

# Special Libraries

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## Co-ordination in Libraries and Abstracts

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*The immense tendency towards co-ordination is a heritage of the war-time effort to attain maximum efficiency in space and time economy. In the great field of engineering we are witnessing co-ordination being worked out in the wide-spread standardization movement. In industry, business and commerce we are witnessing it in the wide-spread research movement. As with one accord the efforts of intelligent men are apparently bent on achieving the maximum result with the minimum of waste. Libraries have been caught up to share in this new post-war readjustment. This tribute to the enduring service that libraries can render is gratifying and every suggestion for the improvement of the service is welcomed. The following article is reprinted from The Electrician, London, of Oct. 22, 1920.*

This article is written in order to plead for the better and faster dissemination of technical knowledge. It contains some suggestions for the improvement of existing methods. It may be that some readers are aware of publications which need no improvement, and feel that any criticism is out of place. The writer, however, has not yet found perfection in either library catalogues, or in abstracts, and therefore hopes to point a way towards a better state of things than exists at present. Attention is also directed to present-day publications containing abstracts and similar information.

First, as to libraries. It is probably known to most readers that in New York the large engineering societies have a central building and a central library for technical works. It has been suggested that in London the large engineering societies, i. e., those for the civil, mechanical, electrical and mining engineers, should adopt the same plan. But the size of London and the lack of money has prevented the fruition of such a scheme so far. In the meantime the writer would like to see the formation of a complete (in so far as any list can be complete) triplicate or quadruplicate catalogue of the books in the various science libraries in London which are available for the use of engineers and students. The catalogue would be of the card index form, and would indicate the libraries in which the relative books could be found. For example, the card index catalogue might be housed respectively in the Patents Office Library, the Library of the Imperial College of Science, in the British Museum, and at the Institution of Civil Engineers. If this were done, when anyone wanted to consult

a book, he could go to the most conveniently situated card index and learn in which libraries the book required could be found.

It may be objected that almost every book can be found in the British Museum, but it may not be convenient to get to the Museum during the hours at which it is open. There would be no reason for making the entries in this card index catalogue refer only to books held in the four above mentioned libraries. Certain volumes which are not in these libraries may exist in the smaller libraries, and an entry to this effect could be made. For those books in the smaller libraries which are also available in the main library no entry would be made of the fact that they could be seen at the smaller libraries. The need for going from one library to another to find a particular book on chance of its being there, should be avoided if possible.

### Lists of Scientific Books.

Before leaving this subject the question of lists of books on scientific subjects may be referred to. The writer does not know what is the most complete one. Apart from ordinary library catalogues there exist: (1) "Technische Bücherei," published in 1913 by the Frank'sche Verlagshandlung, Stuttgart, giving a list of German, French, English and American books on various technical subjects; (2) the British Science Guild catalogue includes a section with names of books—this year the list is to contain British books which are in print and available for purchase; (3) the Chemical Engineering Catalogue (1 Madison Avenue, New York) has a section mentioning various books. It is very incomplete, and does not mention the publisher of the books.

#### The Need of Good Abstracts.

Secondly, as regards abstracts. In THE ELECTRICIAN, Vol. LXXXII, p. 326, March 21, 1919, the author mentioned various bibliographies and abstracts in existence. Since the war has ceased others have been resuscitated. They all tend to overlap one another, and none of them is complete. The field of engineering as a whole would be surveyed with more certainty if they each dealt with a certain defined area. The proposals and criticisms outlined here fall under three heads. (a) Definitely divide up the field of scientific articles from which abstracts are made, and increase the number of journals surveyed; (b) index abstracts definitely under subjects, using the Dewey system if desirable. A suggested decimal nomenclature for the classification of engineering subjects is given in the "Transactions" of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Vol. LXXXII, p. 1,620, December, 1918; (c) abstract articles of the "résumé of progress" type, which are left unnoticed sometimes, as not being directly the report of original work. A good example of such articles are Pannell's on air flow measurement which appeared in "Engineering," Vol. CVII, p. 261, 1919. This was a valuable paper to those who were interested in the subject, but who had not been in direct contact with some of the features mentioned by Pannell. The article did not appeal to some abstractors.

#### Bibliographies and Abstracts.

The following bibliographies and abstracts are now published:

1. Revue de l'Ingénieur et Index Technique.
2. Technische Zeitschriftenschau.
3. Revue Générale d'Electricité.
4. Les Fiches Industrielles.
5. Technical Review.
6. Institution of Civil Engineers' Abstracts.
7. Science Abstracts.
8. Industrial Arts Index.
9. Engineering Index.
10. Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry.
11. Engineering Management (Cassier's Abstracts).

The publications 7 to 11 have been dealt with in the article previously mentioned. We shall now give some indication of the scope of publications 1 to 6.

The "Revue de l'Ingénieur et Index Technique" (published monthly by the Bureau d'Organisation Economique, Paris, 124, Rue de Provence, and New York, 149 Broadway) contains a bibliography of current articles indexed on the Dewey system; the titles of the articles are in the original language, the subject headings being in French, English, Italian and Spanish. Mention is made

of the various places where articles are reproduced (i.e., if the E. T. Z. publish an article which is reproduced in The Electrician, or the "Journal" of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, these references are given). Considering the scope and type of article referred to, it seems that the field of journals surveyed could be increased with advantage.

The "Technische Zeitschriftenschau" (published by the Verein Deutscher Ingenieurer, Berlin, N. W. 7, Sommerstrasse, 4a) contains bibliographical references which, in addition to the title, give a list of the contents of the article. The alphabetical indexing is fair, one only needs to glance down the key-words at the right-hand side of the page. The references are grouped under four big headings: (a) General Engineering, 57; (b) Electrotechnics, 20; (c) Manufacturing, 11; (d) Mining, 11. The figures give the number of references in each section of the January 17th issue, there being 11 or 12 references per page. It is easy to look through 11 references, but 57 in one big group is rather too many. A valuable feature is the list of new books; in each case the index of the contents is given, but only German books seem to be included.

The "Revue Générale de l'Electricité" (12, Place de Laborde, Paris, published fortnightly) has a separate portion ("Documentation") containing abstracts of scientific articles and patents concerning electrical work. The classification follows a numerical system; some entries have unnecessarily complicated numbers—viz., 621, 312, 16, 00, 46—to explain the contents of an article.

#### Trade Abstracts

"Les Fiches Industrielles" (Paris, 21 Boulevard Bonne-Nouvelle, 2e, published monthly) contains abstracts of articles in a large number of journals. These journals are of a very miscellaneous nature, and are of the "trade" type rather than the "technical" type. Each monthly issue deals with a particular group of subjects. The December, 1919, number dealt with paper, rubber, etc.; the February, 1920, number dealt with mining, metallurgy and electricity. It contained abstracts from 55 journals. The abstracts are all of the same length, printed on one side of the paper only, and take up one-quarter of a page, so that if a page is cut in four the abstracts can be filed in a card-index cabinet. The index follows the Dewey system. The number of the page upon which the original article appears is not given, and the references are not clear. Part numbers may be confused with volume numbers.

