

A Bibliography of Wheat

A BIBLIOGRAPHY of world literature on the genetics and breeding of wheat has been issued by the Institute of Plant Industry, U.S.S.R., and forms the first volume of a new series of publications on wheat (*Bull. App. Bot., Genet. and Plant Breeding*, Series VA, No. 1, pp. 136; 1935). In this work, the titles of articles or books appear in the language of the original contributions, and, where these have been reviewed, reference to the reviewing journal is given. The material is classified under various headings and, within each class, is arranged chronologically. An author index is included.

School Nature Study

THE July number of *School Nature Study* (31, No. 124), the official organ of the School Nature Study Union, contains several articles of interest. An ecological study of the plant life of the salt marshlands of south-west Sussex by A. D. French reveals four important zones, namely, the inner shore banks above high-water mark, beaches and sands above high-water mark, the interzonal region, and the marsh proper. The vegetation of these zones has been carefully examined and recorded. The animal life, too, afforded certain features of interest, and a list of birds is given. The birds of Costa Brava, Spain, have been studied by Margaret M. Hutchinson, and her observations are embodied in a short article (together with a list) in the same number. A. C. Evans, of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, contributes an article on insects and their food. The factors determining an insect's choice of plant food are examined, and the author reveals our great lack of knowledge on this problem, especially from the point of view of plants of economic value. The School Nature Study Union publishes a series of pamphlets dealing with subjects of interest to the biologist, about seventy of which are reprints from *School Nature Study*; five other Special Leaflets are also available. A list of the pamphlets may be obtained from Mr. E. G. Clarke, 7 Stanley Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.

Library of Conchology

MR. SOHTSU G. KING, the Chinese conchologist and banker, has recently given his valuable collection on conchological literature to the Science Society of China Library, Shanghai. The collection was started some twenty years ago, while he was studying Chinese Mollusca with Prof. A. W. Grabau of the University of Peking. Under their joint authorship, a book entitled "Shells of Peitaiho" was published and is now in its second edition, besides many other scientific papers. The collection consists of many valuable and rare works and several complete sets of journals. It is no exaggeration to say that the collection is unique in the Far East and invaluable to students of zoology in general and conchology in particular. The Council of the Society has passed a resolution that a special room shall be used to house the collection and shall be labelled, "Sohtsu G. King Library of Conchology". The books have already been arranged, and a complete catalogue is in preparation and will be printed

and circulated to research institutions and learned societies interested. In addition to the collection, Mr. King has also given an endowment, the income of which is to be used to provide the collection with the necessary periodical literature.

Records of the American Mercantile Marine

A CO-OPERATIVE project has just been launched by the Smithsonian Institution and the Works Progress Administration of the United States, having the two objects of preserving a set of standard measured drawings of American types of fishing vessels and merchant vessels, to be placed in the Watercraft Collection of the United States National Museum, and of providing work for unemployed naval architects, draughtsmen and boat builders. The work is to be known as the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey, and the information is to be gleaned from builder's models, original drawings and the actual vessels. It is to be hoped these efforts will lead to similar projects elsewhere.

London Health Services

THE Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 1934-35 contains a special detailed review of the public health work carried out in London by the London County Council, the City Corporation and the Metropolitan Borough Councils. In view of the general interest of this review, it has now been issued as a separate publication, with a preface by Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health ("London Health Services". London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1s. net). The publication gives a useful survey of the division of functions among the various sanitary authorities in London, and describes the public health and poor law medical services, the food protection services, port sanitary administration, and welfare of the blind.

Rubber Latex

A REVISED edition of the book "Rubber Latex" by H. P. and W. H. Stevens has just been published by the Rubber Growers' Association, 19 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3, and a copy will be sent to any reader interested, on application. It deals in 224 pages with the properties, composition, coagulation, concentration, manipulation and compounding of latex and latex pastes, the vulcanisation of latex and latex products, and dipping and electro-deposition. The final chapter deals with a selected list of nearly a thousand recent British patents, and indicates the growing importance attached to the direct application of latex.

'Loose-Leaf Binders' for NATURE

MESSRS. EASIBIND, LTD., Pilot House, Mallow Street, London, E.C.1, have sent us a specimen 'binder' made to take twenty-six issues of NATURE, without advertisements. The first and last numbers are held by stout wires passing through the centre pages of the issues, and intermediate copies are carried on thin wires which go alternately into one of two parallel slots in a metal fitting at the top and bottom of the back of the 'binder'. By this device

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