halls in connection with libraries, I must frankly say that I am of opinion that they are not worth the expense of their building and upkeep. Providing them seems to me to be foreign to the purposes of the Libraries Acts, and it is folly to burden the already overloaded penny rate with their cost. In all public libraries the public rooms should be so planned as to allow of a maximum of natural light. Where light can only be obtained from side windows, no room should be more than 30 feet. in width, and if the street is narrow and high buildihgs obstruct the view, 20 ft. is quite wide enough. In the latter case a style of architecture should be adopted which allows of large square windows high up in the walls, and they should be glazed with large sheets of glass rather than with the art filigree work so often used, which obstructs 50 per cent. of the light. A simple experiment will show the importance of ample window space If an apaque screen 7 ft. in height be placed over the upper portion of a window 8 ft. in height, and light be admitted to a room from the bottom portion only, it will be found that the quantity of light so obtained is only one-sixth that admitted from the same area of glass exposed when the screen is dropped and light is admitted through a foot of the top portion of the window. It is therefore most important not only to have the windows high, but to adopt a square shape as free from obstructive ornament as possible. Incidentlly, this will help the ventilation, for the effect of windows slightly open near the ceiling of a crowded room is to freshen the air with a minimum of draught. The window-sills should be about 6 ft. from the floor, especially in newsrooms, to allow provisions of wall reading-stands, and to prevent idlers standing about looking into the streets. The best general arrangement of a newsroom is undoubtedly that of providing reading slopes for the popular papers around the wall, with tables occupying the centre of the room. This allows easy supervision. The rooms should be lofty. In my central library, which is visited by 2,000 people daily, they are 15 ft. 6 in., and I find that it is none too much. To calculate the accomodation which can be provided in a room of a given area, it may be mentioned that it requires 4 ft. of slope for each large daily paper. The minimum width of the table is 3 ft., if readers are to sit on both sides, and a minimum of 2 ft. must be allowed for each chair. The space between the tables should be at least 7ft., and between the ends of the table and the edge of the newspaper slopes at least 6 ft. On these lines a room 50 ft. by 24 ft., with slopes on three sides will accommodate about 35 papers of mixed sizes and seat 40 persons. Counting each paper as one reader, this gives 16 ft. per reader of floor space. The same area, if arranged for tables only, without newspaper slopes, would allow a central gangway 6 ft. wide the length of the room and four tables, each 9 ft. long, on either side, with seats for 64 persons. This works out a superficial area of about 17 ft! per reader. The Fulham central library has a well-arranged reading room, 71 ft. by 35ft., with a newspaper slope around its walls and tables in the centre. There are 42 papers on the slopes, and seats for 96 readers. The gangways are ample, and the floor space per reader is 18 ft. I have so far spoken entirely about the rooms used by the public; but the working requirements of the library also want due consideration. The librarian must have an office. In the smaller library this should be near the issue-desk of the lending library. In the larger libraries it would be better placed in conjunction with the reference department. It should be of considerable size, for in many cases it will be used for sub-committee meetings. Generally the room will be shelved for the reception of books on bibliography, catalogues, and other working tools of the librarian. In large libraries there should be a fire-proof strong-room on the same floor as the reference department, for storing rarities; rooms for storage of newspaper files and books withdrawn for binding. Space must also be provided for the entry and cataloguing of new books. Staff-mess-rooms are also necessary, and if the employes are of both sexes, suitable lavatory arrangements for each. In any library which is likely to obtain valuable books, either by gift or purchase, a room should be provided with a north light in which copies of prints and plates may be made by photography, so as to obviate the necessity of valuable books being taken from the premises. This need cost but little; a room on top of the building 15 ft. by 10 ft., with a dark-room for changing plates being all that is necessary. Before planning a building the architect should obtain from the librarian a clear idea of the method of work to be employed in it. In a lending library there are three modes of issue; with an indicator, without an indicator, and allowing readers to select their own books from the shelves, usually termed the "open access" system. In each case the arrangement of the counters and shelving will be different. If an indicator is used, a counter not more than 2ft. 9in. in height is required, upon which it can be placed, and a good light is necessary on both sides. An indicator requires about 1 ft. 3in. of counter space, for the display of each 1,000 numbers, and the counter should be long enough to take indicator for future additions, display case for new book, and an issue desk for each 10,000 volumes. In the larger libraries it will be best to break the indicator up into blocks of 2,000 or 3,000, and separate them by a show case or issue desk, so as to distribute the readers consulting it. The space allowed the public in front of the indicator is, in most libraries, too little. If a daily average issue of 5co volumes is expected, it should be large enough to comfortably accomodate 100 persons, the maximum number which may be expected to be present at one time on a busy Saturday night. If the issue is worked without an indicator, each person hands a list of books to the librarian, who selects what may be in, enters it up; and hands it over to the borrower. This method of issue is only practicable in small libraries, or where a large staff can be employed. A considerable amount of public space is necessary, but it need not be of the same shape as is necessary for the indicator system. For the "open access" system a small central inclosure for the attendant is necessary, placed at the entrance of the room, with inlet and exit gates. The bookcases of the lending library may, with the indicator system, be as near to each other as 3ft. With the open access system a minimum of 6ft. should be allowed. If the building is in a neighbourhood where it is likely to be thronged at certain hours even more space is necessary. With moderately large rooms it may be roughly calculated that eighteen books may be shelved to the square foot with the indicator system and fourteen per foot with the open access system; the bookcases being 7ft. 6in. in height, with nine shelves in each division. Very few lending libraries will require shelving for more than 25,000 volumes. In calculating the space required for reference library books, it must be remembered that they include folios and quartos, and require more space per volume than the lending department stock. An ordinary reference library store-room, with cases 3ft. apart and 7ft, 6in. in height, may be calculated to shelve fourteen volumes to the square foot of floor space.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Burgoyne's objection to a lecture room was criticized in a general way by more than one speaker. Mr. Alderman Stolterfoht (Liverpool Libraries Committee), who was the most definite, said that in Liverpool they had fully realized the value of lectures, and their new libraries always included large halls suitable for lectures. Thirty or forty lectures were delivered every year in each lecture-hall, and as many in other halls in the town. These lectures added largely to the work of the reference-room, because the subjects of lectures were illustrated with books, which were afterwards much in demand.

Mr. Charles Welch (Librarian Guidhall Library, London), said that such rooms, if let out to societies could be made self-supporting. In reply to a speaker who understood that Mr. Burgoyne's objection was not to the work of lecture rooms but to the expense of the