The "Technical Review" (published fortnightly, 2, Central Buildings, S. W. 1) is the offshoot or continuation of the "Technical Supplement" published by the War Office.

It contains both abstracts and bibliographical notices to articles appearing in scientific publications, comprising 62 British, 42 American, 50 German, and 55 of other nations. Mention is made of new books. This used to be done in one section at the end of the review, but is now done under various subjects, which is a pity. A single list of books seems more convenient, as the list is never large, and books on one subject may be useful to men engaged on subjects of an entirely different nature. The references to books are not restricted to English books. Another valuable feature is that the review is up to date.

#### Institution of Civil Engineers' Abstracts.

The Institution of Civil Engineers' "Abstracts of Papers in Scientific Transactions and Periodicals" is now issued separately from the minutes of proceedings. It contains good abstracts of the best articles appearing in high-class technical literature. It is beginning to include abstracts of telegraphic, telephonic, illuminating and other electrical engineering articles. The indexing is not perfect, because the abstracts are indexed under the title of the paper, and two articles on the same subject are sometimes indexed under different headings. Considering the "Technical Review," "Science Abstracts" and the "Civil Engineers' Abstracts," it is apparent that, for the same amount of work done, a complete and fuller series of abstracts could be produced if there was suitable co-ordination. "Science Abstracts" and "Civil Engineers' Abstracts" do not abstract much from journals of "The

Electrician," "Electrical Review" and "Electrical Times" type. This means that they sometimes miss papers of use to general engineers. The "Technical Review" avoids this mistake. If the Institution of Civil Engineers left the field of electrical engineering abstracting to "Science Abstracts," except where articles covered by hydro-electric schemes and similar work involving "civil" work, and if "Science Abstracts" included references to papers in journals of interest to the less scientifically trained but more commercial engineers, and if the abstracts were published sooner after the publication of the original article, additional abstracts could be provided at no extra cost.

It is undesirable that the "Civil Engineers' Abstracts" should duplicate abstracts appearing in "Science Abstracts," Series B; and yet, unless they do, their electrical engineering will be quite incomplete.

Finally, if journals giving abstracts and bibliographies would agree upon one alphabetical index, and would all use the same index, the work of finding papers on any subject would be easier. For instance, let papers on electrical fuses be always indexed under one heading, either "Fuses, electrical" or "Electrical fuses," but not sometimes under the one and sometimes under the other, and sometimes under "Switch gear" and sometimes under "Transmission." The author would not like to say under how many different titles he has found papers dealing with the balancing of machinery and with the prevention of vibration from unbalanced machines in buildings.

## Business Library Training at Riverside, Cal.

*Mr. Daniels, Director of the Riverside Library Service School, kindly consented to a long distance interview. This school was the first library school to include in its curriculum training for business library work. The most natural opening question was, consequently, why this study had been made a part of the regular school course*

"We had laid a great deal of stress and emphasis," said Mr. Daniels, "upon the fact that librarianship and library service would never receive due recognition until librarians and library servants knew more about what was going on in this world—more about business methods, where the money comes from, how it is spent, and so we introduced longer periods in the study of income and expenditures or the business administration of even the smallest libraries. We went into the law and the taxation and every phase of the business management. We developed a very sane conspectus of the whole situation in America and we drilled the candidate into a realization and into some familiarity with the subject, but that had nothing to do with the management of a business library. It was really the business management of any library and it

was an effort to show that in addition to knowing who it was that wrote *Thanatopsis* and how to pronounce *chiaroscuro*, and other evidences of culture and culture, the modern successful public servant must know something about the business management of a public institution. We took this thing mighty seriously and made it just as important although not quite so long in the teaching, as cataloging and classification.

"I am quite sure that other library schools were doing the same thing one way or another because that is a phase of library service that must have made itself insistent everywhere, except possibly it may not have made a place for itself in the library school curricula.

"As we went on in our work we found that cataloging and classification which led

to the making of a card catalog were, in a highly organized and technical way, merely a part of a big finding system and so we added filing and indexing and some advanced topical analysis. The filing and indexing ran us squarely into the business library service. It confirmed my opinions based upon a personal inspection of Mr McCarthy's work in the Wisconsin legislative reference library. We had several teachers take this matter up in our short courses—Miss Warren, Miss Day, Miss Illman, Mrs. Rolls, and then Miss Louise B. Krause, who is now coming to us for the third time in February, 1921."

In answer to the question, "What response did you get and what are the conditions?" Mr. Daniels proceeded as follows: "How does the thing work out? We have found first that it is quite necessary to have a well grounded preparation in library technique, or as our State Board of Education calls it, library craft, technique and use, and that then it is quite necessary to have the thing taught in the most practical manner by a practical person and we think the next step is the apprenticeship in a business library.

"We have had four or five of our graduates employed as librarians in business libraries. There are not many business concerns on the Pacific coast that have arrived at the place where they begin to feel the need of a librarian although they began to use filing clerks long ago. The idea spreads, however. Many concerns, though

small, can well afford a business library and are beginning to see it.

"Those who have gone to libraries of medical schools, experiment stations and other special libraries seem to have derived great benefits from the course in business librarianship and in filing and indexing. The work has come to us to stay. We are planning its wider use and its more intensive special uses. When we move into our new quarters just east of the main library, we shall have plenty of room for a large school and we shall have plenty of room also for a first class equipment for the business library and filing and indexing.

"So many of our graduates have gone into special library work and business libraries that we must continue the work and so many of our graduates who have gone into public library work tell us that the business library training is a most helpful part of our work, that we are quite sure of the benefits derived and the wisdom of continuing the courses even if none of our graduates ever became a business librarian.

"I am reminded that in my own experience and my own library service, I have for twenty years or more emphasized in season and out, the necessity of serving the business man even at the public library and of learning from him to realize and recognize what is going on in this world—in this world where we must know what is going on in order to make a living and in order to be happy."

## Compiling Useful Data

*The following paragraph is reprinted here as an illustration of the sensed need, growing ever more insistent, for co-ordinated specific information, as distinguished from the demand for books. Special librarians are taking heed and they are perfecting their facilities for supplying detailed information, both that contained in books, as well as that vast mass of fugitive information distributed in trade journals, association proceedings, etc. Any plan for the co-ordination and delivery of this information would be worthy of the highest ability in the library field.*

"Where can the information be found to solve such and such a problem? Where did I see this information, in some technical paper or book? These are questions that most of us frequently have occasion to ponder over, and we spend much time in searching; all because our memory fails us at an inopportune time. The amount of valuable data published in technical books and magazines for engineers is beyond comprehension, but that there is still a great void that has not been filled is clearly evident from the many inquiries we receive each week. The majority of these questions are not on subjects on which there is a

lack of reliable data, but on the very questions discussed from week to week in Power. Frequently, the answers to the questions are given by sending those asking for information the pages taken from a previous issue containing an article dealing comprehensively with the subject. All this leads to the suggestion, which has frequently been made before, that Power readers should have some system of making available, when needed, the information published each week pertinent to their particular problems. The editor then proceeds to give some first aid to readers on how to keep information available. (Power, Nov. 23, 1920. Editorial, p. 830.)

