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Plus ca Change / The Successful Librarian

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Plus Ça Change

The Successful Librarian

Column Editor: **Karen Schmidt**
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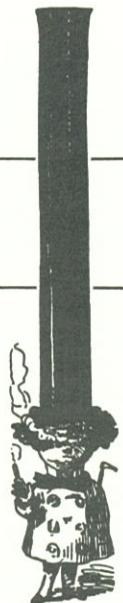
While looking through various old tomes for fodder for this column, I came across a remarkable eulogy for one Sarah Hagar, librarian of the Burlington, Vermont public library. Miss Hagar died in 1908. She was not an acquisitions or collection development librarian, but the commentary on her life is so telling and fragrant that a small part of it should be shared. It is something to ponder when we wonder how librarians have come to earn the reputation we have for earnestness, industry and neuroses.

... Until 1904, when a commodious Carnegie building was dedicated, her work was done in dark and inconvenient rooms in the city hall. Amid these forbidding surroundings she met each reader as a gracious hostess greets a welcome guest. With expectant face and head bent slightly forward as if in deference, she would listen to each request. Then her lithe, slender frame could be seen as she sought the books in a habitat known only to herself . . . During the twenty-three years of her work as librarian, she aver-

aged twelve hours a day in the library. She was at her post on holidays . . . She often went without food from breakfast time until ten at night. She seldom left the library except to attend library meetings . . . The only vacation she had taken for years before her death was a week in New York . . . A remarkable tartan hardness, enabled her to do what few persons could accomplish. She passed quietly

away at the age of eighty . . . Her life was a satisfaction to herself and to others. She was a successful librarian

If you recognize yourself or any of your colleagues in this description, please seek help. ☹



Mourning Serial

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increase for these journals." This would protect one's budget from a possible downturn in the U.S. dollar's value between now and when the fixed conversion rates are set — or between now and November when most publishers are paid for 1995 subscriptions.

1993/1994 saw many interesting developments in the area of serials pricing. This includes the concept of "firm pricing" and the change of some European publishers to billing U.S. libraries in a fixed dollar rate. It is far too early to gauge the impact of these two situations — but surely, they have had some impact on the overall pricing of journals for U.S. libraries.

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