

accepted in January 1948, and the manuscript was sent to the printer shortly after the end of the fiscal year. At this writing the book is being bound and will be distributed within the next two weeks.

We decided early in our work that nothing would do but a thorough rewriting. We visited each agency of the State Government, we studied the legal basis and the functions of each, and we wrote the account. In the case of the county officers we enlisted the aid of the Clerks of Court, who checked names for us and kept us abreast of changes until the book was in proof. We checked the historical lists of Maryland officers with the original records at the Hall of Records, and the Department of Legislative Reference prepared a new text for the Constitution and a new index. The office of the Secretary of State provided us with the names of all officers commissioned by the Governor. We prepared a chart of Maryland State Government and various maps. Finally, we gave special attention to a new and enlarged index.

The preparation of the *Manual* proved to be a heavy burden. We hope that the result will justify the effort and money which was spent on it. We do not know at this time whether the responsibility for the *Manual* will be returned to the Secretary of State or whether it will become one of the permanent duties of the Hall of Records.

### PUBLICATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES

During the regular session of the General Assembly of 1947, an Act was passed requiring every State agency to deposit at the Hall of Records one copy of each of its publications (Chapter 651). This Act took effect June 1, 1947; therefore the last fiscal year was the first full year of its operation. Cooperation has been excellent in the matter of current publications. We feel that these publications, especially the annual and biennial reports, will be a valuable addition to our holdings.

The members of the Hall of Records Commission are aware that, in the past, two State agencies, the Department of Legislative Reference and the State Library, have been legal depositories for publications of all other State offices. Both agencies have built up good collections of such publications, but neither one is complete. Back issues of reports are extremely difficult to find, and there is no complete file of Maryland publications, even for the modern period, in spite of vigorous efforts on the part of the Enoch Pratt Library and the Library of