

constructed. On the upper reaches of the River Jordan and Lake Tiberias, surveys are being carried out with the view of further hydroelectric development. Lord Reading stated that the demands in the Corporation's area are still far from the saturation point. As the policy of reducing tariffs wherever possible is being continued, the prospects are promising. As Palestine is practically a 'new' country from the economic point of view, it is not surprising that the company is already on a remunerative basis.

Sedimentation

BULLETIN 98 of the National Research Council of America (1935, pp. 246) embodies the report of the Committee on Sedimentation for 1932-34, and indicates the immense activity of investigators in this subject as well as of the members responsible for the report. The latter includes about a thousand references to current literature and in itself represents a commendable example of bibliographic and abstracting work. The topics discussed include European studies and varved sediments (Antevs); German contributions (Becker); studies at Stanford University (Blackwelder); glacial sediments (Leighton and Townley); British researches (Milner); mineralogy of sediments (Pettijohn); hydrologic and hydrographic investigations (Piper); chemical aspects (Steiger); recent sediments and petroleum sourcebeds (Trask); miscellaneous types (Twenhofel); marine bottom deposits (Vaughan); oxidation-reduction conditions in the Gulf of Catalina (ZoBell); and terminology of coarse sediments (Wentworth, with notes by Boswell). The last of these is a contribution of very general interest. The Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Classification of Sediments is studying the terminology of eleven groups, and in his introduction to the present report, Trowbridge holds out the prospect that following up the two reports already issued on volcanic and coarse sediments, others may be expected at the rate of two or more per year. The Committee is to be congratulated on the thoroughness of its work. It is obvious that without such a review geologists could not possibly keep in touch with the widely varied results of current progress in a branch of their science which is fundamental to its main object and to many of its applications.

Mining Legislation in South Australia

WE have received from the South Australian Department of Mines the *Mining Review*, No. 61, for the half-year ended December 31, 1934. After a short preface signed by Dr. L. Keith Ward, director of mines and also Government geologist, whose report appears afterwards, the review contains a summary of mining legislation, etc. A statistical portion which, together with a table at the end of the volume, shows that the total value of the minerals produced in South Australia since 1841 up to the end of 1934 equals 53½ million pounds, taking gold at its old value. They also show a considerable increase both in quantity and value in 1934 compared to 1933, the quantity of iron ore produced in

the former year being practically 1¼ million tons, showing an increase of half a million tons over 1933. Gold has naturally increased both in quantity and in value, and most other minerals show increases, though these in some cases are but slight, and actually show decreases in a few cases. Next comes a statement as to subsidies, from which it would appear that the amount advanced to various mines is nearly £71,000, of which a little more than £18,000 has been repaid. Next we have certain reports of treatment works and Government boring operations, followed by a short report by the Government geologist, and a series of reports by the chief inspector of mines, which give much detailed information about many of the mines of the Province.

Research on Shellac

IN 1925, the Indian Government founded the Lac Research Institute to ensure that the rapid development of rival products, and the high price levels reached in the post-War period, did not cause lac to meet the same fate that indigo had suffered previously. The results obtained during the first nine years work of the Institute and the present trend of the investigations have recently been published as an illustrated booklet in concise, interesting and non-technical form ("Lac and the Indian Lac Research Institute", by D. Norris, P. M. Glover and R. W. Aldis. Nankun: Lac Research Institute. Rs. 2.8). The lac insect yields both a colouring matter and a resin, and it was for the former product that it was originally cultivated. With the discovery of aniline dyes, however, the lac dye industry came to an end and the resin in unmanufactured form as lac, or the manufactured form as shellac, became the important feature of the industry. The uses to which shellac can be put are numerous, but the greatest proportion is adsorbed by the gramophone, electrical and varnish trades. The increasing use of synthetic resins such as bakelite inevitably threatened the industry, but as new methods have now been discovered whereby the natural product may be used in combination with the synthetic, the situation has improved. Research work is carried out on entomological, chemical and biochemical lines, many problems naturally occurring with regard to the insect and its host plant as well as the secretion of lac and its preparation for the market.

All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health

IN the annual report of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, for 1934, the first to be issued, the events which led to the foundation of an All-India Institute of Hygiene are first recapitulated. The conception of providing courses of post-graduate training in public health originated with Sir Leonard Rogers, and as a result of his efforts the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine was founded and opened in 1920. It was realised that there was also need for the training of an Indian personnel in public health, but circumstances prevented the realisation of this object until the Rockefeller Foundation offered to provide funds for a site, and for the