As a preliminary contribution to our knowledge of the food fishes of Hong Kong this book is most valuable. It is greatly to be hoped, however, that it merely heralds the inauguration of a much more far-reaching and systematic study of the marine resources of the Hong Kong region, to be undertaken by or under the auspices of the University; or, better still, by a specially built and properly equipped fisheries research laboratory.

The Lighting of the Western World Fair

THE illumination of the San Francisco Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915 set a high standard in exhibition lighting which was for long unsurpassed. According to an article on the Golden Gate Exposition, which appeared in the *Electrician* of January 20, it will be far surpassed by this new exhibition on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay which will be opened on February 15. The gem-like appearance of the various buildings is mainly due to the use of an inexpensive insulating material called 'vermiculite'—an alteration of mica expanded by electric heat to fifteen to twenty times its original size. Applied to wet stucco, vermiculite imports an antique finish which scintillates with light. The sea wall and roadway lighting of Treasure Island is designed to be in keeping with the main project, and it is considered that it will establish a new milestone in the history of illumination. Projectors concealed in troughs floodlight the walls in white. Cylindrical golden amber lanterns are spaced on approximately sixty-foot centres along the entire facade for roadway illumination and to break up the flatness of the long lighted wall. Spectacular lighting has been arranged for the Courts of Pacifica and of the Seven Seas. The sculptured relief work consisting of submarine scenes is painted with paints that fluoresce under the ultra-violet light provided by concealed projectors from below. Nearly three hundred ultra-violet mercury floodlights, each of 100 watts capacity, are being used for fluorescence effects on outdoor murals. More than two hundred underwater floodlights are being installed, and altogether the outdoor lighting equipment comprises more than 10,000 units. The interiors of exhibition buildings are uniformly lighted by day and night; they have no windows. At the high points of the main buildings a concentrated type of reflector is employed while at lower points reflectors with layer spread are used. The total illumination of the 400 acre exposition site is estimated to require 40 million kilowatt hours during the 288 days the fair will be open.

Standard Television Terms

NOW that television broadcasting has become a public service in Great Britain, it is very desirable that, so far as possible, standardized terms and definitions should be used in connexion with the technique of this subject. The British Standards Institution has already made some progress in the matter in so far as the "Glossary of Terms used in Electrical Engineering" (No. 205–1936) contains two sub-sections dealing with terms used in connexion with television and with cathode ray tubes respectively. More recently, the Radio Manufacturers' Association has given consideration to the desirability of television equipment manufacturers and television engineers using a common form of nomenclature. It has been decided that, so far as possible, the technical terms given in the above Glossary should be used by manufacturers in their literature and in any instruction classes which they may operate. In addition, the Association has compiled a list of titles which are recommended for use in working the controls of television receivers. Fourteen titles are listed and described, and in so far as the modern receiver may have upwards of six hand controls directly accessible to the user, this would seem to be a very sound recommendation. It is understood that the R.M.A. has communicated the above recommendations to technical institutes providing radio engineering courses, with the view of securing their co-operation towards the desired objective.

Marine Engineering Collection

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE has recently published a new descriptive catalogue (price 2*s.* 6*d.* net) of the Marine Engineering Collection in the Science Museum. Nowhere else is to be seen anything like so large and representative a collection of marine engineering models, drawings, photographs, etc., as that at the Science Museum; and a close study of this catalogue and the companion volume on history and development, will repay anyone with an interest in the subject. Nearly 400 exhibits are described clearly and accurately, and there are 15 plates. Among the illustrations are photographs of the engine built by David Napier in 1811 for Henry Bell's *Comet* and of one set of the main steam turbines of the *Queen Mary*. Both these vessels were built and engined on the Clyde, but some of the most beautiful models in the collection are those of engines built on the banks of the Thames when the names of Penn, Seaward, Maudslay and Field were as widely known as those of the marine engineers of the Clyde and the Tyne are to-day. In connexion with this it is perhaps permissible again to recall the debt of marine engineers to Bennet Woodcroft, who by securing the early engine built by Symington, and that of the *Comet*, laid the foundation of the fine series of exhibits described in this catalogue of marine engines.

First-Aid Services and Air Raid Precautions

FOLLOWING the recent transfer from the Home Office to the Ministry of Health of responsibility for approving the air raid precautions schemes of local authorities in respect of first-aid posts and ambulance services, the Minister of Health has forwarded to all local authorities responsible for such schemes and to every voluntary hospital an explanatory communication (Circular 1764. H.M. Stationery Office. 1*d.* net). There should be at least one medical man, and if possible a trained nurse, in addition to the volunteer personnel, in attendance at every aid post. An aid post should be attached, or be very close, to all hospitals which are to be used for the initial reception of casualties, and some of the smaller hospitals,

clinics, health centres, etc., might be transformed into aid posts. In some areas, it is suggested, the fixed posts should be supplemented by mobile units, which could give medical aid on the spot. Ambulances that may be required, the organization of ambulance services, and their personnel, are described, as well as the use and training of women for ambulance driving. Finally, the Minister urges all responsible authorities to press on with their schemes and proposals without delay, and desires that an interim report be furnished by every authority involved.

