

suggested in Bergey's Manual (sixth edition) has been followed, not always with the whole-hearted approval of the authors; but, in the words of the preface, "they have graciously submitted in the interests of uniformity". The volume has a good index. It might well serve as a model for future directories and catalogues of culture collections.

#### Ultrasonics: Proceedings of the 1950 Convention at Rome

THE proceedings of the International Convention on Ultrasonics held in Rome during June 1950 (see *Nature*, 166, 143; 1950) have now appeared in a volume of some seven hundred pages issued as a supplement to *Nuovo Cimento* ("Atti del Convegno Internazionale di Ultracustica". Bologna: N. Zanichelli; 7000 lire). The papers are printed in the language in which they were read and have been classified in five sections: general accounts of work in specific laboratories; fundamental problems; applications in industry; applications in biology; and applications in medicine. The majority of the papers do, in fact, deal with 'applied ultrasonics', except that a number of the papers in the first two sections are predominantly of a physical nature. Since the volume is a collection of a hundred papers, it is only possible here to indicate the trends of recent work in ultrasonics by noting the predominant fields in which advances are proceeding. On the applied side, some interesting papers describe recent methods of efficiently generating and detecting the radiation, which will be of value to those wishing to apply ultrasonics to specific problems. It is clear that ultrasonics is proving a valuable tool not only for the study of the molecular properties of all states of matter in the laboratory, but also in the industrial test laboratory. A considerable group of papers in German is devoted to studies of the biological effects and possible medical applications of this radiation, a subject somewhat neglected since the pioneer work of the nineteen-twenties, but now resuscitated with the discovery of more powerful and efficient sources and better methods of control and dosage. The volume forms, indeed, a text-book on applied ultrasonics which should be in the hands of all those interested in this rapidly expanding field.

#### French Documentation Centres and Services

A list of documentation centres and services in France has been issued under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the direction of the Library Service of France ("Répertoire des Bibliothèques de France"; pp. 288. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1951; 450 francs). The list forms the third of three volumes on French library resources, of which the first two, dealing with the libraries of Paris and with the libraries of the Departments, appeared in 1950 and in 1951, respectively, and meets a need to which the International Federation of Documentation has already directed attention. The list, which is planned on a wider basis than that prepared and published in 1935 by the French Union of Organizations for Documentation, includes services as well as centres of documentation, and is based partly on visits as well as on questionnaires sent to some two thousand organizations. Particulars of 309 organizations are listed, including 127 serving public bodies, 40 serving private commercial or industrial firms, and 132 serving economic or commercial associations, etc. Of these, 248 are located in Paris, 24 in the Communes

of the Seine and Seine-et-Oise, and 37 in the provinces. The details of each centre or service are arranged alphabetically by the subject or field covered and include particulars of the special interests served, the broad nature of the documentary holdings, conditions of access, classification used and publications issued. There are also an alphabetical index of organizations and an adequate subject index. A prefatory note by M. Julien Cain, administrator-general of the National Library and director of the Libraries of France, emphasizes the incompleteness of the list due to absence of returns from various organizations, including some Ministries.

#### Colour Measurement for the Non-Specialist

A USEFUL booklet, with coloured illustrations, entitled "The C.I.E. International Colour System Explained" is a simple explanation of the international system for the description of colour, written for the non-technical reader, and showing its value for colour specification in industry (pp. 34; Salisbury: Tintometer, Ltd., 1951; 5s.). The book is written by G. J. Chamberlin, the managing director of a firm noted for its speciality in the field of colour measurement, and the international system referred to is that approved by the 1931 Commission Internationale de l'Éclairage. Previous knowledge of the subject is not required of the reader, and the author proceeds by easy stages in a concise and clearly expressed manner; but it is doubtful whether the reader will fully appreciate the significance of the scheme without some background knowledge of physics and mathematics. The booklet consists of two sections. In the first, the various scientific terms, such as hue and brightness, which are usually employed in colour measurement, are briefly defined, and a description is given of both the additive system of colour mixing and subtractive colour formation, although only the former is used in the C.I.E. system. In the second section, the reader is introduced by stages first to the simple equilateral colour triangle, then to the spectral locus, stimuli, the equilateral C.I.E. triangle, the rectilinear C.I.E. triangle and finally to the C.I.E. chromaticity chart, the form in common use. The kind of colour and the proportion of colour, that is, hue and saturation, are thus completely specified; but before a complete description of a colour can be given, a figure for the luminance, the total amount of light in the colour, must be added. It is usually expressed as a percentage reflexion or transmission. Equal chromaticity triangles are discussed next, and the nomogram for converting readings on a Lovibond-Schofield tintometer directly into C.I.E. values is reproduced. The more mathematical sections, together with examples of how to calculate the colour arithmetically and technical details of the three standard illuminants, are given in the appendixes, which also include a short but carefully chosen selection of references for further reading on the subject of colour measurement.

#### Britain's Forests

Two more of the attractive Forestry Commission publications have recently been issued. The first is one of the "Britain's Forests" series and describes the State forest of Loch Ard. This is one of the largest in Scotland and centres on the town of Aberfoyle on the borders of Perthshire and Stirlingshire, extends northwards to Ben Venue, the Trosachs, Loch Achray and Loch Venachar, westwards to the slopes of Ben Lomond, and southwards to the