

the practice for the archivist to address every group of students from the teachers' colleges before they finally graduate, about work in archives and the collection of private papers, so that young teachers know where and how they can get information about local history, and are aware of the importance of collecting and preserving records.

It is realised that much of what has been said above will duplicate the experiences of colleagues in other parts of Australia; they have the same or similar problems, and may in many instances have evolved other and equally successful ways of dealing with them. It is possible though that some of the methods adopted in Western Australia will be found useful in other States, and it would certainly be interesting to hear of the progress which has been made in the collection, either regionally or centrally, of local records in the older States. We have noted with interest, for instance, the publications which have recently been issued by the University of Tasmania, and it would be good to know more of the background to this useful work of recording private collections which is being done for the University by Miss Janet McRae.

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NEWS NOTES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH ARCHIVES DIVISION

A General Conference between Central and Regional officers of the Archives Division of the Commonwealth National Library was held in Canberra from 16th to 20th November, 1959. The main business was the consideration of proposals for the improvement of accessioning and arrangement practices.

Miss M. Rendle has now left the staff of the Archives Division in Melbourne.

After long consideration the Commonwealth Government has decided to implement the recommendations of the 'Paton' Committee. This means, inter alia, that it has decided to separate 'the present Division of the Library concerned with the records and archives of the Commonwealth Government' and to make it 'a separate agency of the Government, within an appropriate Department, under the direct control of a Minister'.

Since these decisions were announced, the Prime Minister has accepted ministerial responsibility. The functions of the new agency are expected to be broadly similar to those now exercised by the National Library as Archival Authority and arrangements are being made for effective separation later in 1960.