Économique, Chemiker-Zeitung, Physikalische Zeitschrift, Sitzungsberichte der Preussischen Akademie, Forschungsarbeiten des Ingenieurwesens, Gewerbefleiss, Zeitschrift des Vereins der Ingenieure, Zeitschrift für historische Waffenkunde, Preussisches Lehrbuch, Zeitschrift für Reproduktionstechnik, and *Veröffentlichungen des Militär-Sanitätswesens.* This list of foreign periodicals consulted is taken from the first half only of the index which extends to 252 columns, and must not be taken as exhaustive, but it does suggest the question as to whether the Library Association could not see its way to include a greater number of foreign papers in its subject indexes.

The range of subjects catalogued in this section is so wide that any one interested in science will find his own branch of study dealt with under many of the headings, which are arranged in alphabetical order. A few such headings may be quoted as examples: Aeronautics, airships, alloys, aluminium, artillery, atoms, petroleum, relativity, ship propulsion, spectrum, wireless telephones, thermionic valves, vitamins, and parasitic worms. It would be impossible to include every scientific paper published in 1921 without making the list too bulky and too expensive for ordinary subscribers, so that a selection has had to be made.

It will be evident that the compilers of this index must have had great difficulty in deciding what papers should be included and which excluded. We think they have exercised a wise judgment in their selection.

Studies in Ampullaria. By E. G. Alderson. Pp. xx + 102 + 19 plates. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 21*s.* net.

THE scope of the work under notice is not what the author originally intended it should be. He had hoped to produce a complete monograph of the genus, but the necessary material could not be got together and Mr. Alderson has unfortunately made use solely of shells in his own possession. This is a very great pity, for the subject even thus restricted has been so ably handled that the wider work would have been warmly welcomed by conchologists—we cannot say malacologists, since all allusions to anatomy and ecology are rigidly excluded.

The author candidly admits that Bolten's name of Pila for the genus, or at all events a section thereof, has priority over Lamarck's, and so by the Rules for Zoological Nomenclature should be employed, but seeks to justify his preference by the stale excuse that Ampullaria is the more familiar name; thus he misses his chance of assisting in forwarding the cause of uniformity in nomenclature in the sole way in which it can be attained.

The work opens with a full and carefully compiled "Critical Bibliography," which in itself is of great value, but by a strange oversight omits Dall's important proposed classification published in 1904, although one of Dall's names is incidentally referred to later on. Then, after a brief "Introduction," the systematic descriptions of the species follow, each accompanied by a synonymy which seems to have been very thoroughly worked out. Any shortcomings that there may be in a work of this technical character will only reveal themselves to the student who uses it. The nineteen plates of figures, reproduced by half-tone process from the author's own drawings, are exceedingly good: they are plain, but a limited edition of fifteen coloured copies is announced. The printing and general appearance of the book are admirable.

The Platinum Metals. By Ernest A. Smith. (Pitman's Common Commodities and Industries Series.) Pp. xii + 123. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1925.) 3*s.* net.

MR. ERNEST A. SMITH has produced a useful little work upon platinum and the metals associated with it, though it must be admitted that the latter receive but little, most people will probably say too little, attention. Some of them, such as iridium and palladium, deserve considerably more consideration than the book before us has given to them. Upon the whole the work may be described as accurate, although the author has not availed himself so fully as he might have done of previously published and readily available information. For example, his description of methods used in the Urals for working and washing the platiniferous gravels shows a good many omissions, which a more careful study of existing literature would have avoided.

Interest in platinum has been stimulated greatly within the last few years by the sensational discoveries in the Transvaal, though it cannot be said that the economic importance of these is even now at all known. Mr. Smith's book was written in 1924, and it is therefore no fault of his that it contains nothing more than a casual reference to the occurrence of platinum in the veins in the Waterberg district of the Transvaal. It was only towards the end of 1924 that the discoveries, possibly likely to be fraught with much greater importance, of the occurrence of platinum in the western part of the Lydenburg district were made, and these have only been quite recently described, as for example in two important papers by Dr. P. A. Wagner in the Transactions of the Geological Society of South Africa for 1925, and the *South African Journal of Industries* 1925, respectively. This fact, however, only affords one more illustration of the difficulty of writing any book on a technical subject which shall not be, in some respects at any rate, out-of-date before it issues from the press.

Board of Education. Catalogue of the Collections in the Science Museum, South Kensington; with Descriptive and Historical Notes and Illustrations. (1) Water Transport. 2: Steam Ships of War. Compiled by G. L. Overton. Pp. 102 + 8 plates. (2) Land Transport. 2: Mechanical Road Vehicles. Compiled by E. A. Forward. Pp. 87 + 10 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1925.) 1*s.* net each.

(1) THERE are four considerable collections of warship models in London, those at the Imperial War Museum, at Greenwich, at the Science Museum, and at the Royal United Service Institution. The largest and most important is, however, that at the Science Museum. This collection had its birth when the Admiralty in 1864 sent to South Kensington a number of models for the use of the students of the Royal School of Naval Architecture, for though most of these were afterwards transferred to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, a nucleus remained, and this has been developed from time to time. Of the sailing men-of-war, a catalogue