

EDITORIAL

The present issue contains an article on the Queensland State Archives by Mr. P. D. Wilson, the Archivist of that State, and an article on the legislation passed by the Victorian Parliament in April this year – that is, the Victorian Public Records Act, 1973. Interestingly enough, this piece of archival legislation studiously refrains from using the word “Archives” throughout its 23 Sections.

Of great significance is a new feature, called “Miscellany”, which it is hoped will appear regularly in future issues. This is to consist of technical notes and news of interest to Archivists in Australia and New Zealand. The Editor of this Section is Mr. M. Saclier, of the Archives Unit, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra. He welcomes contributions from archivists, historical manuscript librarians, documentary conservationists and curators in all parts of Australia and New Zealand. The present “Miscellany” includes comments on the formation of a conservation group, lamination material, vapour phase deacidification, and a possible deacidifying machine. It seems likely that Australian and New Zealand archivists might well have contributions to make to “Miscellany” on these same subjects, as well as on such topics as fumigation, photographic and electrostatic copying, documentary repair, control of acidity in the atmosphere, the quality of boxes and other containers, fire protection, specifications for buildings, and other physical and technical problems that confront the archivist.

Contributions to “Miscellany” should be addressed to Mr. Saclier direct. His address is given in the first issue of this series.