

The British National Bibliography Annual Volume 1951

Edited by A. J. Wells. (Published by the Council of the British National Bibliography, Ltd., British Museum.) Pp. ix+954. (London: J. Whitaker and Sons, Ltd., 1952.) £8 net.

THE objects of the British National Bibliography are to list every new work published in Great Britain, to describe each work in bibliographic detail and to give the subject-matter of each work as precisely as possible. The work is carried out at the British Museum by a team of fully qualified bibliographers. The first annual volume, which is classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification, is provided not only with a full author, title and subject index, but also with a preface including some hints for tracing information which should smooth the path of the novice in bibliography. The fullest information about a book is given in the Subject Section; information in the Alphabetical Section is limited to author's name, short title, publisher and price.

The value of this Bibliography lies in the authoritative, full and accurate description of each book and in the detailed subject index, which facilitates the finding of books on the most specific subjects. On that it has met such tests as a leisurely examination and one person's experience has been able to apply, and its production appears to be reasonably in keeping with the scale and claims of the enterprise, though its price must restrict the use of the bibliography by the smaller libraries and by individuals. A few classes of publications, namely, cheap novellettes, periodicals (apart from the first issue of a new periodical and the first issue of a periodical under a new title), musical scores, maps, and the less significant Government publications, are omitted. On the last, the term 'significant' appears to be interpreted generously, for there are listed such minor papers as the White Papers on Higher Technological Education, issued last September, on the Future of the Overseas Food Corporation, and on Government Scientific Organization in the Civilian Field, as well as the annual reports of most departments or organizations of interest to scientific workers.

The Earliest Stages of Delinquency

A Clinical Study from the Child Guidance Clinic. By H. Edelston. Pp. vii+200. (Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd., 1952.) 10s. 6d. net.

IT is now generally accepted that crime is the product of environment rather than inheritance. There are some factors—such as mental deficiency—which may be inherited and influence behaviour, but even with these good environment is able to prevent antisocial behaviour in the majority of cases. If environment is of such importance, it is essential that we should make the greatest possible effort to correct it as soon as there is evidence that it is having an evil effect on conduct. It is here that a child guidance centre is of such importance. The result of experience in this work is described by Dr. H. Edelston in his excellent book "The Earliest Stages of Delinquency". He states in the preface that "It is my claim that in this study I have introduced the new 'Psychiatric' approach without losing sight of traditional moral standards". In reality, it is doubtful whether any psychiatrist ever does neglect completely such standards, since he has to adapt his patient to society; but among the lay public the psychiatrist's emphasis on adjustment by removal of disrupting

emotions rather than suppression of the personality in accordance with a moral code is sometimes misunderstood.

Dr. Edelston's book is divided into three parts. The first is concerned with the nature of misconduct and the use of the child guidance clinic; the second with treatment at home, by removal from home, and with those cases of severe characterological disorders which are unresponsive to the present modes of therapy. The third part is concerned with the actual administration of treatment and with practical procedures.

The author is the director of the Bradford Child Guidance Clinic, and obviously has had wide experience in this type of work. The book makes an excellent introduction to the problems of delinquency and should certainly be read by all who contemplate dealing with it. It would also be valuable to those interested more broadly in the nature of crime. If only such works were widely read we should have fewer wild statements on the imagined beneficial effects of pet remedies which have already been discarded as useless, and more real effort to cure those in need before they become hopeless recidivists.

CLIFFORD ALLEN

The Story of 100 Years of Phosphorus Making, 1851-1951

By Richard E. Threlfall. Pp. x+400 (58 plates). (Oldbury: Albright and Wilson, Ltd., 1951.) 25s.

FOR a century the firm of Albright and Wilson has been virtually the only maker of phosphorus in Great Britain, and the story of the introduction of the technical process, of its modification by the use of the electric furnace, of the collateral industries which have developed from it, and of the participation of the firm with others within the scope of its interests in two World Wars, could obviously make an interesting book. The task of producing such a book must have been difficult. Unpublished records and published material, personal details of the many who contributed to the success of the undertaking, and the traditions of the firm, have all been drawn upon. The associated companies, such as those at Niagara Falls and in Canada, come into the story. The book is well written and handsomely produced, the illustrations and plates, some in colour, being especially noteworthy. The book is interesting to read and also gives a valuable survey of an important branch of chemical industry.

Coal, Coke and Coal Chemicals

By Dr. Philip J. Wilson, Jr., and Dr. Joseph H. Wells. (Chemical Engineering Series.) Pp. ix+509. (London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1950.) 68s.

THIS volume is intended as a text-book for those interested in carbonization; but its main emphasis is on the coke-oven industry in the United States. It is for this reason that the book has limitations for those requiring a general survey, including British and European practice.

The early chapters deal with the combustion of fuels, the origin, classification and properties of coal, and with laboratory and small-scale tests for the selection of coking coal. Detailed descriptions and drawings are given of coke-ovens in the United States, followed by a review of the chemical and physical changes taking place during coking, and a survey of the properties of metallurgical coke. Useful tables are provided of statistics up to 1946 of the coke-oven industry and the disposition of products, and modern