Report of the Librarian of Congress

China and Its Spread Westward." Professor Carter, in the appendix to his work, notes that the chapter of the Nung shu giving records of early manufacture and use of movable type was apparently lacking in the Ming dynasty edition of this work found in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and also in the Ming reprint found in the Provincial Library at Nanking, China.

Several copies of the Ming reprint of the Nung shu were found by the writer in China last year and the appendix on movable type was found in all of them. It should be mentioned that the copy of the Nung shu now in the Library of Congress mentioned in the report for 1921-22 was not an ordinary reprint but was made by collecting together from the Yung Lo ta tien the various scattered fragments of this work. Only 22 books were thus collated while the original edition contained 36 books. The Ming edition reprint contained 36 books and is probably a verbatim reprint of the original edition.

Because of its importance the account of the early manufacture and use of movable type (including a mention of metal types cast in matrices) was photographed through the cooperation of Prof. M. Shirai from a copy of a Ming dynasty reprint found in the great Seikado Library of Baron Iwasaki near Tokyo. The preface by Yên Hung dated 1530 A. D. was also photographed for the Library of Congress. This reprint of the Nung shu is entitled "Hsin k'o Tung Lo Wang Shih Nung shu," and is apparently identical with the one contained in the Provincial Library at Nanking, China, which also contains the account of movable type at the end of book 20 and not at the end of the work.

A modern reprint of this Nung shu is now to be found in China, and it was originally included in the Canton edition of the Wu Ying Tien Chü Chên Pan ch'üan shu (secured for the Library this year) a very voluminous ts'ung shu bound in 800 volumes in 100 cases. This Canton edition was published in 1899, and this particular edition of this ts'ung shu includes a reprint of the Ming edition of the Nung shu, although the Nung shu is not contained in the original edition of this ts'ung shu printed from movable type in the Wu Ying Palace at Peking

262