

## A Note on the Academy's John Shepard Wright Memorial Library

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In the President's letter this year to fellow members of the Indiana Academy of Science, there is a paragraph that I would like to quote.

"How many of you have visited the Academy's John Shepard Wright Memorial Library in the Indiana State Library or made use of its resources? Did you know it receives some 800 titles from 75 countries; that it contains over 7,200 volumes of scientific and technical serials published by archives like ours, by scientific departments of universities here and abroad, by departments of science of foreign governments and certain private research agencies and scientific institutions (and these volumes include practically no subscription journals)? On April 1st of this year, the Lilly Endowment, Inc. will make available \$10,000 to fill in the files, bind materials and purchase certain needed titles in this library of ours . . ."

How many of you have actually used or even visited the library? How many have sat down before a stack of new journals and heard the sharp crackle as the pages are opened, one by one? Or listened to the pages, vibrant with potential life? A book is a book, but a book becomes a book only when it is opened and used. We should not allow our library to become a collection of dormant information. It is said that a house becomes alive when it is used; there is nothing so forlorn and empty as an abandoned house—or a lonely library.

How many of you have walked between stacks of books in the library? How many have felt the presence of unknown individuals imprinted on countless pages waiting to introduce themselves through their words and their thoughts? Even though there are many languages in our library Science truly has a universal language, the language of thought. But if a thought is expressed and not seen, what happens to that thought? Does it remain in a Never-Never Land of what-might-have-been, lost and forgotten? It must be revived if only for a quick glance and a brief consideration.

Our Library is not just a warehouse full of books and journals that have been painstakingly catalogued, classified, listed, or bound. It is a monthly newspaper that, stripped of its wrapper, reveals on its pages news and information of the world of Science. This is a place to exchange ideas, a place to meet man and his thoughts.

Make it a habit, not a duty, to visit and enjoy our Library. Open the book or journal and bring its thoughts to the Land of What Is and What Might Be.

