



## LIBRARY GETS ADDITION

NOT long after Oberlin's trustees announced last May that over \$1,000,000 was to be made available from College funds for a building program, Hitler moved into Holland and Belgium and caused shifts on the stock market which made it inadvisable to sell certain securities as planned. The building program is therefore going ahead on a smaller scale than was originally announced.

First unit of the building program is the \$225,000 addition to the Library, on which construction was started last summer. The schedule calls for completion of the addition by next February or March. As we go to press (October 1) the foundations have been completed, and all the steel framework is in place, giving the visitor an idea of the size of the new unit.

The new wing is at the rear of the building, and will be built of rough sandstone like that used in the older part of the building. About half of the addition will rise to the height of the original building, and will contain six stories of stacks which will provide shelves for about 175,000 volumes. There will be space for additional shelves which will later take care of 108,000 more volumes. The other half of the new addition will rise to only two stories; it is being built so that the third and fourth floors can be added later when additional funds may become available.

On the ground floor of the two-story section will be a new reading room seating about 180 persons. This will be the reserved shelf reading room, which is at present maintained in a part of the main reading room of the present building. The new room will therefore relieve the congestion in the main reading room, which has become a very real problem. Also on the ground floor will be a receiving and shipping room, and a work room for repairing books. The upper floor of the two-story section will contain rooms for the ordering and cataloging staff, which includes eighteen persons in addition to student assistants. On this floor there will also be a room for rare books, and a bibliography room.

The new addition will have all the latest and best equipment for buildings of this type. Lighting fixtures in the new part will be of the fluorescent type. Ceilings in the offices and corridors and stairways will be acoustically treated to reduce noise to a minimum.

There will be a number of changes in the original building as well. On the second floor, the card catalogue now in the skylighted alcove adjoining the main reading room will be moved back to space at present occupied by the catalogue and order department. On the ground floor, the space now occupied by the check room will become a part of the new reserve shelf reading room; a new check room will be con-

structed across the east end of the lobby. New entrances to the Open Shelf Room and the Boys' and Girls' Library will be opened from the main lobby corridor near the front door.

As a part of the regular maintenance and repair program of the College, new ornamental lighting fixtures have been installed at the entrance to the Library, and a flagstone plaza built in front of the door. The sun dial given by the Class of 1906, which formerly stood on the lawn in front has been moved closer to the building and made an integral part of the flagstone plaza.

The new addition to the Library will increase the capacity of the building to 500,000 volumes, making it the second largest college library in the country. Librarian Julian S. Fowler will have little difficulty in filling most of the new shelves, for many books belonging to the library have been stored in attics and basements of other college buildings, and in temporary stacks built some years ago in the downstairs lobby of the original building.

While it is expected that the book and pamphlet collections of the College will continue to grow and will later exceed the capacity of the present building and its new addition, the only further addition planned for the present building is the completion of the two-story section of the wing now under construction. When additional facilities are needed, an economical type of stack building will probably be constructed off campus for storage of duplicates and infrequently-used reference material.