

and Cultural Organisation, decided that a bibliography of Latin-American scientific activities should be prepared. Accordingly, the Unesco Field Scientific Co-operation Office for Latin America, Montevideo, set to work on this arduous task, in collaboration with various Ibero-American organisations, and so far it has published four volumes. Three of these list the scientific institutions and the men of science, respectively, of the following countries: the Argentine, Uruguay, and Puerto Rico and Colombia (in separate sections); the information on both the institutions and the men of science is very detailed but compressed, the average space for each entry being very approximately half a page, but some receive considerably more. The fourth volume, entitled "First List of Scientific Papers published in Latin America", contains a short section on the names of periodicals and their publishers and addresses, the lists being arranged under the name of the parent country, and then a long section of nearly three hundred pages giving scientific papers, the lists being classified under subject headings and arranged within each subject in alphabetical sequence of authors; it is noteworthy that the total number of papers on medical subjects is nearly four times that of all the papers relating to non-medical sciences. All four volumes are made up of mimeographed foolscap sheets, bound with paper covers. Each is marked Volume I, these being the first lists, and it is stated that the first lists will be finally completed within a few months of the original publications. It will be interesting to see how voluminous the total production becomes, and whether this massive bibliography will be kept up to date in the future. The volumes have been issued by the Unesco Field Scientific Co-operation Office for Latin America, Montevideo.

### Organisation of Mycology

"FUNGI form a huge group of probably some 100,000 species, and their distinctive form and nutrition give to their study a special interest heightened by their enormous economic importance." Two committees of the British Mycological Society have discussed the modern implications of studies on this important group of organisms. Their reports are now published in the Society's *Transactions* (32, Pt. 1, 100; 1949). The committee considering the status of systematic mycology in Great Britain finds that this branch of the study has not kept pace with developments in applied fungology. When an applied science tends to overrun its cognate basic studies, its methods become more empirical. Considerable progress has, indeed, been made by empirical investigations. It is, however, equally true that much time and effort can be saved when an applied investigation is based upon an adequate amount of 'pure' knowledge. In practical terms, the report shows that there are five official systematic mycologists to serve Great Britain and the Empire overseas. Modern developments in plant pathology, industrial and medical mycology make very heavy demands on their work, and there is not enough opportunity for research into systematics. The report makes recommendations for the amelioration of this situation.

Many questions involved the organisation and content of mycological teaching. This matter was remitted to a further committee, which has reported concurrently. It is regarded as a basic principle that the study of fungi as a branch of pure science should always precede a study of applied mycology. Honours

courses in botany might well devote one-sixth of the available time to mycology, which should also be available as a separate subsidiary subject for students taking, for example, an honours degree in chemistry. The contents of such a course should preferably involve a regression from the 'type species', and a more useful approach made from the ecological point of view. This would allow fungi to be studied primarily as living organisms, though it would still be germane to mention their economic significance. The committee suggests that it is desirable to develop postgraduate courses in mycology, leading, for example, to an M.Sc. degree, where this is awarded on examination. Facilities could be provided for students to transfer to particular universities for such postgraduate courses. They would then be able to take advantage of a particular character which would be established at each, following the interests of its head.

### Personnel Management

THE latest broadsheet in the personnel management series issued by the British Institute of Management is called "Working Together" and emphasizes the danger of 'bigness' in industrial organisations. In big companies control has to be more centralized, and this, states the author, leads to many arrangements being made by correspondence. Once men take to writing notes to each other, instead of meeting face to face, it is easy to forget that the words and figures on the paper are but a reflexion of human hopes and fears. It is these emotions with which managers are concerned and not the minutes or the accounts. The broadsheet considers the human problems of working units in more detail, and among the aspects discussed are the purpose of personnel work, treating the individual as an individual, discipline and organisation, and the problem of purpose. Two useful appendixes give details of suitable reading matter and a list of institutions concerned with personnel management. Copies of the broadsheet may be obtained from the British Institute of Management, 17 Hill Street, London, W.1, price 2s. 6d.

### Standard Accounting

THE British Institute of Management, at one of its sectional meetings held at Cliftonville last May, considered the need for a standard accounting system, and a report of this meeting has now been published (B.I.M. Conference Series 6. Pp. 36. London: 17 Hill Street, W.1, 1949. 2s. 6d.). Introducing the discussion, Mr. Ian T. Morrow pointed out that normal profit and loss accounts and balance sheets suffer from severe limitations as instruments of management control. They are presented rather too long after the event to be helpful, and they do not pinpoint where responsibility or credit lies for the results. The accountant has to realize that his position in industry is changing and that he is no longer merely a sort of watchdog barking whenever anything goes wrong. He is there to help management and to work with it. Managements for their part must bring accountants into their deliberations more than they have done in the past. Following a discussion on Mr. Morrow's paper, the meeting emphasized the assistance which properly devised accounting control can give to management, and recommended integration of financial and cost accounts. It also advocated research to establish the principles of standardized accounting and statistical control for management purposes.