

libraries, like the Science Library, the Chemical Society Library and those of Law and Medicine. Here the treatment varies even more widely. Some libraries, chiefly those of universities, are able to particularize their collections, some to indicate the limits of subjects applicable to their theses; but some, notably the British Museum, deal with foreign theses in such a way that only generalized answers are possible.

Chicago Natural History Museum: Methods of Publicity

THE annual report of the Chicago Natural History Museum for 1949 (pp. 140; Chicago: Chicago Natural History Museum, 1950; 1 dollar) gives some interesting facts concerning the activities of its Department of Public Relations. For an entire year, the Museum was brought to the notice of every person who looked up a telephone number in the "Red Book, Chicago Classified Telephone Directory"; for, through the courtesy of the publishers, the name of the Museum and a picture in colours of the exterior appeared on the front cover, while inside in a prominent page-one position was the story of the Museum. Considering the large number who consult a telephone directory in the course of a year, the cumulative effect of such publicity must be of a high order. The Department also maintained news releases, feature articles and pictures in the Press. It is also interesting to note that the Department was, by means of 'tie-ins', in close touch with organizations of which the scope of activity could be associated with exhibits or events in the Museum. The Museum continued to be represented each Saturday throughout the year by a series of stories on the "Children's Corner" radio programme. Special features, including television, were given on several of the broadcasting systems. Other publicity included the distribution of thousands of folders describing exhibits. Lecture courses for adults and children were advertised by posters displayed in railway stations and on suburban trains. Some of the methods adopted by the American museums may seem unusual; but all are worthy of consideration.

Odontology and Serology of the Inhabitants of North-East Angola

A PUBLICATION (in Portuguese) of the Companhia de Diamantes de Angola (Diamang) contains two papers on the teeth and blood groups of the native population of the Lunda District and the Songo region of the Malange District in the north-east of that flourishing Colony ("Contribuição para o estudo de alguns Caracteres Dentários dos Indígenas da Lunda" by Dr. Reinaldo de Almeida, and "Grupos Sanguíneos dos Indígenas da Lunda e Songo" by Dr. J. H. Santos David; Serviço de Saúde, Publicações Culturais No. 3; pp. 71; Lisboa: Diamang, 1949). A comparative study of the dentition of a thousand native labourers is considered from a number of aspects, including various anomalies, incidence of caries, loss of teeth through different causes, supernumerary teeth and dental mutilation, and is illustrated by photographs and diagrams. The proportions of the ABO blood groups and certain of their gene frequencies are provided for 1,400 subjects belonging to eighteen different tribes in Angola and the Belgian Congo. Those from Lunda and Songo are characterized by a low biochemical index (1.22) and a high percentage of agglutinin B (21.14);

like the inhabitants of the Benguela Plateau, their serological affinities lie with the Western Bantu peoples. Both papers uphold the customary standards of the magnificently produced series of studies on the anthropology of Lunda, in the wide sense of that term, and are a tribute to the publishers.

German Technical Ceramics

SOME interesting information relating to the development of technical ceramics in Germany is given in a recent B.I.O.S. survey by Dr. D. A. Holdridge entitled, "Report No. 28: The Fine Ceramics Industry in Germany during the period 1939-45" (British Ceramic Research Association, Special Publication No. 3; pp. 144; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1950; 3s. 6d.). The developments described include those connected with magnetic ceramics, ceramic materials of high permittivity for condensers, filter tiles and candles, special thin ceramics, and ceramics for electronic apparatus such as metal-ceramic valves for short-wave radio sets, radio antennae, co-axial cables and semi-conductors. One German firm developed a technique whereby ceramics as thin as 0.3 mm. could be produced. The powder is placed in the mould in the usual way and lightly compressed so that it fits the mould evenly. An organic material such as camphor is spread over the surface of the ceramic, and the whole is then given the maximum compression of the machine. This enables the article to be handled in the unfired state without danger of breakage, and the organic material is volatilized on firing. 'Calit', the trade name for a special steatite, has been prepared in sheets ranging down to 0.1 mm. in thickness by casting a slurry on an endless belt of nitrocellulose. When the film is half-dried on the belt, it is cut to the desired shape. The principal difficulty is in firing, because of a tendency to warp.

British Industry during the Past Century

IN his Trueman Wood Lecture, "1851-1951: A Century of British Industry", to the Royal Society of Arts on January 17, Lord McGowan said that, in spite of its success in the past hundred years, British industry has been forced to surrender the industrial crown to the United States, as was foretold by *The Economist* in March 1851. The people of Britain, he said, have not, however, yet discovered all their natural wealth, and, though they are second to none for richness of invention, they frequently fail in visualizing the potential of the fruits of research and in giving them practical application in industry. A national policy to ensure the practical application of science to industry involves a radical shift in the balance of the educational system. It means upgrading technical colleges to share with the universities the burden of the increased technological training and also seeing that, when the larger number of trained men and women are forthcoming, they are absorbed into industry and used to the best purpose. If the British educational system were to put greater emphasis on the practical application of science, Lord McGowan said, it would help to mould the outlook of management along the desired lines.

Appointments in the Colonial Service

THE new edition of "Appointments in His Majesty's Colonial Service" (pp. 125; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1950; 2s. net) lacks the foreword contributed to the 1950 edition by the Secretary of State for the