

Impact for September 1956 an excellent review of the evolution of the programme of the Department of Natural Sciences and the achievements of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the fields of international scientific co-operation, teaching and dissemination of science in the past decade. Besides the assistance given to international scientific organizations, such as the International Council of Scientific Unions, and the formation of the Council of International Organizations of Medical Sciences and the Union of International Engineering Organizations, Prof. Florin emphasizes the importance of new forms of international scientific co-operation fostered by Unesco (despite the abandonment of the Institute of the Hylean Amazon through the failure to secure ratification of the Convention by the necessary five States), such as the Arid Zone project and the Humid Tropical Zone project. The former served as model when in 1955 an advisory committee on marine sciences was set up to consider methods of developing the scientific study of the ocean and of supplying information which would lead to increased use of marine resources. Although the European Centre for Nuclear Research is the most successful and best known of the international laboratories fostered by Unesco, the International Computation Centre in Rome was established earlier, though only five centres are so far participating. The establishment of an institute for the study of plants and animals under fully controlled conditions is still under consideration. Travelling exhibitions, a series of inventories of apparatus and materials for teaching science, to consist of eight volumes, and the publication of text-books and manuals on science-teaching are among the means adopted for furthering the dissemination and teaching of science, while an advisory committee on scientific research has met three times since April 1954, and Field Science Co-operation Offices cover Latin America, the Middle East, South and South-East Asia.

The Mathematical Association

THE annual general meeting of the Mathematical Association was held at King's College, London, on January 2 and 3, with the president, Prof. G. Temple, in the chair. In his presidential address, Prof. Temple spoke on the growth of mathematics and stressed the importance of the contacts which mathematics now has with engineering and technology. This address was followed by a discussion on "Mathematics and the Humanities". The opening speakers were Dr. Martin Johnson and Lady Jeffreys. Dr. Johnson spoke of the part mathematics plays in the cultural life of the community, and Lady Jeffreys analysed the time-tables of two schools to compare the proportion of time spent on scientific subjects with the time spent on 'arts' subjects. In the evening of the first day, Dr. E. R. Lapwood described how earthquake records provide us with knowledge of the deep interior of the Earth. On the following morning Mr. T. V. Davies spoke about the modifications which recent information on the distributions of wind velocity and temperature in the upper troposphere has brought about in the original concept of meridional cells. This was followed by a brief report on the work of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction and a discussion on the serious shortage of teachers in mathematics. In the afternoon a discussion on comprehensive schools was opened by

Miss M. G. Green and Mr. E. E. Godfrey. The meeting closed with a lecture by Mr. G. Macknelly on an amusing application of symbolic logic to the problem of overcrowding in the university library. A publishers' exhibition was open throughout the meeting.

The Palaeontological Society of India

INTRODUCING the *Journal of the Palaeontological Society of India* (Inaugural Number. Pp. viii + 230 + xxxvi + 37 plates. (Lucknow, 1956.) Rs. 30), M. R. Sahni, founder-president, describes the foundation in 1950 of the new Society and discusses its objects, which include the formation of a palaeontological research centre, a library and a museum. Committees are to be formed to study such Indian problems as the Vindhyan system, the Pleistocene Siwaliks and fossil man in India, and ultimately it is hoped to extend the scope of the Society to South-East Asia and to hold meetings in other capitals. These enthusiastic plans for the future are coupled with a clear appreciation of past work in the sub-continent which is chronicled at length in the form of an annotated bibliography. The subjects of the thirty original papers include plants, foraminifera, brachiopods, vertebrates, prehistory and evolution. The half-tone illustrations are printed, sometimes on both sides of the page, on the same paper as the text; the reproduction is good.

World Directory of Crystallographers

THE International Union of Crystallography is preparing a World Directory of Crystallographers, containing the names and addresses of all practising crystallographers, including advanced graduate students. It is hoped to compile a preliminary list in time for the Fourth General Assembly to be held in Montreal during July 10-17. The secretaries of the national committees (*Acta Cryst.*, 8, 857; 1955) have been asked to prepare a list of crystallographers in their countries. Some scientists and technologists, however, who carry on crystallographic work (including X-ray, electron or neutron diffraction and microscopy or other techniques) are not members of scientific societies having a unique crystallographic interest, and might therefore be missed. Those who come into this category are asked to send their names and addresses to Dr. W. Parrish, Philips Laboratories, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York.

Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre

A FURTHER 16 per cent increase in the demand for its documentation services is recorded in the annual report of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (Insdoc) for 1955-56, the total of 5,559 orders comprising requests for copies of 4,557 papers, translations of 570 scientific articles and compilation of 78 bibliographies. Publication of the semi-monthly "Insdoc List of Current Scientific Literature" continued, each issue listing 1,200 titles of scientific papers and also of the quarterly *Annals of Library Science*. Towards the end of the year closer contact was established with scientific institutions in South and South-East Asia.

Cameroons King's House

"THE King's Day: a Day in the Life of an African King", by Margaret Plass, is a pleasant little pamphlet issued by the Chicago Natural History Museum (pp. 29+9 plates; 35 cents) to illustrate the Cameroons King's House now on exhibition there. It