## Business Library Methods

*The New York Public Library announces the following open course of 24 lectures to be given during February, March and April of 1921. A fee of \$10.00 payable in advance, secures admission to the course. When a great, conservative institution only partially dependent on public funds, to this extent defers to the mandate of progress, lesser institutions, wholly dependent on public funds, will not be slow to do likewise. No service which a library can render is peculiarly as profitable as service to business and industry.*

Feb. 7. The reason and need for commercial information service. Dr. C. S. Duncan, Chief Investigator, National Industrial Conference Board.

Feb. 9. Business reference books, I. City, trade and foreign directories. Miss Linda H. Morley, in charge of Business Branch, the Newark Free Public Library.

Feb. 14. Periodicals containing financial and trade information. Miss Alice L. Rose, Librarian, National City Financial Library.

Feb. 16. Business reference books, II. Annuals codes, guides, gazetteers and dictionaries. Miss Morley.

Feb. 21. House publications, and the literature of national trade associations. Miss Rose.

Feb. 23. Business reference books, III. Handbooks and bibliographies. Miss Morley.

Feb. 28. Tabular methods of presenting facts. Dr. R. E. Chaddock, Associate Professor, Columbia University.

Mar. 2. The publications of statistical organizations and of business information services. Miss Elizabeth Wray, Librarian, U. S. Rubber Co.

Mar. 7. Graphic methods of presenting facts. Dr. Chaddock.

Mar. 9. Government publications of value in the business library, I. Mr. R. A. Sawyer, Assistant, Economics Division, the New York Public Library.

Mar. 14. Selection, acquisition and treatment of material. Miss Elsie Baechtold, Librarian, Irving National Bank.

Mar. 16. Government publications, II. Mr. Sawyer.

Mar. 21. Visit National City Financial Library, 60 Wall Street. Miss Alice L. Rose, Librarian. 5:30 P. M.

Mar. 23. Government publications, III. Mr. Sawyer.

Mar. 28. Visit Economics Division of the New York Public Library. Dr. C. C. Williamson, Chief of Division. 5:30 P. M.

Mar. 30. Field investigations. Miss Alice Boughton, Head of Department of Statistics and Investigation, the J. Walter Thompson Co., Advertising.

Apr. 4. Visit libraries of American Telephone & Telegraph Co., 195 Broadway. Miss Mary deJ. Cox, Librarian. 5:30 P. M.

Apr. 6. The use of statistics, I. Mr. O. P. Austin, Statistician, the National City Co.

Apr. 11. Visit Business Branch, Newark Free Public Library, 15 Beaver Street, Newark. Miss Linda H. Morley, in charge. 7:30 P. M.

Apr. 13. The use of statistics, II. Mr. Austin.

Apr. 18. Visit Metropolitan Life Insurance Co Library, 1 Madison Avenue. Miss F. S. Cox, Librarian. 5:30 P. M.

Apr. 20. Abstracting and digesting; making data available after assembling. Miss Josephine M. Hefron, Reference Librarian, Guaranty Trust Co.

Apr. 25. Visit Guaranty Trust Co. Library, 140 Liberty Street. Mr. E. P. Tate, in charge. 5:30 P. M.

Apr. 27. Visit Library of American International Corporation, 120 Broadway. Miss Margaret C. Wells, Librarian. 5:30 P. M.

## Cotton Research Libraries

An abstract of the report of the Egyptian Cotton Research Board is printed in the *Textile World* of Dec. 11, 1920. The Board is erecting a \$125,000 laboratory at Giza, which, it is hoped, will be ready for occupation in June, 1921. Floor plans accompanying the abstract show that liberal provisions for library purposes have been made.

Among the many research projects being undertaken in Great Britain and British

possessions, those concerning textiles, and especially cotton, are being accorded particular attention. The British Cotton Industry Research Association, incorporated in June, 1919, in its first report, issued in March, 1920, has already acquired property for temporary housing of offices, a library, etc. A Building Fund appeal for £250,000 has been issued. A comprehensive scheme of abstracting has been formulated.

## At Your Service—Five Safety Libraries

By MARY BOSTWICK DAY,

Librarian, National Safety Council.

Many members of the National Safety Council do not realize that through the library of the National Safety Council, the most complete safety library in the world, they have not only its service at all times available, but also the services of four other libraries devoted to safety and allied subjects, and quick access to the great libraries of Chicago, the headquarters city of the Council.

A veritable "league of libraries" is thus placed at the disposal of the member desirous of some specific information on a safety topic. The four libraries of safety research allied with that of the National Safety Council are those of the Safety Institute of America, the National Workmen's Compensation Service Bureau, the Independence Bureau, and the Pennsylvania Rating Bureau. These five libraries have a "round robin" system of circulating literature on accident prevention and kindred problems. Through this co-operative plan each of the five librarians receives all the material accumulated by the other four, and none of them misses any new suggestions, new safety literature, unusual articles, reports, etc., which are of interest.

The National Safety Council Library is also linked up with the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and local library associations. Within a stone's throw of the National Safety Council headquarters is located the library center of the Middle West if not of the whole United States. Within a few weeks the John Crerar Library, one of the largest research institutions of the country, will occupy twelve floors of its new seventeen-story skyscraper, next door to the Council's headquarters. The Crerar collection, containing approximately 427,000 volumes and 150,000 pamphlets covering such subjects as occupational diseases, sociology, applied science, etc., and the files of forty special-

ized industrial libraries of the city, stand ready to supplement the files of the National Safety Council Library.

Around the corner from the Council headquarters is the Chicago Public Library with its large collection of reference books, its government depository, back files of magazines, proceedings of engineering societies, etc., and the Council library has the privilege of borrowing a large number of books at all times. The American Library Association headquarters are in the public library building, and that organization renders valuable assistance to all libraries, including that of the Council.

Some 10,000 volumes are available through the Western Society of Engineers, whose headquarters are maintained a few blocks away. The Council also works in close co-operation with the Special Libraries Association, whose membership includes some three hundred industrial librarians of the country.

Each month some ten individuals or more are sent to the National Safety Council by the other libraries of the city for specific information on some phase of safety. On an average some twenty-five telephone calls a month come to it from other libraries for specific data. Letters are also continually coming in from all types of libraries all over the country.

The National Safety Council Library stands unique in the field of library work as the only library which contains the collective experience of 4,000 members. It is in no sense duplicating the work of any other library, but gladly avails itself of the resources of the other libraries, and stands ready, with its 10,000 pamphlets, 500 clippings, 500 blue prints and photographs, all carefully indexed, to assist anyone who may seek safety knowledge (National Safety News, Dec., 1920.)

