The report of the Librarian of Congress for 1904 contains a full account of copyright legislation for the year, proposed and accomplished. This includes:

I. New law.—Books, and other objects subject to copyright, brought into the country for exhibition at St. Louis during 1904, may receive copyright protection for two years; and in case the provisions of the copyright law are complied with during this period, such protection may be extended to the full time, 42 years. This law affects none of the privileges now allowed to public libraries.

II. Proposed legislation.—(1). Bill introduced Nov. 16, 1903 by Senator Platt of Conn., providing that the author of a book originally published abroad in a foreign language may, by obtaining copyright on a translation within 12 months, also obtain "the sole liberty of printing, reprinting, publishing, vending, translating and dramatizing" it. This affects no present library privilege. It would be apt to raise the price of translations affected by it.

(2). Bill introduced March 30, 1904, by Senator Platt of Conn., providing that the present privilege of free importation by libraries shall not apply to books copyrighted in the U.S. unless the consent of the holder of the copyright is obtained in writing. This would greatly curtail library imports and has been the subject of earnest protest by many libraries. The bill was referred to the proper committee, which has not yet reported it. (See Bulletin No. 4, April, 1904).

The Register of Copyrights recommends the appointment of a Congressional Commission to draft a satisfactory codified copyright statute to take the place of the present laws.

The full text of the law and bills above referred to may be found in the Report (p. 127).

A bibliography of all bills, petitions, reports and other documents relating to copyright in the United States will be found in a recent special report of the Register on Copyright Legislation, issued as a separate government publication. Write to Public Library Commissions: Montpelier, Vt., and Madison, Wis., and Hartford, Conn., for buying lists of recent books; and to State Library Commission, Minneapolis, Minn., for its pamphlet on Public Documents in the Small Library.

The Wilson Co. of Minneapolis publish a bulletin of recent books for the library commission of eight Western states. The next natural step is for Commissions to unite in establishing a book-buying agency for the libraries of all their states.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L. 226 West 42nd St.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt P. L., Baltimore, Md.