

The Byelorussian Library

MARIAN HOUSE, HOLDEN AVENUE, LONDON, N.12.

The Byelorussian Library in London grew up out of the fusion of the private collections of Dr Ć. Sipovich, Rev. Leū Horoško and other Byelorussians established in the United Kingdom, and it has developed into the most significant library of its kind in Western Europe. By the standards of other nations a collection of 6000 books is commonplace. In the field of Byelorussian studies, however, it must rate as an exceptional establishment.

The library contains a very complete section on literature as well as comprehensive sections on ethnography, art, music, history, law, theology, politics, geography and linguistics. There are several very rare books from the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries. The periodicals section comprises over 600 publications, and contains an unique collection of material published in emigration.

Where it has not been found possible to obtain the originals of certain rare works, microfilms have been made, and in this way the Library has been able to gather together in one place copies of items which are disseminated in about a dozen different English and Continental Libraries.

A reading room is at the disposal of all readers. A microfilm-reader is also available. It is regretted that books cannot be lent.

Applications for admission to the Library as a regular reader should be addressed to The Librarian, together with a recommendation from a qualified teacher, lawyer or clergyman. The Library is accessible to readers by special appointment.

The Chairman's Annual Report for the Year 1965-1966

During the past year the activities of the Society, apart from various acts relating to the Society's reconstitution, have been primarily concerned with the publication of the Journal of Byelorussian Studies. It had been agreed at the Special General Meeting which took place on 5th February 1965, that this should constitute the first step towards extending the Society's activities, and that we have now done.