

Catalogue of Lewis's Medical, Scientific and Technical Lending Library

Part 1: Authors and Titles; Part 2: Classified Index of Subjects, with Names of Authors who have written upon them. New edition, revised to the end of 1943. Pp. xiii+928. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1944.) To Subscribers, 12s. 6d. net; to non-Subscribers, 25s. net.

THE difficult task of cataloguing the great variety of scientific books in this remarkable library has been well done. Probably the most difficult part of it was the compilation of the subject index (Part 2). This section indicates the wide range of the library, for the headings in it extend from chemistry (9½ pages) to travel, and from sugar to suicide. It covers, in fact, practically the whole range of science. Together with the alphabetical list of subject headings, it forms a valuable reference list of the authors of important works on the various branches of science up to the end of 1943. Subscribers receive, each month in normal times and quarterly at present, lists of new books and editions added to the library, which keep them in touch with new publications.

It is not surprising that "Lewis's" is used by scientific workers of very varied interests and by book clubs, medical and scientific societies and by the research departments of many industrial organizations. The preface to this catalogue suggests that we owe the foundation of "Lewis's" to Carlyle, whose complaints about the loss of time involved in waiting for books at the British Museum gave us the London Library as well; so "Lewis's", originally mainly medical, came into being and now provides a unique general science library service which has features no other scientific libraries possess. The subscriber will not, however, be able to borrow scientific books in foreign languages, unless these have been translated. Many subscribers have hoped, and still hope, that it will eventually be possible to remove this restriction.

It is never easy to assess in a few words any library service. So much depends upon atmosphere, the spirit of service and the willing co-operation of the borrower in seeing that the necessary rules are obeyed. But the long experience and wise management of "Lewis's" have surmounted the potential causes of complaint and failure. This catalogue is, incidentally, a tribute to their quality as publishers. It is yet another example of the high degree of attractiveness, utility and good printing which can be attained under the authorized economy standards of war-time book production.

The Natural Order

Essays in the Return to Husbandry. By Edmund Blunden, H. J. Massingham, B. D. Knowles, Philip Mairet, Philip Oylor, L. F. Easterbrook, C. Howard Jones, J. E. Hosking, Lord Northbourne, Michael Graham, Rolf Gardiner, Adrian Bell, C. Henry Warren, the Earl of Portsmouth. Edited, with an Introduction and Notes, by H. J. Massingham. Pp. vi+178. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 1945.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS volume, containing some fourteen essays, has been written by lovers of the country, its agriculture, rural tradition, and way of life. No doubt it will be read with pleasure and approbation by those of kindred mind: it *should* be read seriously by a much wider section of the community, in particular by those who, by political action, mould

the national way of life. It may be argued, of course, that there is a sense in which everything that man does is part of the natural order. But the meaning intended is made quite clear in the introduction and in the integrated series of essays presented. The basic plea is for a return to good husbandry, for a personal understanding of the land, and a knowledge of how it should be used so that its fertility may be conserved and used to best advantage; it is a plea for good work performed for its own sake and because it is part of a good way of life; it is a plea for the retention of a civilization that is rapidly being submerged in the modern mechanized, urbanized development; above all, it is a plea for the fair treatment of the land (and those who work on it) on which so much that is good in our national life depends. The theme is fully explored in essays contributed by authors each with particular experience of his own subject. Here and there, no doubt, there are evident overstatements, and occasional pseudo-scientific assertions which would have been better omitted. But these can well be overlooked in a book that is so unmistakably sincere. More is the pity that so much that could be ideal in life is unlikely to be realized.

The British Journal Photographic Almanac and Photographer's Daily Companion

With which is incorporated the Year Book of Photography and Amateurs' Guide and the Photographic Annual, 1945. Edited by Arthur J. Dalladay. Pp. 388+31 plates. (London: Henry Greenwood and Co., Ltd., 1945.) Paper, 3s. 6d. net; cloth, 5s. net.

THE "British Journal Photographic Almanac" is one of those books that few photographers can afford to be without. This applies to all those who handle cameras or photographic materials, whether they be amateurs or professionals, interested in pictorial photographs or research involving the use of light-sensitive materials. The volume is published annually and, while much of the contents is little changed from year to year, a series of up-to-date articles forms an important feature of each issue. This year there is an editorial which deals with the development of photography from the days when all photographers started by serving an apprenticeship to learn the technique, until to-day when photography is being used more and more for scientific purposes where a knowledge of the behaviour of photographic materials is a necessary preliminary. The plea is for the professional photographer of the future to learn more of the science of photography and rely less on rule of thumb methods. Is it not even more important that the would-be research worker should be taught more of the science of photography so that he can, should the need arise, use photography intelligently as a tool to assist his research?

Other articles of interest are "Photographic Dermatitis" in which the requirements of preventive ointments are considered and formulae given for various preparations; "Colour Photography Practice" deals with the pre-war, war and post-war periods in the principal countries, mainly from the point of view of the commercial and advertising trade; "pH Measurement by Indicators" is written for photographers and deals with the subject from the point of view of photographic solutions. The remainder of the volume is taken up by formulae, general information, advertisements and illustrations, etc., so well known to those familiar with previous issues of the almanac.