

### OPERATION OF THE DISPOSAL ACT

In the matter of proper disposition of non-current records, we were again handicapped by lack of space. For example, on February 18, 1946, the Clerk of the Baltimore City Court offered for deposit at the Hall of Records about 275 volumes of dockets of the Justices of the Peace for Baltimore City dating from 1857 to 1912. These were records which could not be destroyed, yet if we had accepted them, we would have run the risk of using space which may be needed for the early county records which we are required by law to accept. Consequently, the Archivist requested that for the time being the records be retained in Baltimore. He suggested two developments which might provide the answer to the Clerk's problem of lack of storage space; (1) the proposed modernization of the Baltimore City Courthouse, (2) the acquisition of a State Office building in Baltimore. It is possible also that the space required at the Hall of Records for county records may not be as great as anticipated, in which case the dockets could be transferred here.

A similar problem arose when, on April 12, 1946, the Department of Tidewater Fisheries requested permission to destroy a large quantity of non-current records dating in the early twentieth century which were stored in the basement of the State Office Building in Annapolis. We examined the material and found that most of it was of such a nature that it should be preserved. Once again, the Archivist had no choice but to urge that the Department retain the records until the State could provide storage facilities for them.

On January 8, 1946, the Unemployment Compensation Board of Maryland offered for deposit certain of its records dating in the year 1940. The materials offered were similar to those which had been refused and destroyed in previous years. This latest offer was also rejected, but, as yet, we have not received notice of the destruction of the records.

### LIBRARY

It is gratifying to report that the assembling, arranging and cataloguing of our printed materials, which began during the latter part of 1944, were completed during the past year. In addition, all new accessions were catalogued as received, so that we have now