

Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. The largest number came during the months of August, September and October and the next largest during April, May and June (it is pleasant to note that researchers who can choose their own time come to Annapolis at its most beautiful seasons). During the year 191 items were circulated which had come in during the year and most of the new material came in too late to be known widely.

New records and new finding media, which have recently been made available were also helpful in replying to the increasing number of requests for information received by mail. The total number of such requests was 515. They came from forty-three States, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Maryland led with 84, followed by Ohio, 45, New York, 44, and Pennsylvania 42. Requests by mail are primarily for genealogical material so that it is not surprising to find that the testamentary records form the largest group of materials required to answer these requests. Military records are next in demand in the following order: Revolutionary, War of 1812, and War Between the States.

PRESERVATION AND REPAIR

At the very end of the fiscal year the Hall of Records installed a Barrow Laminator which is a piece of machinery composed of two principal parts, an oven and a set of rollers by means of which acetate cellulose sheeting may be heated and pressed onto paper. The Archivist has been satisfied by tests made at the Bureau of Standards in Washington that no harm is done to the records so treated and that they are preserved better by this method than by the slower and more costly silking process. At present, lamination has been substituted for silking at the National Archives in Washington, the Virginia State Library and the Delaware Hall of Records; in Virginia and Delaware the Barrow process is used. In addition to lamination we have begun to use a new method of removing acids from the manuscripts which we hope will result in preventing decay. The attention of the members of the Commission is called to the fact that even if lamination did not have the advantages over silking which we think it has, the old process would doubtless have to be abandoned in any case when the present stocks of silk in this country become exhausted.