## Price Fixing Data

State control of prices as provided in statutes now in effect in Montana and Indiana is to be made the subject of study by a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, appointment of which was announced Dec. 22, 1920. The constitutionality of both statutes involved is being tested before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Although the same in principle, the two statutes differ considerably. The Montana law is much more general in its application. It made of the state's railroad com-

missioners a Montana trade commission and gave the board power to license all persons engaged in buying and selling commodities in the state. The power to regulate carried with it the power to establish maximum prices or reasonable margins of profit.

The Montana Trade Commission thereupon ordered that all articles offered for sale be marked with the invoice price and the sales prices per unit. The state Merchants' Association of Montana took the case into the federal district court, which held the law in violation of the fourteenth

amendment of the federal constitution. The Attorney General of the State appealed. The United States Supreme Court will hear the case in April.

The Indiana Act created a Coal and Food Commission, giving it powers to fix the price on coal. The coal interests immediately got the case before the U. S. District Court in a suit brought against the Commissioners. The three federal judges, Baker, Evans and Zeiger, have given their decision, which sustains the Commission and goes a great deal further. This extraordinary decision has been appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, but as the judges who rendered it are among the most eminent on the bench there is small hope of it being overturned. The cases are sure to arouse more or less controversy and business librarians may wish to refer to the Indiana decision.

On November 15 to 17 arguments were heard by the Federal Trade Commission on

the issuance of a formal complaint on the application of the Western Association of Rolled Steel Consumers of Chicago against the long established practice of basing prices of raw steel throughout the country on a Pittsburgh shipping base. The application is for recognition of the contention that the practice involves unfair methods of competition or a discrimination in prices. The point has come up twice recently, first when the Government fixed maximum prices on steel products. This was in 1918, at which time the point was raised in the trade meetings held by the Director of Steel Supply of the War Industries Board. Last summer it came up again and aroused some discussion in the *Iron Trade Review*, v. 65, p. 283, 640, 780, 1266; the *Iron Age*, v. 103, p. 611, v. 104, p. 172, 231, 643; the U. S. Chamber of Commerce General Bulletin 419, and elsewhere.

## The Way the Wind Blows

*Elsewhere in this issue we print an account of a projected cotton research library in Giza, Egypt. In a certain government department at Washington the index and abstract clerks are called "information analysts." The following résumé comprises only a few of the commitments recently made on the practical value of research. Whether the special research referred to be industrial, commercial or scientific, it is always accompanied by the collection, abstracting, indexing and co-ordination of information, and the library is therefore the first aid to research.*

Education, especially in research and laboratory work, as a means of increasing the wealth of the Dominion of Canada, was emphasized in an address delivered by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire, at the beginning of the centennial endowment campaign for \$5,000,000 conducted by McGill University.

"Undoubtedly," the speaker declared, "at this moment we are extremely short of men and women who are prepared and capable and trained for the purpose of research work. This is the case not only in Canada but in Great Britain and the United States."

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announces the appointment of C. J. Tilden, Professor of Engineering Mechanics of Yale, as director of Highway and Transport Education Committee, of which Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, is chairman. The new director will take charge immediately of the work planned by the committee, which includes the compilation of economic, scientific and engineering data relative to highway construction and highway transport, and the distribution of these data to educational institutions.

"With the growth and development of the department," says the Secretary of Agriculture in his annual report for 1920, "along

research and regulatory lines, it is highly essential that definite provision be made for closer coordination of these activities through a central agency. Only in this way can the most effective results be obtained. Every effort should be made to bring about a further correlation of research and regulatory activities with those of appropriate state agencies. The Department has no machinery at this time for accomplishing this purpose. I am suggesting in the estimates that the Secretary of Agriculture be authorized to appoint a director of scientific work and a director of regulatory work at \$7,500 each."

An estimation of the practical value of research, comes from the far west. The following appeared as an editorial in the *Los Angeles Examiner*:

"The largest bank in Los Angeles—an old, staid, conservative institution—announces the establishment of a whole new department of information and education. No underling, but a new vice president of the bank—a man chosen from high place, eminent as publicist and as educator—will have charge of the work. Assistants called from the faculties of universities will have charge of the lesser details and practical work.

Every officer, every employe of the bank will have offered to him the opportunity to learn the theory and the practice of the positions which are now higher rank than he holds.

A special division of research is to be established, to hunt up all information and statistics germane to the banking business, classify it and present it for the information of the men in the bank and, secondarily, for the information of the customers of the bank who may ask for it. The bank needs to know, definitely and accurately, what is going on in industry, commerce, manufacture and development; so that it may know where to look for the accounts of successful men, so that it may be able to invest its funds where the maximum of usefulness will meet the minimum of risk. Customers of banks are looking to them for more and more of service, and so banks must now be prepared to furnish sifted, verified classified information; to act as guide posts in the paths of commerce and industry and investment.

There is very little of sentiment in this move of the Security Bank. To engage talent and education, to organize and equip

large educational and research departments means no slight expense. Banks are the temples of economy, and practice what they preach. In this plan, long in the maturing, we may be sure every item of this expense has been carefully weighed and has been decided to be worth while. Why? Because the increased efficiency of men who are taught to understand what they are doing—and what the man who is above them is thinking when he tells them what to do—is worth more to the bank than all the cost of getting and giving the information.

Not every large institution can or will do this same thing, but every man or woman can learn the lesson from it—that it is worth while to know all there is to know about your job, worth while to know what is going on about you in the world; worth while to be able to trace, in your orders from above, the workings of the mind of the man who gives the orders. The bank is paying money to make its men more valuable, and it will pay its men more money when they are more valuable. Any man, who will work and study and find out so he can hold the job that is above his, may thus increase his own value and realize upon that increase."

## Certification and Special Libraries

The report of the Special Committee on Certification, Standardization and Library Training, appointed by the Executive Board of the American Library Association, was read at the third session of the Colorado Springs Conference, accepted by the Association and referred to the Council. The members of the Committee are Alice S. Tyler, Adeline B. Zachert, A. S. Root, C. C. Williamson and Frank K. Walter, chairman.

The Committee recommends the creation of a board of nine, five to be elected by the Council of the American Library Association, each of whom is to represent a special kind of library, specifically named, viz.: a public library with a training class, a small public library, a state or federal library and a college or reference library. The four other members are to be elected by the Council upon nomination by each of the following organizations: The Association of American Library Schools, the League of Library Commissions, the National Education Association and the Special Libraries Association. The acquisition of the ninth member is left open.

Five definite recommendations are made in the report, viz.: The incorporation in the constitution of the A. L. A. of a provision for a National Board of Certification; this Board to evaluate and correlate all existing agencies for teaching library subjects and methods; the purpose of the Board to be the stimulation of the improvement of library

service and the professional status of library workers; that pending such constitutional provision, the Executive Board of the A. L. A. appoint a committee of nine to be constituted as outlined above, and finally that the support for the Certification Board is to be provided from funds procured through the Enlarged Program Campaign or otherwise.

