

The third working party, that engaged on periodicals, reported that considerable progress has been made in the preparation of a union catalogue listing the holdings of each aeronautical library. This is already facilitating loans and exchanges between libraries, and might later result in the co-operative purchase of periodicals for which only a small demand exists.

The programme of official meetings concluded with a general discussion on the need for uniformity in classification and in methods generally. There was a suggestion that abstract cards, suitable for use in a standard 5 in. × 3 in. card index, should be issued as part of R.A.E. reports: this received enthusiastic support, particularly from librarians who use the Universal Decimal Classification adopted some years ago by the Ministry of Supply.

The morning of April 7 was spent in a conducted tour of the College Departments, including those of Aerodynamics, Design and Propulsion, and the sections dealing with Standards and Business Systems.

The Aslib Aeronautical Group intends to hold further week-end meetings of this nature. Those interested should write to the honorary secretary, Mr. C. W. Cleverdon, Librarian, College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, Bletchley, Bucks.

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1950-51

THE report of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the year ended June 30, 1951\*, with which is included the financial report of the executive committee of the Board of Regents, refers to the deferment of some of the Institution's long-term programmes, such as modernization of museum exhibits, construction of urgently needed new buildings, and purchase of modern instruments and laboratory equipment, caused by the curtailment of Government spending since the Korean crises. The position is the more serious because the annual number of visitors is rapidly approaching three millions, and the increase of the collections in the fields of natural history, industry, history and aeronautics has long since crowded all available storage space. The Adams-Clement collection, one of the most important historically to come to the Institution in recent years, was formally opened in April. Accessions to the National Museum during the year totalled 303,000, including further archaeological material from Neolithic sites in Honshu, Japan, many mammals, birds and marine invertebrates from Labrador and Newfoundland, a comprehensive collection of fishes, crustaceans, molluscs and miscellaneous invertebrates from the Gulf of Mexico, several important collections of insects and more than 16,500 plants in exchanges with other institutions, and a collection of historical electronic and electrical apparatus. Field-work was conducted by the staff in Cuba, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, British North Borneo and many parts of the United States.

The director of the Bureau of American Ethnology continued his archaeological work on the Atlantic

\* Report of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Financial Report of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents for the Year ended June 30, 1951. (Pub. 4056.) Pp. ix+160. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1952.) 55 cents.

coast of Panama, and a second season of field-work on Cornwallis Island in the Canadian Arctic yielded a large collection of the Thule culture material. The first five volumes of the "Arctic Bibliography" on which the Arctic Institute has been engaged for the past five years were completed and delivered to the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. The collection of the first volume of River Basin Surveys papers was also completed; since the beginning of this field-work 2,894 archaeological sites have been located and recorded, of which 545 have been recommended for excavation or additional testing. The excavation work during the year covered twenty reservoir areas in ten States, and the work of the twenty-six excavating parties is described in considerable detail in the appended report on the Bureau. The Institute of Social Anthropology continued its research and teaching programme in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

The International Exchange Service handled the record number of 1,011,000 packages of publications, an increase of 1,375, although the actual weight decreased. No shipments were made to China or Rumania. One hundred and two sets of United States official publications are now supplied to other countries in exchange for similar publications, sixty-one of these being full sets, while eighty-five copies of the Federal Register and ninety-two of the Congressional Record are also supplied. A list of repositories is included in the report. The National Zoological Park, which received some 3,460,400 visitors during the year, housed 2,813 animals at the end of the year, additions of 1,768 balancing the losses and removals of 1,776. The Astrophysical Observatory continued its studies of solar radiation at the high-altitude stations at Table Mountain, in California, and at Montezuma, Chile, and at the former a method is being developed for determining ozone in the upper atmosphere by spectrophotometric measurements. Some work was done on the improvement of the melikeron for measuring outgoing radiation, and two silver-disk pyrheliometers were under construction. The Division of Radiation and Organisms has begun a series of biochemical investigations of photomorphogenesis in green plants. Thirty-three scientific workers used the facilities for biological research at the Barro Colorado Island station.

## ADVANCES IN PHYSICS

### A NEW QUARTERLY JOURNAL

THE long-established *Philosophical Magazine* needs no recommendation to mathematicians and physicists, and any new venture under the auspices of this journal is sure to be of high standard and most welcome. *Advances in Physics*\*, the new quarterly supplement of the *Philosophical Magazine*, has for its purpose the publication of articles which are written by experts for experts, and in which topics of current interest in physics, covering theoretical and experimental aspects in addition to certain branches of applied mechanics, are reviewed. In order not to clash with similar, though annual, periodicals such as *Reports on Progress in Physics* of the Physical Society, the contributions to *Advances*

\* *Advances in Physics*. A Quarterly Supplement of the *Philosophical Magazine*. 1, No. 1 (January 1952). Pp. iv+110. (London: Taylor and Francis, Ltd.) 15s., or 55s. a year.