the project instituted by the National Library, Canberra, and the Mitchell Library, in which project, Queensland is sharing.

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"MODERN ARCHIVES", by DOCTOR T.R. SCHELLENBERG
(Cheshire, Melbourne, 37/6.)

The sub-title of Doctor Schellenberg's book is "Principles and Techniques" but the content of the work belies this rather uninviting description. This is more than a treatise on archives and their care, on the ideas which have influenced record-keeping and the methods which have been applied in organising records, preserving them and making them available for use. It is a reasoned survey of the whole subject with remarkably impartial assessments of the problems attendant on archives work. The author's attitude - one might say his working philosophy - is clearly expressed, without dogmatism and with a commendable willingness to bend the rigidities of theory to the exigencies of practise.

It is, of course, the work of an historian - and an historian with an unusually well-developed power of synthesis - for in reviewing the development of record keeping and the growth of ideas about record keeping, Schellenberg shows a masterly ability to pick out the salient features of varying archival practise in many countries and many ages.

For probably the first time in the annals of archival literature, a comprehensive handbook admirably suited to the