

is published by the Department of Zoology, University of Karachi, the chief editor being Dr. M. A. H. Qadri.

Scientific Literature in New Delhi

THE "Insdoc List of Current Scientific Literature", the first issue of which is dated June 1, 1954 (pp. 16. New Delhi: National Scientific Documentation Centre; Rs. 10 a year), is being published semi-monthly to inform scientific workers in India and neighbouring countries of the latest papers published in some two hundred and fifty leading scientific and technical periodicals of the world. It also includes information on scientific reports received at the National Physical Laboratory—Insdoc Library, New Delhi, as well as the titles of translations available or on which information has been received. Titles of papers in languages other than English are given in English translation. The entries are arranged in broad subject groups according to the Colon Classification, but Universal Decimal Classification numbers are also given.

Bibliography of French Biological Books

THE first issue (No. 9, December 1953) of the second series of the "French Bibliographical Digest", which is planned to give a selected bibliography of significant scientific and technical books, of at least university level, published in France since 1949, includes an article by Prof. L. Plantefol on botany in France to-day and a list of French scientific and technical periodicals. Under each subject the abstracts or reviews of each book are given alphabetically by authors, and there is also an index of authors. The entries in this issue are limited to biology, botany and zoology, and the Digest is intended primarily to introduce French books to the United States. It will be supplied free, upon request, to libraries, university departments and scientific workers who indicate the subjects in which they are interested. It is edited and published by the Cultural Division of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York City, 21.

Yale Medical Library and Historical Library: Report for 1952-53

THE annual report of the Yale Medical Library, which includes the report of the Historical Library, for the year ended June 30, 1953 (pp. 47. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Medical Library, 1953), stresses changes made to increase the availability of periodicals. The 'current use' of a periodical appears to continue for about five years, the second year after publication being the time of heaviest use and also the time when the periodical is at the binders. Two periodicals were used as much as 158 of the least popular on the list combined, and with thirty-eight others these two periodicals accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the use made of periodicals. By duplicating subscriptions to the more heavily used periodicals, discontinuing the binding of four hundred little-used periodicals, restricting the more complete set to use within the Library, and certain other changes, it is hoped to check the sharp decline in the recorded use of the Library. A list of periodicals available in the reading room is appended, and the report of the Historical Library gives details of important accessions during the year.

The Early Developments in Atomic Energy

At the meeting of the Education Group of the Institute of Physics on October 20, 1953, Prof.

O. R. Frisch, of the University of Cambridge, who was one of the pioneer workers in the atomic energy project during the Second World War, delivered an interesting talk on "Atomic Energy—how it all Began". The text is reprinted as a special article in the March number of the *British Journal of Applied Physics* (5, 81; 1954). Prof. Frisch gives a brief review of important developments following the first direct manifestation of atomic energy by Becquerel in 1896, in particular of Rutherford's 1912 picture of the atomic nucleus and of Chadwick's discovery of the neutron in 1932. He then discusses why physicists with all the data available in 1935 did not discover fission at that time. Next, the exciting events which followed Hahn and Strassmann's publication in 1939 are most vividly told, and Prof. Frisch includes some personal reminiscences of details of his conversations and discussions with Prof. Lise Meitner. Finally, the feasibility of controlled and explosive controlled reactions and the development of controlled nuclear reactors are discussed. Prof. Frisch concludes by remarking that he likes to remember the days when chain reactors were a new toy for physicists to play with and recalls how for a few exciting weeks in Los Alamos he and others were allowed to study the growing amounts of uranium-235 which were then being prepared for the first atomic bomb.

Diamond Tool Industry during 1953

AN eight-page brochure, entitled "The Diamond Tool Industry in 1953", issued free of charge by the Industrial Diamond Information Bureau, 32-34 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1, is the ninth in the series of reports on the diamond tool industry and summarizes the main developments during 1953 under the following headings: physical properties; hardness; surface finish; fine boring and turning; trueing of grinding wheels; diamond powders; impregnated diamond tools; sintered carbide grinding; glass grinding and stone working; rock drilling; wire drawing; diamond use and salvage; new machining methods; and jewel bearing production. Reference is made to 155 articles, and a detailed bibliography is appended. The report, which will be of interest to all those engaged in the use and production of diamond tools, has been compiled from the monthly "Bibliography of Industrial Diamond Applications", also published by the Industrial Diamond Information Bureau.

Protecting Cleaned Iron Objects

IN the *Museums Journal* of May 1954, L. Biek, E. S. Cripps and D. M. D. Thacker, of the Ancient Monuments Branch, Ministry of Works, describe a series of experiments undertaken to protect iron objects that have been cleaned. Some keys, of the eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries, were used. All were heavily rusted, with some deep pockets of hard oxide. The keys were cleaned in an inhibited phosphoric acid formulation ('Deoxidine No. 125', I.C.I.) and scrubbed with steel wire brushes to remove the rust. They were then soaked in acetone to prevent the formation of the rust-coloured film which appears when wet ironwork dries in air. Various protective coverings were then applied, including bleached beeswax, chlorinated rubber solution, celluloid solution, polyvinyl acetate solution in toluene, polymethacrylic ester solution ('Bedacryl' 144 TL., I.C.I.) and graphite powder rubbed into the surface. The amount of rusting was assessed