

Among the visitors to the Hall of Records during the year was Dr. Ernst Posner, Professor of Archives Administration at American University. Dr. Posner brought his class composed for the most part of younger members of the staff of the National Archives. After the Archivist had presented a brief outline of the history and organization of the Hall of Records to this group, there was an inspection of the building and the records which lasted several hours.

### CIRCULATION

Although a good part of the decline in circulation which is indicated by the figures below can be attributed to a nine-month instead of a twelve-month year, other factors must be considered as well; advanced historical study in American Universities has declined almost to the vanishing point; genealogical researchers who have not been attracted to other work for the duration find it increasingly difficult to get transportation to Annapolis and lodging while here; the normal annual addition of new records to our collection acts as a stimulus to circulation and this year our accessions were less than normal for reasons which have been given elsewhere in this report.

Total number of visitors exclusive of tourists and of governmental officers who consult the records of their own offices.....	439
For the previous year.....	726

These visitors came from seventeen states and two foreign countries, Brazil and Colombia.

Total circulation of materials.....	2,051 items
For the previous year.....	3,751 items

### ACCESSIONING

After several unsuccessful attempts to solve the problem of handling the miscellaneous items which come in as gifts, deposits or purchases from private sources, we decided to overhaul the entire collection during the past year.

All such materials regardless of whether purchase, gift or deposit were placed in one section of the stacks and in the chronological order of their receipt at the Hall of Records. At this point a separate accessions book was opened, all of this material re-accessioned in correct order and each item given a number. In order to distinguish between gift, purchase and deposit one of the letters "G", "P" or "D" is placed before the number. When there are several parts to a single accessions item, a numeral in parenthesis is placed after the accessions number