

## REPAIR AND BINDING

As in the past two or three years, the full time of only one employee was last year devoted to the repair and preservation of our records. However, since her retirement in 1949, Mrs. Clifton Moss has continued to give us one day of volunteer work each week. Unfortunately, because of illness Mrs. Moss was only able to contribute about 800 pages to the total of materials laminated during the fiscal year. In spite of this, the total output of the repair room was about a thousand pages more than last year. The total was 25,954 pages as compared with 24,680 in fiscal year 1955. In addition to the materials laminated, there were others which were only washed or pressed, parchments stretched, and maps backed and hinged. The records laminated this year were in large part the probate records of the Colonial Prerogative (probate) Court and the probate, land, marriage, and court judgment records of the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Prince George's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester.

For the most part, the volumes bound this year were those laminated either this year or last. Fewer volumes were completed than the year before, sixty-two against sixty, and less of the miscellaneous work which from time to time a bookbinder is called on to do. While, of course, our disappointment is real, we are encouraged by the fact the loss of production was due to a protracted illness suffered by the bookbinder. Since she had recovered by the end of the fiscal year, we have every expectation that this setback is only a temporary one.

Formerly the *Annual Report of the Archivist* listed separately each item repaired and bound. In the case of the repaired or laminated materials this detailed listing had a dual purpose: (1) it served in lieu of any other record of which materials had been laminated and exactly when, and (2) it provided a testing date for others who were also undertaking the new process of laminating. The first purpose is now cared for by convenient and less expensive internal records, the second is no longer needed because we have now built up over fifteen years a large enough quantity of material to serve any testing purpose. There was never any real reason for listing materials which had been bound; it was done because binding was a new function of the repair room and we simply followed the pattern we had adopted for the other work of that department.