There are several points it might be well to consider in this program as it applies to special librarians. Special librarians, whether they be medical, chemical, public utility, banking, insurance, agricultural, law, or any one of a number of other branches, are essential members of the organizations employing them in direct proportion as they are able to control the information appertaining to the especial branch involved. This control may have been acquired by experience, by association or by special study. It is not conceivable that a thoroughly qualified special medical librarian would be very much of an asset in a law library, and vice versa. Assuming always that a special librarian is one whose success depends on the ability to control special information, the proposal to grade special librarians on the basis of an unrelated technique must be viewed with some apprehension. Another point to be considered is that many special librarians are employed by private concerns whose evaluation of the services they require might not in all cases coincide with that of the proposed Board.

The suggestion is put forward for consideration by special librarians that a Board representing them in cooperation with a similar Board of the American Library Association secure standardization of special librarians by the regularly certifying organizations in each of the special branches now employing such persons. Thus a medical librarian holding the certificate of the American Medical Association, upon the recommendation of the proper library certifying

body, could be called a professional librarian. Having attained this certificate and desiring to change his professional connections, nothing would prevent the holder from repeating the preparation and securing a law certificate. Another important point is that we, as a group, would be extending our affiliations with the professions and with industry, thus widening both our field of operation and our promise of development.

## Paper Research

*The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry maintains a Committee on Bibliography. The following list of Contributions represents the activities of this Committee for the year 1920. Mr Clarence J. West, of A. D. Little & Co., and a member of S. L. A., is Chairman of this Committee.*

No. 14—Paper research literature. (V). A list of the contributions by the staff of L'École française de papeterie of the University of Grenoble. Comp. by Prof. Barbillion. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 23 (Feb. 11, 1920).

No. 15—L. C. Card references for paper men. A descriptive book bibliography on the arts, technology and economics of paper. Comp. with extensive emendations from the Library of Congress printed index cards, by M. Hubbard. Paper 26, No. 7, No. 8 (Apr. 21, 28, 1920).

No. 16—Filter paper: A reading list. Comp. by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 15 (Oct. 7, 1920).

No. 17—Paper research literature (VI). A list of the contributions by the staff of the Königliches Materialprüfungsamt zu Berlin-Lichterfelde West. Comp. by Wilhelm Herzberg, translated and augmented by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 17; No. 18

(Oct. 21, 28, 1920).

No. 18—Id. (VII). A list of the contributions by members of the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, 1910-1920. Compiled by F. A. Curtis. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 19 (Nov. 4, 1920).

No. 19—The sizing of paper: A reading list. Comp. by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 20, No. 21 (Nov. 11, 18, 1920).

No. 20—History of papermaking in the United States. Comp. by Maude V. Dickinson. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 21 (Nov. 18, 1920).

No. 21—Blotting paper: A reading list. Comp. by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 22 (Nov. 25, 1920).

No. 22—The bleaching of paper pulp. Comp. by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 24 (Dec. 9, 1920).

No. 23—Papermaking materials. Comp. by Clarence J. West. Paper Tr. J. 71, No. 25, No. 26, 72 (Dec. 16, 23, 30, 1920).

## The Room that Makes An American Dye Industry a Fact

"As vitally necessary for the protection of American Dyestuffs users as the dye making plant itself, has been the work of the Du Pont Company in the careful collection of all available data on every branch of dyestuffs manufacture.

Here, in the scholastic quiet of this beautiful room, our research and experimental chemists check their data against that of hundreds of recognized authorities. Here, contained in thousands of volumes, is the cumulative knowledge of all the world on the subject of dyestuffs, available for the use of the manufacturers of America.

The chemist carries in his mind and in his note-book numberless details of operations, but it is necessary to have in the works a *permanent memory*—the library—to avoid duplication of effort in re-search and analytical work. The Du Pont Company employs thirty-seven people in its Intelligence Division who devote themselves to keeping the library up to the minute."

The preceding text is a reproduction of a page cover display advertisement which appeared in the January issues of various trade papers. The text was attractively set off by two cuts, one of which was an interior view of the Du Pont dyestuff library.

## Congressional Record Index

The familiar Congressional Record Index is under scrutiny. For about forty years it has appeared in much the same form. It is not a bad form, not a bad form at all. A desirable change would be a little more flexibility, and far more liberality in indexing information included in the Record.

On Dec. 6, 1920, Mr. Kiess, Rep. of Pennsylvania, introduced H. J. Res. 384, "Providing for the indexing of the Congressional Record by the Superintendent of Documents \* \* \*". The resolution provides for semi-monthly and session indexes, as heretofore, to be promptly prepared by the Superintendent of Documents under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing. This Commit-

tee is also to direct the form and manner of the publication and distribution of the indexes. The Superintendent of Documents is to employ a sufficient number of competent persons for that purpose at such compensations as shall be appropriated for. When not engaged on the index, these persons are to do such other indexing and cataloging provided for by law as shall be assigned to them by the Superintendent.

This resolution was later included in the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill (H. R. 15,422), which has passed the House, but, at the time of writing, was still pending in the Senate.

## Filing Music Satisfactorily

Many libraries circulate sheet music. Sheet music is vexatious material to take care of in quantity. The Christian Science Monitor of Jan. 6, 1921, publishes an article describing a music vertical file for domestic use. It seems a very practicable arrange-

ment for library purposes, although perhaps, some extra protection might have to be provided in this case to guard against the wear and tear in carriage. Music reference libraries and music sales houses might be especially interested.

## "Washington Rapidly Becoming the World's Greatest Center for Scholarship"

The quoted head is the caption of a paragraph on p. 12 of the reprint of the speech of the Hon. S. D. Fess, Rep. of Ohio, in the House of Representatives on December 29, 1920. The paragraph reads as follows: "It may not be known to all members of the House that here in Washington, connected with the various research divisions of the Government, are located the greatest group of great scholars that can be found in any other center in all the world.

"I want to emphasize that statement. It is absolutely true. These scholars are associated with the various governmental departments, each of which has special library facility for its use. There are a score of such special libraries which a dozen years ago contained considerably over a million volumes of books and pamphlets. Among them the

libraries of the Surgeon General's Office, the Agricultural Department, the Bureau of Education, the Bureau of Standards, the Fish Commission, and the Geological Survey are the finest of the kind in the world. However, the Congressional Library contains not an insignificant portion of the force of experts to be found in Washington.

"I asked an authority some days ago whether it was wise to collect all the libraries within one building and place them under the control of the Library of Congress. The answer was in the negative; that they all ought to be affiliated with the national library, as they are, but that we do not have room over here, and that the libraries can be better used for the purpose of research where they are now located."

