

that is, roughly speaking, all the land from the Cheviot Hills to the Firth of Tay lying on either side of the Firth of Forth. The book is divided into twenty-one review articles, each by a local authority and dealing respectively with the following topics: south-eastern Scotland—the region and its parts; weather and climate; prehistoric settlement; the Roman period; medieval times; 1500–1950; growth of Edinburgh, 1128–1800; growth of Edinburgh, 1800–1950; public health; influence of man on plant and animal life; agriculture; mining; manufacturing industries; changes in rural life and landscape, 1500–1950; population; transport; education; University and colleges of Edinburgh; the outlook; geology; research institutions. To complete the work a Bartholomew quarter-inch coloured topographical map is included, tucked into a flap on the inside of the back cover.

In the space of a short note it would be invidious to select any particular item for detailed comment, but perhaps it might not be inappropriate to say that, since paper-making and printing and book-binding are mentioned as among the principal industries of Edinburgh, one could expect that the production of this book would be of a high standard—and one's expectations are fulfilled. As befits the capital city of the northern half of the Union (and there are some, Sassenachs included, who would describe it as the fairest city of the Union) a good proportion of the space is devoted to Edinburgh itself; but a capital city is not the be-all and end-all of a country, and it can be fairly said that south-east Scotland as a whole has received its due share.

While the appeal of this type of survey is necessarily limited to those with ties to the immediate locality in question, nevertheless the members of the British Association who conserve these annual volumes thereby collect an authoritative collection of material pertaining to the principal centres of Great Britain, and this volume is second to none in this series.

Introduction to the Patenting of Inventions

By Cecil Hollins. Pp. 99. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1951.) 4s. 6d. net.

MR. CECIL HOLLINS and his publishers are to be congratulated on producing in ninety-nine pages and for 4s. 6d. such a concise and straightforward account of the essentials of that complicated and important field of law—British patent law. Mr. Hollins is exceptionally well equipped for producing such a book. For many years he was head of the Patent Department of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and he has also had a wide experience on patent and related matters in Great Britain and abroad. He is therefore fully aware of the needs of scientific and technical persons in relation to the important questions of patents, and this book should make a great appeal to inventors and persons engaged in research generally and to members of the staffs of industrial firms.

In January 1950 the Consolidated Patent Act, 1949, came into force and made many important changes in patent law. Most of these amendments had been recommended by the departmental committee on patents presided over by Sir Kenneth Swan. Mr. Collins's book deals briefly with all the provisions of this Act. Chapters 1 and 2 deal with questions likely to arise in the course of prosecuting patent applications, and Chapter 3 is concerned with questions after a patent is granted. In Chapter 4

he indicates briefly the grounds upon which a patent may be attacked for invalidity.

The book is well set out, with the main headings printed in heavy type, and marginal references to the sections of the Act are included in the text. For a small book of this kind, the index is exceptionally good, and an attractive feature is that this index refers both to the pages of the book and to the sections of the Act. It is therefore a complete index to the Act, irrespective of the contents of the book. There are references to some important court cases, but the book has the advantage of not being cluttered up with references to many cases which the new Patent Act has put out of date. R. G. LLOYD

Australian Fisheries

A Handbook prepared for the Second Meeting of the Indo-Pacific Council, Sydney, April 1950. Edited by I. G. MacInnes. Pp. 103+6 plates. (Sydney: Commonwealth Fisheries Office, 1950.) n.p.

THIS handbook gives a balanced and informative picture of a young and vigorous fishing industry expanding in spite of the handicap of a general low level of productivity in the surrounding seas. The freshwater fisheries of Australia are of little importance; but the estuarine fisheries are very important, so much so that it is a pity that statistics for these fisheries are not given. The deep-sea trawling and seining fisheries contribute 16 million out of an estimated total production of some 91 million pounds of fish in 1948–49; it is the distribution of the balance which would be so informative, and one has to search through the text for such statistical data as are given.

The lack of statistical tables, however, is the only criticism in a most useful booklet. The fine work being done by the research staff is summarized; in more than one instance this research has led directly to new fishing industries.

The distribution of the existing fisheries is shown, and explained in terms of produce and markets. The expansion of canning and freezing may, however, open up fisheries in sparsely populated areas, as has already happened in the case of Tasmania. Six useful plates illustrate the principal Australian fishes of commercial importance. C. F. H.

Journal of the Institute of Metals

Editor: Lieut.-Colonel S. C. Guillan; Assistant Editor, Major W. G. Askew. Vol. 75, 1948–49. Pp. lii+1230+138 plates. (London: Institute of Metals, 1949.) 60s.

THE Institute of Metals attempts the difficult task of providing a society to serve the interests of those concerned with the industrial side of non-ferrous metallurgy, and of purely scientific workers. The present volume shows how admirably this dual function is fulfilled on the publication side. It contains fifty-four papers covering such a wide range that any metallurgical reader will find much of interest. The standard of printing and illustration is high, but the volume of 1,230 pages is far too bulky and should have been split into two parts or separate volumes; the bound copy sent for review will rapidly become detached from its cover in the course of normal laboratory use. The papers include six contributions to a symposium on metallurgical aspects of non-ferrous metal melting and casting of ingots for working, and apart from this the wide range of subjects is remarkable. W. HUME-ROTHERY