

sufficient detail to facilitate careful study of the political, legal and technical work of the various organs of the League of Nations. (Geneva: League of Nations; London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1939. Pp. 214. 1s.). Of special interest to scientific workers are the chapters on intellectual co-operation, the health organization, the communications and transit organization and those on the European conference on rural life and technical collaboration with China. A chapter dealing with refugees is included as well as one on mandates. The detailed chronological table of the principal events in the League's sphere of activity during the year, giving the dates of the meetings of the different organs of the League and of their principal decisions, as well as of world political events affecting the League's work introduced last year for the first time is again a feature of the new edition.

The Colonial Problem

THE proposals of the Labour and Peace movements for dealing with the colonial question are examined in a pamphlet "New Tendencies in Colonial Policy" issued by the Pacifist Research Bureau (New Tendencies in Colonial Policy. With an Introduction by Leonard Barnes. Pp. 16. London: Pacifist Research Bureau, 1939. 2d.). It is argued that there are only two alternatives: an extended and re-arranged imperialism with new rival imperialisms of greater equality and an ultimate clash between them; or the removal of existing imperialisms and their substitution by a great conception of civilization's responsibility for the so-called uncivilized, with an equally great conception of world economic organization. The necessity of conforming to the wishes, or, at least, obtaining the consent of the native peoples in all matters affecting their welfare is also emphasized, including the application of this principle not only to the mandated territories but also in other colonial questions. The problem is further discussed in another pamphlet issued by the Bureau, "War and the Colonies" (War and the Colonies: a Policy for Socialists and Pacifists. Pp. 16. London: Pacifist Research Bureau, 1939. 2d.), in which proposals for a world conference to effect the liquidation of imperialism are briefly outlined.

Language in Science

THE general considerations of linguistics which throw light upon the procedure of science are discussed by L. Bloomfield in the fourth number of volume one of the "International Encyclopedia of Unified Science" (Linguistic Aspects of Science. By Leonard Bloomfield. Pp. viii+60. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press; London: Cambridge University Press, 1939.) 5s. net.). If language is taken into account, science can be distinguished from other phases of human activity by agreeing that science shall deal only with events that are accessible in their time and place to any and all observers or only with events that are placed in co-ordinates of time and space, or that science shall employ only such initial statements and pre-

dictions as lead to definite handling operations or only terms such as are derivable by strict definition from a set of everyday terms concerning physical happenings.

IT is the task of science to provide a system of responses which are independent of the habits of any person or community, but Mr. Bloomfield points out how far short we are of accurate definition in regard to meanings which are involved in the habits of communities and individuals, since the relevant branches of science are quite undeveloped. Discussing the development of scientific language, he distinguishes between the informal and formal scientific discourse, and emphasizes the importance of defining exactly the meaning of technical terms and limiting their use within the agreements upon which they are based. When meanings of the outside world are admitted, error may be incurred and certainty is lost. With regard to the place of linguistics in the scheme of science Mr. Bloomfield places it between biology and ethnology, sociology and psychology. It stands between physical and cultural anthropology. It is closely related to logic, since it observes how people conduct a certain type of discourse. The critique and theory of scientific speech is the task of logic. Mathematics, however, is a science only so long as we believe that the mathematician is not creating speech-forms and discourses (which is a skill, craft, or art) but exploring an unknown realm of concepts or ideas.

Library Services in the United States

UNDER the title "Professional Library Education" the Office of Education, United States Department of the Interior, has issued a bulletin by Nora E. Beust (*Bull.* No. 23; 1937) describing the present position of library services in the United States and indicating the possibilities it offers as a career, and the qualifications required for the various fields of service. Much that is said of the different types of library such as the public library, the school, the university or the special library is true generally, and if due allowance is made for the different conditions and details in the United States, this pamphlet gives a reasonably sound guide to the possibilities in Great Britain also, even if some directions have been much more developed in the United States. Details regarding training for librarianship, like the figures showing the present status of the profession, relate solely to the United States and attention is directed to a marked growth in the number of librarians in the last three decades, particularly in comparison with the number of practitioners in other professions. Some reasons for success and failure in library work which are set forth in conclusion are of general validity.

The Society of Applied Biologists

PRIOR to the year 1904 there was no scientific society or journal in the United Kingdom devoted to applied biology. There was, moreover, little opportunity or encouragement for research in this field, and the work of the universities and other