# Special Libraries

ADELAIDE R. HASSE, Editor  
Council of National Defense  
Washington, D. C.

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## SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

The officers ex-officio with E. H. Redstone, Helen Norris and Maud A. Carabin.

Checks for dues and subscriptions should be made out to the Association and mailed to Miss Margaret C. Wells, Asst. Sec'y-Treasurer, care American International Corporation, 120 Broadway, New York City.

## EDITORIALS

### S. L. A. MEMBERSHIP

Once more we call the attention of our readers to the imminence of the census letter. It is now in the mails. It may have reached you. Fill it out and return it promptly. Remember your friends. If the Association is good for you, it will be for them. And both of you are good for the Association. Add the names of your friends who are not yet members to the census letter.

The time for the annual convention is drawing closer. Last year four hundred persons attended the convention. Are we going to have four hundred more or less, or twice four hundred in attendance this year? The presence of every man and woman interested in special library work,

from whatever angle, is desired. Begin to make your plans now. The only way to have a successful, live, active, up and doing Association is to have a live, active, up and doing membership. The surest way to kill an Association is never to come to meetings, to protest if you are not put on committees, and to dwell in elegant leisure if you are.

Therefore let us have a rousing attendance and rousing reports. If you are not on a committee and have good ideas for a report, send them in to SPECIAL LIBRARIES. The Editor is most hospitably inclined towards good ideas, and the contributing habit is one we wish to encourage in all our members.

## VOLUME TWELVE

A good round baker's dozen we will have to our credit next year this time. The next number of SPECIAL LIBRARIES begins a new volume. Renewal of subscriptions is in order. Send in the names of prospective

subscribers with your renewal.

An index to preceding volumes is in preparation. The current and succeeding volumes will be indexed by the H. W. Wilson Co. for the Industrial Arts Index.

## A KEY INDUSTRY

The phrase was, we believe, introduced in England during the war. The true "key" industries are not the great basic or staple industries of the country, but a number of small industries of comparatively secondary rank in themselves, nevertheless of fundamental importance to the industrial life of the nation.

If we could once bring ourselves to conduct our work as an industry, then we would be in a position to claim it to be a "key" industry par excellence. Elsewhere in this issue there is printed a summary of some current reasearch work in progress or recommended for pursuit. In his report on coffee research Prof. Prescott refers to the large mass of literature his committee was obliged to sift before it was even able to classify the gist of such analytical work as had already been done.

Contingencies of the war injected into business a hard and fast differentiation between essential and non-essential industry.

Business is, therefore, not unaccustomed to this differentiation. It is now, after the war, making individual application of it to its own particular cases. One of the outstanding developments is that business has decided that research is essential.

Many industries are maintaining research staffs as a part of their national trade organizations, many businesses are utilizing the research staffs of advertising agencies, many are maintaining their own organizations. There never has been as much money spent on the private assembly of facts as is being spent today. It is being spent for assembling them by the process of research.

There never has been a time when money is as much wanted by libraries as it is today. The conversion of the process we know as reference work into the more modern process of research, might, conceivably, bring library work out of its obscurely compensated seclusion.

## Association Activities

## N. Y. S. L. A. Meets

The meeting on the evening of January 14, was a great success. Group leaders had been appointed as follows:

*Financial.*—Miss Alice Rose, National City Bank.

*Commercial.*—Miss Phyllena Dickey, Sinclair Consolidated Co.

*Accountancy, Insurance and Legal.*—Miss Edith Daly, National Council of Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

*Advertisers, Exporters, Newspapers and Publishers.*—Miss Harriet Elias, George Batten & Co.

*Civics, Public Utilities and Foreign.*—Mrs. E. G. Armstrong, Canadian Pacific Railroad Company.

*Chemical and Medical.*—Miss Florence Bradley, National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

*Sociological, Economic and Educational.*—Miss Janet Melvam, American Social Hygiene Society.

*Religious and Clubs.*—Mrs. T. R. Lill, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church.

*Scientific and Technical.*—Miss Helen B.

Humphill, Western Electric Co.

Through the efforts of the various group leaders a large attendance was secured, 184 requesting the privilege of attending, some additional ones coming in later after the dinner to listen to the discussions. I enclose an announcement of the meeting which gives you an idea of the way in which the meeting was organized.

The Medical and Chemical group under the leadership of Miss Bradley of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing had the best attendance; 14 out of a possible 17 in that group were present. They received the prize of a two pound box of candy which they enjoyed during the course of the evening. After the dinner an informal meeting was held and each group was given the privilege of presenting their good ideas or suggestions. The Financial group under Miss Rose had the best organized material, had it written up carefully and it was read. It contained many ideas, a dozen or more very good ones. The Commercial group under Miss Dickey of the Sinclair Consolidated Co., presented some splendid ideas on cooperation. The prize for the individual giving the best single idea was granted by

the judges to Miss Van Dyne if the National Workmen's Compensation Bureau for a method used in weeding out out-of-date material from the Vertical File.

It was decided to ask one person of the group, Miss Lenora A. Tafel of the American Cotton Oil Company who was designated by the President, to write up a synopsis of all these ideas and we are hoping that the "Special Libraries" will be willing to publish them.

The President read a report from Miss Eugenia Wallace, Employment Bureau of the Y. W. C. A., on the employment work which that Bureau has done for the New York Special Libraries Association. During the year October 1919—October 1920 there were 94 registrants, 48 requests for librarians and 30 placements. The Association considered

this quite an admirable piece of work and moved that a vote of thanks be sent to Miss Wallace for her splendid cooperation and efficiency in this work.

Miss Rankin also reported that the list of Special Libraries in New York City was completed and will appear in the January 15th issue of the Library Journal. Through the kindness of Miss Duncan, Editor of the Library Journal, reprints are to be made for us and one copy will be sent to each member of the Association.

Thirty-three additional new members were secured by the Membership Committee during the course of the evening which brings up our total membership of the New York Special Libraries Association to about 300.

### A. L. A. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, 1920-21

Committee to Assist in Revision of Adams' Manual of Historical Literature—A. H. Shearer.

Committee on Bookbinding—Gertrude Stiles.

Committee on Book Buying—M. L. Raney.

Committee on Cataloging—William W. Bishop.

Committee on Civil Service Relations—W. D. Johnston.

Decimal Classification Advisory Committee—C. W. Andrews.

Committee on Education—Harriet A.

Committee on Federal and State Relations—J. I. Wyer, Jr.

Committee on Finance—George B. Utley.

Committee of Five on Library Service—Arthur E. Bostwick.

Committee on Foreign Born—Mrs. E. E. Ledbetter.

Committee on International Relations—Herbert Putnam.

Committee on Legislation—W. F. Yust.

Committee on Library Administration—F. F. Hopper.

Committee on Library Work in Hospitals

and Charitable and Correction Institutions—Miriam E. Carey

Committee on Library Training—Malcolm G. Wyer.

