

authorities under which they operate. Policy need be established by the Archives Authority of New South Wales only on two matters - archival estrays, and its relations with the Mitchell Library. These matters have been dealt with above.

By-laws have not yet been formulated, but they will receive consideration during 1962. For the present the Act itself dictates practice and will, of course, continue to do so. For the moment the Act is supplemented by eight resolutions of the Authority. These mainly concern conditions of access, and conditions of copying and publishing extracts, and they all cover matters necessary for the interim management of the Office prior to the promulgation of by-laws.

The Act in practice has proved itself to be simple, straightforward, and effective. There are one or two minor inconsistencies but nothing of importance, and nothing that cannot be clarified by by-laws. Of particular interest are the distinctions drawn in the definitions in the Act between "public records", "public archives", and "State archives". Shortly after the passing of the Act the comment was made by an archivist that it provided for everything an archives act should cover and in addition some things thought to be unnecessary by that critic. The latter part of this statement was not developed so detailed comment is not possible, but six months of work with the Act has proved that no Section is unnecessary, and that it provides in the most direct way for those purposes for which it was created.

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#### NEWS NOTES FROM STATE ARCHIVES

Public Library of South Australia. Archives Department. Mr R.L. Jenkin and Miss B.M. Morgan have joined the staff. Mr G.L. Fischer, the Archivist, in writing to tell of these appointments, spoke of "large and interesting acquisitions of official and private material" and we hope in the next issue of Archives and Manuscripts to give some information about these.

State Library of Western Australia. J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. Miss Margaret Medcalf is going overseas on long service leave in January 1962. She has been granted additional leave without pay to enable her to stay for the whole year, during which time she hopes to gain further experience of work in local history libraries and archives.

Public Library of Queensland. Queensland State Archives. An important transfer which recently reached the Archives consists of the Governor's despatches and other records of Government House, from the date of Queensland's establishment as a separate Colony (1859) to about 1904. These records have been on an indefinite loan at the Department of History and Political Science at the University for a number of years, but were transferred to the Archives in October.