

there are about 200 large museums, 100 others of intermediate size, 200 small public museums in historical houses, and 300 in lodgings, besides 600 teaching museums in colleges. This grouping distinguishes sufficiently between public and college museums; most of the college museums which have museum buildings or converted buildings are of public usefulness and can fairly be classed with public museums of the same order; the remaining groups make a segregation. This estimate is as good as a labored count. No figures can be entirely faithful—nor can they long be even correct, for museums are multiplying rapidly.

IV. COMPARISON OF STATE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It would be of interest and value to know the relative standing of the States and of geographic divisions with respect to their museum development. There is no accepted basis upon which to judge this, but among the data presented in Parts I and II of this report are several possible criteria—all of which have been drawn upon in preparing the two tables which follow.

The numerical findings of the study are expressed in two ways: As coefficients⁴ showing how much more one area has than another, and as ratios of coefficient to population showing how much more nearly one area lives up to its capacity than does another. In Table 30 the States are arranged in descending order of ratios. The sequence may not be exactly correct among States having ratios of about the same value, but this is not serious as fine distinctions are carefully avoided.

The first 9 States on the list of Table 30 form a class with distinct order of performance. Recalling observations in an earlier section as to museum growth in the different States (Table 14), we see that 5 of our 9 high-score States—New York, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts—are also progressing rapidly at the present time. We also discovered Indiana to be growing fast although here it appears as twenty-sixth in degree of development. California and Ohio were found to be momentarily at a standstill.

Passing now to the other end of our table, we discover that Nevada is lowest in museum development. Of the States immediately above it on the list 6 are nearly as low and at least 7 more are only a little higher. It is startling to see that ratios near the end of the list are less than 1 per cent of the best.

⁴ Coefficients were obtained for States by combining several categories of data: The number of museums, the aggregate of operating incomes, the aggregate cost of museum buildings, and ratings to represent converted buildings and historical houses. These elements were treated in several different ways—the results being compared among themselves as a safeguard against serious error.