Committee on Membership—Gratla A. Countryman.

Committee on Preparation of a Bibliography of Humanistic Literature—William W. Bishop

Committee on Program—Alice S. Tyler.

Committee on Public Documents—H. H. B. Meyer.

Committee on Reciprocal Relations with Other National Organizations—Mary Eileen Ahern.

Committee on Sponsorship and Knowledge—Charles F. D. Belden.

Committee on Standardization of Libraries—P. L. Windsor.

Committee on Travel—F. W. Faxon

Committee on Union List of Serials—C. W. Andrews.

Committee on Ventilation and Lighting of Public Library Buildings—S. H. Ranck.

Committee on Work with the Blind—Mabel R. Gillis.

## Special Library Field Doings

The University of Michigan Library announces the addition to its teaching staff in Library Methods for the summer session of 1921 of Professor Azariah S. Root of Oberlin College and Professor Frank K. Walter recently Vice-Director of the New York State Library School at Albany. The summer courses extend for eight weeks and are under the direction of Professor William Warner Bishop, Librarian of the University, who will give a course introductory to the study and practice of librarianship.

Professor Root will give a course on the High School Library and a course in Book Selection and Book-Buying for High School Libraries and the smaller public libraries. Professor Walter will give courses in the

elements of cataloging and of classification and an advanced course on the use, arrangement and classification of public documents, Federal and State.

There will be courses in Reference Work, taught by Miss F. B. Gillette, on Book-Binding, taught by Mr. W. C. Hollands, and on the use of pamphlets and ephemeral material in the study of civic and economic subjects, taught by Miss Edith Thomas; all members of the staff of the University Library.

At least one year of University or College study is required for admission to the elementary courses, while 75 hours of University credits, or an equivalent, are required for the advanced courses. The work by

Prof. Root in Book Selection and by Prof. Walter in Public Documents should appeal to librarians of some experience who wish to refresh their knowledge of these subjects or to study them with a view to new work in these fields. All these courses count for University credit toward a degree.

Candidates for admission to the courses in library Methods should apply in advance of registration to the Director, Wm. Warner Bishop, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, as only persons duly admitted to the work are allowed to register.

Mr. Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., President of Special Libraries Association, has accepted the position of Assistant-Manager of the newly-created Civic Development Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the U. S. Mr. Hyde was appointed Librarian of the Packard Motor Car Co., Detroit, Mich., in Feb. 1920, having previously held the position of Librarian of the Municipal Reference Library of New York City. Mr. Hyde assumed his new duties in Washington, D. C., on Jan. 1, 1921.

Miss Edna B. Gearhart is with the Indiana Legislative Reference Bureau. Miss Gearhart was formerly with the Economic Division of the N. Y. P. L., and later with the Research Service of the American City Bureau. Miss Gearhart has contributed to Special Libraries and P. A. I. S.

Mr. Oscar E. Perrigo, of Pratt and Whitney Co., writes in the December number of System on "Facts we want when we want them". It is a very practical article on circulating trade catalogues and trade papers.

The county libraries of California are described at length in an illustrated article in the Christian Science Monitor of Oct. 15, 1920.

Miss Laura Grover Smith writes in the Christian Science Monitor of Oct. 15, 1920, on the school libraries of Los Angeles, Cal.

A press despatch from London, Ont., advises that the new year opens with an educational campaign in that city which holds some new features. One of these is the extension of the public library to the schools. Already one branch library has been established in one of the city public schools and the vice-principal has been placed in charge. The idea is to carry out this idea further and have every one of the larger public schools provided from the city library.

Three hundred volumes covering the field of American activities in the World War have been received through the medium of The American Legion Weekly as a start of a complete Legion war library, which will be established in a room at national headquarters.

## Timely Bibliographical Topics

The personnel of the Permanent Group Committees appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out the recommendations of the first and second Pan-American Financial Conferences has been printed in 10 page pamphlet. Special librarians of organizations having Latin American affiliations should acquire an early copy. The title is simply "List of Members of the Permanent Group Committees."

The second installment of an interesting study in traffic geography, both inland and terminal, in various parts of the world, appears in the July and August double number (1920) of the Archiv fur Eisenbahnwesen.

The Mauritius Almanac and Commercial Handbook for 1920. This publication, in its ninety-fifth year, having first been issued in 1769, is a heavy quarto volume in paper covers describing all the institutions of the colony, tariffs, laws, statistics, weights and measures, etc. Naturally information relating to the sugar industry is fully gone into, and there is a comprehensive list of the sugar factories. An excellent index assists the reader greatly. Compiled under the direction of A. Walter, F. R. A. S.,

Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, Mauritius. The Mauritius Stationery & Printing Co., Ltd. 10 Rupees.

The South African Sugar Journal Annual (the Uba Printing Co., Ltd., Durban, Natal), contains a well illustrated description of the Natal and Zululand sugar estates and factories compiled by the organ of the Natal Sugar Industry. Price 7s. 6d. net, postage 1s.

The Chicago Flexible Shaft Co. publishes a house organ under the title "The Melting Pot" In a recent number calculations for the weights of high-speed and tool steels, wrought iron and cast iron are given.

A Digest of Canadian Grain Act, compiled by Chas. Birkett, Secretary of the Fort William-Port Arthur Grain Exchange, Fort William, Ont., has been issued in 64 pages.

A current bibliography on illumination appears in the monthly transactions of the Illuminating Engineering Society. It is international in scope and averages about 100 titles.

Yopp's Cipher Directory contains a list of the mills, buyers, dealers and most of the brokers and chemists engaged in the oil

mill trade. 127 pages. Dorsey Co., Dallas, Tex., publishers. \$3.00 bound in cloth.

The Peachy Process Co., Ltd., 40 Gerard street, London, W. 1, has recently issued a pamphlet covering the capitalization of the company, the chief advantages of the Peachy process of rubber vulcanization, a short biography of the inventor, reports on the process of vulcanization and a historical review of Goodyear's hot vulcanization process.

The U. S. Federal Trade Commission recently issued its sixth monthly bulletin on bituminous coal costs giving preliminary costs for June, 1920. The Bulletin gives costs of 555 operators. In issuing this bulletin the Commission announced the suspension of further publication of the series until the courts render final decision on the constitutional power of Congress to authorize the Commission to require reports on costs of production.

Ungerer's Bulletin, 124 West 19th street, New York City, Symposium of Aromatics. A complete list of products used by perfumers and toilet soap makers. Nine special articles by men well known in industry, comprise the contents of a recent number.

Anton Chris Co., 18-20 Platt street, New York City, has issued a handsome booklet of facts about the Company, which was established in 1768 in France for the manufacture of essential oils.

The Chicago Section of the American Welding Society has issued a little booklet with the title, "Keep the Guess Work out of Welding." Copies may be had upon application to the American Welding Society, 608 South Dearborn street, Chicago.

