IT IS generally acknowledged that one of the most valuable collections of Wesleyana is housed, naturally enough, near the site of the first Methodist Society in London, namely, at the Book Room in City Road. It has also been known that much has needed to be done in cataloguing and indexing these treasures and that facilities should be improved for students wishing to consult them. We, on this side of the Atlantic, have been very conscious of these shortcomings and now it is a pleasure to report that, with the opening of our new Archives and Research Center, the work of indexing has begun and adequate facilities are provided for students. We also gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging, with great appreciation, the financial help which is being given by our brethren in America, who from the first have realized the need for what is now being done.

As we anticipate that the services of our British Archives will be increasingly used by World Methodism, it will not be out of place to indicate the nature of our resources and the facilities we offer. Five rooms have been built within the Book Room at City Road and these house the Archives Library and provide a writing room for students. The Library contains sets of Magazines and Minutes in various degrees of completeness, thousands of nineteenth century pamphlets and a very large collection of Hymn Books. We have all but a score of the works listed by the Rev. R. Green in his Wesley Bibliography, together with most of what he listed as Anti-Methodist Literature.

Our Wesley Manuscripts (i.e. Letters, Journals, Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley) and letters of Methodist Preachers are contained in three main collections—the Lamplough Collection, the Colman Collection, and the large collection which has been gathered by successive Book Stewards on behalf of the Conference. Nor should we forget the large display of Wesley Pottery (mainly busts of John Wesley) known as the Botteley Collection, and the thousands of Class Tickets and Circuit Plans which are in our possession. We are also custodians of the Journals of the Conferences of all the Methodist bodies that entered into union in 1932.

In view of the fact that we get numerous requests from America

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for details of marriages, some indication might be given of what we are able to do (and unable to do). Marriage registers come to us only when a Church ceases to be used as a Methodist place of worship. Otherwise—that is, where Churches are in current use—they are kept locally in the Church safe. In any case, we have no registers earlier than the Act which appointed Authorized Persons (1898). Before that date, marriages in Methodist Churches were recorded by the civil registrar and his records preserved at Somerset House, London W.C.1. This means that we can only help if the marriage took place after 1898 in a Church which has since closed.

This is no more than a brief survey of this ancient treasure house of Methodism. We exist to serve Methodists the world over and welcome any who can call and work on the premises. As we are not a lending library, those who cannot call personally we try to help as we are able. Microfilming and photostats of documents can be supplied at a reasonable charge. We hope that those who are interested in Methodist history and in what Methodism still has to offer to the world will come to know of our existence and use the facilities we offer.