

Library. 43rd Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ending February 28, 1959. Pp. 20. London: National Central Library, 1959). Attention has been given to the problem of increasing the speed with which books can be obtained, and here delays are chiefly due to the failure of some libraries to deal promptly with the requests of the National Central Library. The Executive Committee appeals strongly to all co-operating libraries and regional bureaux to help by dealing with requests with the minimum of delay. Total applications again decreased, from 79,971 in 1957-58 to 77,004, and of the 76,048 volumes issued from or through the Library (including renewals), 32,666 were to or from public libraries; 12,202 to or from university libraries; special outlier libraries, 8,704; overseas libraries, 3,077; Government departments, 2,528; industrial and research organizations, 3,497; and adult classes, 11,286. Overseas libraries lent 1,804 volumes and borrowed 2,488 volumes, and 240 and 432 further requests, respectively, were satisfied by photographic reproductions. The outlier libraries, now numbering 281, lent 14,525 volumes, and other special libraries a further 2,527 volumes. Regional co-operation covered 163,842 loans within systems, and 22,099 outside systems and the university libraries supplied 24,390 books and borrowed 12,202. The arrears in the incorporation of entries for the union catalogues increased and the problem has been specially examined. There was a marked increase in the work of the British National Book Centre.

#### Teacher Training in Britain

MORE than 31,000 men and women are now training to become teachers, an increase of nearly a third compared with the 24,500 under training five years ago. The number entering training colleges this autumn had also increased by a third—16,000 compared with 12,000 in 1955-56. Standards are rising, most of the students now having more than the minimum academic qualifications for entry. The training colleges will thus be sending a record number of trained teachers into the schools in 1961. This will help to tide over the so-called 'year of intermission' in 1962, when there will be fewer newly trained teachers entering the schools as a result of the lengthening of the training course from two to three years. Expansion of the teacher training colleges by nearly two-thirds is now under way; many of the 130 training colleges are to be extended and new colleges built.

Recruitment for next year's intake is already starting, and the Ministry of Education has issued a revised booklet, "Becoming a Teacher", to help young people who want to teach in primary or secondary schools. The booklet describes the work the teachers do, the schools in which they teach, the qualifications they require and the training they undertake. It includes information about the training grants available and the salaries paid to teachers. The booklet can be obtained free from any local authority or from the Ministry of Education, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

#### Rubber Industry Display at the Science Museum

A PERMANENT display representative of both producing and manufacturing sides of the British rubber industry has been presented to the Science Museum, London. It occupies three large show-cases in the industrial chemistry gallery, and illustrates the molecular structure of natural and synthetic rubbers;

their production, compounding, and processing; the great variety of products thus obtained, and the vital part they play in modern life. The display has been devised and organized by the Federation of British Rubber and Allied Manufacturers and made possible by the generosity of British manufacturers of rubber products; makers of synthetic rubbers, compounding chemicals, processing machinery and components; the Natural Rubber Development Board, representing producers of natural rubber; and the National College of Rubber Technology.

#### National Museum, Bloemfontein

THE annual report of the National Museum at Bloemfontein for the year ended March 1959 records the installation of a model of a gold mine and a dioramic display of a Bushman's cave showing rock paintings, stone implements and two modelled figures of men, one in the act of painting against the rock wall, while the other is making stone implements. In contrast with other museums, it was found that an admission charge curtailed severely the number of visitors, and after an experimental period of six months the charge was withdrawn. Much research work by the staff is in progress or has been completed. This includes studies on fossil hippopotami, engraved Bushmen sticks and Karoo vertebrate fossils.

#### Collecting Fossils, Minerals and Rocks

THE seventh edition of "Instructions for Collectors", No. 11, published by the British Museum (Natural History) at 1s., follows the usual lines of this well-known and excellent booklet. It will be found to be of use to all types of collectors as, in addition to very elementary instructions, details are given of preparations which have only recently been discovered. The new materials mentioned have in all cases been tested extensively and may be used with confidence.

#### Marconi International Award

THE establishment of an annual award in memory of Guglielmo Marconi is announced by Permindex, the World Trade Centre in Rome. This award will be made to the person making the greatest contribution to the development of Marconi's discoveries. Recipients will be chosen by a committee composed of important international personalities, a member of the Marconi family and representatives of Permindex. This announcement followed the dedication of the Marconi obelisk, to be known as the Marconi Antenna, in the Piazza Italia around which are grouped the four majestic buildings shortly to be occupied by Permindex. To celebrate the occasion the Square itself was renamed Piazza Guglielmo Marconi. The prize consists of a small reproduction in gold of the obelisk. Further information can be obtained from Industrial Trade Fairs, Ltd., Drury House, Russell Street, Drury Lane, London, W.C.2.

#### Ramsay Memorial Fellowships in Chemistry

THE Trustees of the Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trust will consider in June applications for two fellowships for advanced students of chemistry. One of the fellowships will be limited to candidates educated in Glasgow, who can apply to be considered for either fellowship. The value of each fellowship will be £600 per annum, to which may be added a grant for expenses of research not exceeding £100 per annum. The fellowships will normally be tenable for two years. Further information can be