"Autogenous Welding," the house organ of Davis-Bournonville Co., Jersey City, N. J., for October, deals further with its Pyrograph, in the fabrication of flange boiler plates in shipyards. The setting up of portable welding equipment is also described and illustrated.

M. E. Faber, of the C. A. Shaler Co., of Waupun, Wisc., writes in the Nov, 1920, number of the Hardware Dealers' Magazine on the functions of the trade catalogue.

National Aniline and Chemical Co., Inc., has just issued a book of Dyers Formulas, giving the receipts that have been worked out in its laboratories for matching the shades that have been standardized by the Textile Color Card Association and shown in the Fall 1920 Color Card. The receipts are for silk, cotton, wool and leather, and will be found useful to dyers engaged in coloring any of these materials. Copies may be obtained by dyers and others interested without cost from any of the offices of the National Aniline and Chemical Co.

Prof. Samuel C. Prescott, Director of the Scientific Coffee Investigation undertaken for the Joint Coffee Trade Publicity Committee, made a Report of Progress to the National Coffee Roasters' Association. It is printed in the Tea and Coffee Trade Journal for December, 1920, p. 716-721.

An investigation was recently completed by the research staff of E. E. Houghton & Co., Philadelphia, on the causes of skin sores and boils among metal workers. The details appear in a copyrighted booklet issued by the company.

The Asphalt Sales Department of the Texas Co., 1 Battery place, New York City, has just issued a booklet on how to save worn-out pavement with Texaco asphalt.

Southern Pine, what it is and how to use it, is the title of a new pamphlet being distributed to architects, engineers, builders and others interested by the Southern Pine Association, New Orleans, La.

The Employers' Year Book was issued May 1920. It is edited by Philip Gee. The address is 246, Temple Chambers, London, E. C. Price 25s.

New magazines are appearing in spite of costs, paper shortage and various other discouragements. Natural Gas, Vol. 1, No. 1, appeared in October, 1920. The Glass Industry, Vol. 1, No. 1, was issued in November. The Planter, mostly devoted to rubber culture and its problems, made its initial appearance in 1920. It is published by the Incorporated Society of Planters, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States.

The Magnesia Association of America, 721 Bulletin Bldg., Philadelphia, has issued a new book, "Defend Your Steam." Its author, Austen Bolam, a man of engineering training, has long been a close student of the problems of insulation, and has made this book an intelligible discussion of the fundamental question of the defense of steam for which 80 per cent. magnesia covering is everywhere a recognized standard.

Eagle-Picher Lead Co, 100 William Street, New York City, has issued a 16-page booklet listing the lead products which it manufactures. The illustrations show various Eagle-Picher plants and a graph of the derivatives of lead.

Cement mill lubrication is discussed in the August 20, 1920, issue of Cement, Mill and Quarry, to the extent of 4½ columns.

Building Material Prices in 1921, by Wilfrid I. King, is a 12-page reprint from the Architectural Record of January, 1921. It is reprinted by F. W. Dodge Co., 119 West 40th street, New York City.

Bulletin (i. e. revision) 5 of the Report of the Committee on Standardization of Petroleum Specifications is out. It supersedes Bulletins 1-4, and comprises 60 folios. The Committee operates under Executive order of July 31, 1918. Bulletin 5 is printed by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, 1921.

The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce has issued in preliminary form for 1920 its annual "Facts and Figures of the Automotive Industry During the Year."

A. Norden & Co., established 1868, address Cotton Exchange Building, New York City, has just issued in chart form "A Quarter Century of Cotton." The chart was prepared by the General Drafting Co., Inc., 9 Church St., N. Y. City. It shows quarterly high and low prices for Middling Uplands in New York from 1895-16 to 1919-20, and, for the same years, tabulations of visible supply of American cotton each season, cotton ginned in the U. S., world's consumption of American cotton, as well as foreign acreage and consumption statistics.

Forty-two legislatures are in convention. Think of it! Forty-two bodies with their minds filled with ideas of revising taxes, making money cheaper, labor happier, reducing costs, and filling up our data files.

"Recent Articles on Petroleum and Allied Substances" is the title of serial 2198, issued December 1920, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines. It comprises 27 folios, and is com-

plied by E. H. Burroughs, Bibliographer of the Bureau. In character it is of the classified abstract form, international in scope, and so spaced as to allow clipping.

The Financial Publishing Co., 17 Joy St., Boston, Mass., announces the issue of "Consolidated Tables of Bond Values". The volume covers yields from 2.90 to 15%, progressing by 10ths and 8ths to 7%, by 10ths and quarters to 10% and by 10ths only to 15%. Maturities are computed from 6 months to 100 years and coupon rates of 3, 3½, 4, 4¼, 4½, 4¾, 5, 5¼, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½ and 8% are computed in values carried to two decimal places. The prices of the desk edition is \$15.00 a single copy and \$13.00 a copy for the abridged edition. Reductions are made for quantity purchases.

Clarks' Car Load Grain Tables. 8th ed. at \$2.50 is out. It contains tables showing reductions by 50 lb. breaks as follows: Oats and cotton seed: Eight tables reduce any weight from 20,000 to 108,000 lbs. to bushels of 32 lbs. Malt: Eight tables any weight from 20,000 to 75,000 lbs. to bushels of 34 lbs. Barley, buckwheat and Hungarian grass seed: Seven tables reduce any weight from 20,000 to 97,000 lbs. to bushels of 48 lbs. Corn, rye and flax seed: Nine tables reduce from 20,000 to 119,000 lbs. to bushels of 56 lbs. Wheat, clover, peas and potatoes: Nine tables reduce 120,000 to 119,000 lbs. to bushels of 60 lbs.

## Congress in Convention

The extraordinary session of the 66th Congress is nearing its close. Librarians, as such have an interest not so much in the redistributed representation consequent on the November election, as in the probable outcome of this representation. Rumors of federal reorganization have been afloat for some time. Every change in administrative readjustment affects the librarian's records. SPECIAL LIBRARIES, with its editor located at the seat of government, will have special facilities for keeping its readers promptly advised of changes, and of the effect of these changes on library records.

With the convening of Congress the procession of bills began to flow from the House and the Senate. Three hundred and fifty new bills and resolutions were introduced in the House alone, on the first day of the session. Are all special librarians acquainted with the Compendium of current legislation enacted by Congress? W. Ray Loomis, of the House Document Room, is the editor. The Compendium is issued weekly, with monthly cumulations. It is very complete, comprising a checking record of investigations ordered by Congress, arranged by the Committees directing the investigation, an alphabetical list, by Senators and Congressmen, of bills with their

numbers introduced by each, a very complete and originally arranged subject index, a list of slip laws by Committees, with slip law numbers, a checking record of riders, a history of appropriation bills and a numerical status of all legislation. Thus from whatever angle approached, current federal legislation may be traced by means of this compendium. In the June, 1920, issue is included a list of laws of the 64th Congress having direct or indirect bearing on the trans-Atlantic war.