

type is, added Sir John, due, paradoxically, to one of the most beneficent events in the history of our civilization—the invention of the printed book, which brought with it the possibility of mass education. An inevitable result of the domination of education by the printed book was the reduction to a position of relative unimportance of that training in observation, judgment and mental alertness which formed so important a part of education in the earlier phases of communal evolution. In the child's pre-school life, we still have that kind of training, as also in later adult life of vocational employment. But in the intervening period of school life, the boy becomes in the main an absorber of information obtained from the printed page. The remedy lies not in further overloading the school curriculum, but in correcting some of the existing wastage. As to girls' education, Sir John, believing it to be a question for the women of the country, declined to commit himself, except to say that the education of a girl should be permeated with the realization that the highest ideal of her sex is that of home and family.

### Higher Education in the Caribbean

THE Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies (see NATURE, August 21, 1943, p. 211) has appointed a committee of its members, and co-opted representatives from the West Indies, with the following terms of reference: "To review existing facilities for higher education in the British colonies in the Caribbean and to make recommendations regarding future university development for these colonies." The committee is constituted as follows: Sir James Irvine (chairman), vice-chancellor of the University of St. Andrews; Prof. A. M. Carr-Saunders, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science; Miss Margery Perham, reader in Colonial administration at the University of Oxford; Dr. R. E. Priestley, vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham; Mr. P. Sherlock, secretary of the Institute of Jamaica; and Mr. H. Springer, member of the House of Assembly, Barbados; with Mr. T. R. Rowell, assistant educational adviser at the Colonial Office (secretary). The committee will spend some three months visiting Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and British Guiana. Mr. W. D. Inniss, lately assistant master at Queen's Royal College, Trinidad, will serve on the committee while it is in Trinidad, and Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, British Guiana, while it is in that colony.

### An Idealist View of Special Publications

IN a paper "Streamlining Production and Distribution of Current Periodical Articles" (*Special Libraries*, 34, No. 6, July–August 1943), Zeliaette Troy, librarian of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, after directing attention to the difficulties which the present system of publication offers to individuals as well as to libraries, and to the drawbacks of inter-library loans, film copies and photostat copies, suggests a scheme for minimizing the mechanics of publication and distribution. Under this scheme, an author would complete his article and send it to the usual editors, by whom, on approval, it would be sent to a central printing office. There the manuscript and abstract would be stamped with the date of receipt, and the authorizing organization indicated. When the article and abstract are in printable form, they would receive a common chronological number, followed by a

classification number, after which the cost accountant would put a price on the article and on the abstract in accordance with the number of copies to be printed, and both items would go to the printing establishment.

The printers would thus supply a stream of scientific articles uniform in size, with the author, title, name of the organization sponsoring and paying for it, the date of receipt, the master number and the classification number or numbers. They would also supply a periodical index and abstract journal issued both in its entirety and by subject sections. Members of a subscribing organization would receive one copy each of the publications authorized by it. Individuals or libraries subscribing for all articles in certain classifications would be similarly supplied. The index-abstract journal would have an annual paid subscription charge both for the complete issue and its sections.

The advantages of the proposed system to the individual, in the absence of delays in publication and in being sure of seeing all articles on the subjects falling within the classifications for which he subscribes, in the relief from the burden of proof-reading and the distribution of proofs are clearly indicated, and the failure of the individual to distinguish between his working tools and his 'browsing' literature is emphasized: the latter might well be left to his library, and only those articles of fundamental and immediate importance to him taken into his private collection. Libraries would have the further advantages of being relieved of inter-library loans and expensive and inadequate reproductions. Binding problems would be simplified and some binding could be eliminated.

### Geological Society: Medal Awards

THE Council of the Geological Society announces the following awards: Wollaston Medal to Prof. V. M. Goldschmidt, professor of geology, Frederiks University and Museum, Oslo, for his outstanding contributions to Norwegian petrology, and his fundamental researches into the structure of crystals and the distribution of the chemical elements in the earth; Murchison Medal to Prof. V. C. Illing, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, for his talented contribution to oil geology and Palaeozoic stratigraphy; Lyell Medal to Dr. N. R. Junner, of the Geological Survey of the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, for his contributions to the stratigraphy of the Pre-Cambrian and his discoveries of valuable minerals associated therewith; Wollaston Fund to Mr. A. G. Brighton, curator of the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, for his services to palaeontology and his researches on the echinoderms; Murchison Fund to Mr. G. M. Stockley, of the Geological Survey, Tanganyika Territory, for his work on the stratigraphy, palaeontology and mineral resources of East Africa; one moiety of the Lyell Fund to Dr. S. Buchan of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, for his work on underground water resources of the London area; another moiety of the Lyell Fund to Mr. E. W. J. Moore, of Haslingden, for his researches on carboniferous goniatites.

### Presidency of the American Chemical Society

PROF. C. S. MARVEL, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Illinois, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1945. Prof. Marvel will take office as president-elect on January 1,