

ture of art, education, science and technology are to be found in the State collections. In the case of many foreign serials, the only accessible copies are filed in these libraries, and naturally their curators possess the requisite qualifications for dealing with the highly specialised class of literature which they control.

Co-ordination in indexing requires the acceptance of a common scheme of classification and headings, and an agreed form of index entry. Further, the financial prospects of success under such a scheme are materially improved if the indexes produced are uniform in format and style and are published by a single agency. These conditions being granted, the actual indexing can be carried out in any home or library.

This method of indexing supplies a sound basis for development and negotiation. Any of the Library Association's Class-Lists could be split into smaller units—and some would no doubt benefit by such division,

namely, B-E, historical, political, and economic sciences, and K, science and technology. A suggested inclusion of another 50 or 100 additional periodicals in any Class-List could be met if the State librarian, or secretary of the society in question, were prepared to supply the index entries and supervise or edit the extended Class-List. Any development in this direction would be welcomed by the Library Association.

The Index has now become practically self-supporting. It has been run by voluntary aid—one editor alone being in receipt of a modest salary. Finally, the Association has pledged itself not to treat any profits made by its publication as the property of the Association. Such profits will go either to a reserve fund or, more probably, towards the reduction of the price of its Class-Lists. It is scarcely necessary to add that the accounts of the Index are duly audited by a chartered accountant.

*Reports of the Progress of Applied Chemistry.* Issued by the Society of Chemical Industry. Vol. VIII., 1923. Pp. 618. (London: Society of Chemical Industry.) 12s. 6d. net, post free.

THE annual publication of these reports is not an event that evokes widespread interest or comment, yet the reports are always welcome to a goodly number of specialists. They are not original in the strict sense, because they are mainly compilations from the abstracts of original papers that have appeared during the year under review. Nevertheless they are very useful: they save the worker much valuable time; they instruct him concerning advances in branches of applied chemistry of which he has no expert knowledge; and if he believe what his testimonials state, that he has "a good all-round knowledge of chemistry," after reading these reports he will lose his conceit and confess his general ignorance.

The chief difficulty connected with publications of this kind is that the expert is too frequently a bad writer; and the chief defect is the absence of critical insight. It is, of course, no easy task to assess the value of developments that happened yesterday, but more attempts in this direction might usefully be made. Further, the reports would gain in lucidity—and the cost of publication could be materially reduced—if the phraseology were rigorously pruned; redundancy of expression and other forms of "journalese" are too common in the present volume.

A welcome feature in many of the reports is the inclusion of summaries of the trend of events in the economic sphere: a practice which should be extended, especially as there is now no single ephemeral publication which provides, regularly and systematically, information of this kind on all branches of industrial chemistry. The pending publication in the United States of *Chemical Reviews*, which will be issued quarterly and will deal with recent progress, may help to fill the gap which is now apparent in our chemical literature. If the reviews are critical and constructive as well as informative, the specialist may prefer them to annual catalogues of facts; but he will need, and should

acquire, both. The comparatively small sale of annual reports of the kind we are used to is a distinct reflection upon English-speaking chemists, and no one will criticise the Society of Chemical Industry for maintaining in adverse times its expenditure on this useful publication, which falls well within the scope of its legitimate activities and of the wishes of its founders and benefactors.

*Chemical Encyclopædia: A Digest of Chemistry and Chemical Industry.* By C. T. Kingzett. Third edition. Pp. x+606. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1924.) 30s. net.

WITHIN the last few years several works of this character have been published under various titles. Consequently the fact that the present volume has attained a third edition within a comparatively short time shows that it has supplied a well-defined want, and indicates that a knowledge of chemistry is becoming more and more indispensable to growing sections of our population, such as merchants, brokers, barristers, financiers, manufacturers of all kinds, pharmacists and the like. Chemistry is now so intertwined with almost all walks of life that probably every educated man at some time or other has wished to know something about a substance which he has found necessary for some purpose, and it is to such a class that the present book will appeal. He will here find a brief but clear account in non-technical language of almost every chemical substance that has attained any practical importance, with some of the principal constants inserted. Even professional chemists, who have access to exhaustive treatises on chemistry, will find the book handy for rapid reference, especially as it is clearly printed and attractively bound.

Some omissions are bound to occur in a work of this kind. For example, the well-known names "Westron" and "Westrosol" do not appear, although other preparations with a similar name and composition are mentioned. It would have been inadvisable to have stated that the basis of these non-inflammable solvents consists of chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as tetrachlorethane, trichlorethylene, and the like.