

A World Bibliography of Bibliographies

THE need for the making of bibliographies arises from the multiplicity of books, the excessive production of which was a matter for complaint before the invention of printing. Bibliographies, or lists of books, existed before the Christian epoch. Not long after the introduction of printing, the recording of all books made became impossible and the difficulty became one of keeping track of bibliographies. Eventually the ever increasing number of bibliographies of bibliographies has justified the publication of Mr. Josephson's bibliography of bibliographies of bibliographies. To-day the aggregate of existing bibliographies is countless. Thanks to the work of the International Federation for Documentation, an increasing number are produced according to a standard system. Such bibliographies can be amalgamated into a single index, where all references to a particular topic, collected from a variety of sources in different languages, can be found immediately in one place. The great mass, however, are arranged according to a variety of systems, mostly alphabetical, which make amalgamation impossible. The adoption of individual systems gives rise to the need for a work by which to ascertain what bibliographies have been compiled on a given subject, and Mr. T. Besterman is attempting to meet the need by a "World Bibliography of Bibliographies" to contain about 24,000 entries of separately published bibliographies of all countries on all subjects. In addition to printed books, it will cover every sort of written matter as well as the subject classes of Patent Office Abridgements from 1617 until 1930. It is promised in two volumes, the first on October 1, 1939 and the second early in 1940. Orders should be sent to Mr. T. Besterman, 98 Heath Street, London, N.W.3.

International Federation for Documentation

THE fifteenth International Conference of the International Federation for Documentation, which is being organized by the Swiss Association for Documentation, will be held at Zurich under the presidency of Dr. Philipp Ettler, president of the Swiss Republic, during August 10-13. The International Federation for Documentation, the seat of which is at The Hague, was founded for the purpose of studying all particulars concerning the publication of new information and of developing means whereby it may be made available as required. At the World Congress on International Bibliography two years ago at Paris, the Federation was adopted unanimously by delegates of more than forty Governments as the international authority in such matters. One of the main objects of the Federation is the great work of promoting the subject-indexing of information, since information that has not been catalogued by subject cannot be found unaided except by accident, by the individual research worker. It can be made available only by systematic and comprehensive indexing. Consequently the Federation endeavours to bring together in direct collaboration all bodies and individuals interested in the mobilization of knowledge.

AMONG the methods adopted by the Federation is the promotion of international conferences. Full conferences are held biennially in different countries: that held last year at Oxford under the patronage of the British Government and the presidency of Sir William Bragg will be remembered by many. In alternate years smaller conferences, restricted to selected topics, are held. The subjects for discussion at the Zurich Conference comprise: (1) the division of work between librarians and documentalists, (2) documentation in connexion with administration, (3) documentation in industry and (4) photographic reproduction methods for documentation purposes. The Conference includes visits and excursions to works and places of interest in the neighbourhood. Everyone concerned with the increase or organization of knowledge should make a point of attending. Special travelling facilities are afforded in connexion with the Swiss National Exhibition. The membership fee is 20 Swiss francs and the papers will be printed in advance and sold at the price of 10 Swiss francs. The address of the secretary is Herr E. Mathys, Chemins de Fer, Bern, Switzerland.

Zoology in China

It is gratifying to note that the *Bulletin of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology* of Peiping (Pekin), now in its eighth volume, has been able to continue publication notwithstanding the disturbed condition of internal affairs prevailing in China. The last issue to hand of the Zoological Series (No. 3, July-August 1938) contains eight articles, all of which are written by Chinese zoologists. The most extensive are S. C. Yu's studies on Chinese Crustacea of the group Caridina and those by Messrs. Hsu and Chow on helminths of the human intestine. The articles are all written in English and have Chinese summaries.

Royal Commission Science Research Scholarships

THE Science Scholarships Committee of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 announces the following appointments for 1939. *Senior Studentships*: On the recommendation of the University of Cambridge: Mr. S. Devons, for research in nuclear physics at the University of Cambridge; Dr. E. F. Gale, for research in biochemistry at the University of Cambridge; Mr. F. Hoyle, for research in theoretical physics at the University of Cambridge; Dr. W. J. C. Orr, for research in physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge. On the recommendation of the University of Oxford: Dr. F. C. Frank, for research in physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge. *Overseas Scholarships*: On the recommendation of McGill University, Montreal: Dr. H. B. Newcombe, for research in genetics and cytology at the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton, and the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; Dr. R. L. McIntosh, for research in physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge. On the recommendation of the University of Toronto: Dr. H. E. Johns, for research in physics at the University of Cambridge. On the recommendation of the University of Sydney: Miss R. H. Harradence, for research in organic