The Placing of Children in Families

THE Advisory Committee of the League of Nations has issued a report upon this subject ("The Placing of Children in Families". Geneva, 1938. Vol. 1, price 3*s*.; Vol. 2, price 5*s*. Messrs. Allen and Unwin, 40 Museum Street, W.C.1). To begin with, the Child Welfare Committee of the League planned a survey on the placing of children in families as part of its general inquiry into the treatment of neglected and delinquent minors, but it was afterwards decided to treat independently the whole problem of placing in families as a method of child care. The first volume of this report presents the principles accepted as underlying provisions for child care, the characteristic features of the different systems employed in various countries, and the organization of social services to direct 'placing'. Vol. 2 describes the various systems of placing children in families that are now employed in different parts of the world.

Buildings for the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

A LARGE plaster-of-Paris model of the main new buildings of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. is now on view at the Academy's premises in Bolshaya Kuluzhskaya Ulitsa in Moscow. The buildings were designed by A. V. Shchusev. The site for the buildings most favoured is on the Frunze Embankment of the Moscow River. The new buildings of the Academy, according to the plans, consist of five blocks with a volume of 880,000 cubic metres. In the centre of the architectural ensemble is the main block for the presidium of the Academy. The hall is large enough to seat 2,000 persons. There are also four smaller auditoriums. Near the main hall are rooms for the demonstration of films and for broadcasting; also a post and telegraphic office and an information bureau. A block has been set aside for the library and storage premises for fifteen million volumes. On either side of the block for the presidium are buildings to accommodate two museums, one of which will be the Natural History Museum.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938

THE Minister of Health has issued a circular to local authorities and public analysts on the new Food and Drugs Act passed last July, which comes into force next October (Circular 1755. H.M. Stationery Office. 2*d*. net). This Act represents a great simplification of existing food and drugs law, some of which dates back to the sixteenth century, and opportunity has been taken to introduce, into the general law, provisions which have up to now been included only in Local Acts. Among new provisions which will become enforceable are the registration by local authorities of premises used for the sale or manufacture of ice cream and the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved food. Ice cream vendors must have their names and addresses on stalls, carts and barrows, and this requirement may be extended to all or any foods by the local authority. Slaughterhouses and knacker's yards will all in future be licensed for limited periods only, and new requirements are laid down as regards rooms, yards, etc., in which food is sold or prepared for sale.

Earth Tremor in the Lipari Islands

A STRONG earth tremor with epicentre near latitude 38° 40′ N., longitude 15° 7′ E. occurred during the night of January 27 and lasted several seconds according to human experience. The shock damaged several buildings, but no casualties are reported. The depth of focus is uncertain, but is unlikely to have been at the surface, as the shock was experienced and caused some apprehension in Messina. Messina has been troubled by earthquakes on several previous occasions, including February 25, 1509, June 8, 1599, March 28 and April 9, 1780, February 5–March 28, 1783 (six altogether), December 28, 1908, September 8, 1905, and October 23, 1907. The one on December 28, 1908, at 5 h. 21 m. was probably the most severe, nearly destroying Messina and Reggio, and causing the deaths of 77,283 people. On that occasion there were two epicentres in the Straits of Messina, the northerly one being the most important. The shock lasted 30 sec., caused sea-waves 38 ft. high at San Alessio, and subsidences of 22·9 in. two miles south of Reggio and 28 in. within two miles of Messina harbour.

The Chilean Earthquake

CHILE is one of the great seismically active regions in the world and part of the circum-Pacific ring of instability. During the night of January 24, an earthquake which lasted according to human experience for three minutes, shook an area greater than 40,000 square miles embracing Talca and Concepcion, and caused the deaths of approximately 15,000 people. It was the most severe for twelve years in Chile and the most destructive of human life since Quetta (India) in 1935. The three towns of Chillan, Pailalleque and Parral are reported completely destroyed; Concepcion, Talcahuano, San Rosendo and Los Angeles are severely damaged, and Talca, Angol, Lota and Curico damaged. At Talca the prison collapsed, fires broke out at the port of Talcahuano, the cathedral tower at Vaparaiso swayed dangerously, and half Concepcion is reported in ruins. From the available macroseismic evidence the epicentre appears to be near lat. 37° S. and somewhat to the east of long. 73° W. The shock appears to have had a normal focal depth and to have caused some surface faulting, and the railway line is reported damaged in several places, including one point about 12 miles south of Talca. Two trains are reported derailed.

CONCEPCION has had an unfortunate history seismically, having been severely damaged on no fewer than six occasions: February 9, 1570, March 15, 1657, July 8, 1730, March 25, 1751, February 20,