

in microform. Among the many journals available are the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* (1887-1913); the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (1921-50); the *Japanese Journal of Astronomy and Geophysics* (1922-47); *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik* (1868-1944); and the *English Historical Review* (1886-1910). Rare books available in microform include Brongniart's "Histoire des Végétaux Fossiles", published in 1828, and Thumberg's "Flora Japonica", published in 1784. A series of theses from the Faculty of Metallurgy at the University of Sheffield is at present being prepared in microform. The charges of Micro-Methods, Ltd., appear to be reasonable and the company would welcome inquiries about the preparation of any publications in micro-form.

#### Anglo-American Library Associations

IN Library Association Pamphlet No. 19, Mr. R. D. MacLeod gives a historical note on the beginnings of the Anglo-American Library Associations (pp. 15. London: Library Association, 1958. 2s.), which indicates that even eighty years ago the advantages to be reaped by co-operation were already evident. There is a useful bibliographical note, and apart from its historical interest the paper records an episode to which some parallel could be found a generation later in the matter of chemical abstracting.

#### University Library, Leeds

THE annual report of the Librarian of the University of Leeds for the session 1957-58 (pp. 12. Leeds: Brotherton Library, The University, 1958) records accessions of 15,951 volumes, 3,306 pamphlets and 27,989 periodical parts, an increase of 11 per cent, bringing the holdings to 428,570 volumes and 173,311 pamphlets. Loans to readers totalled 101,220 and inter-library loans 6,041, the number of books lent increasing by 42 per cent. Keeping the library open until 10 p.m. proved an immediate success and has now been introduced on a permanent basis, but there was insistent pressure on seating accommodation and the staff position caused anxiety. The Nuffield pilot survey of library use was completed at the end of 1957 so far as the collection of material was concerned.

#### City of Leicester Museums and Art Gallery

THE annual report of the Museums and Art Gallery at Leicester for the year ending March 31, 1958 (pp. 35+4 plates. Leicester, 1958), which is well illustrated, records difficulties in recruiting senior staff for museum work and also the completion of the reconstruction work on the roof of the main building. This had necessitated the re-designing of the natural history galleries on the first floor. The Schools Department has been able to increase the number of loans of museum material to schools, but the demand still outstrips the supply. A record was achieved in the number of temporary exhibitions shown, and the Saturday evening lectures maintain their appeal.

#### The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

THE annual report for 1958 of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (pp. 26. 1959), presented to the annual general meeting on February 18, includes a list of addresses and discussions held during the year. These dealt with the present and future position of the universities, with special reference to scientific and technological education and research; space satellites; latest developments with regard to

the use of thermonuclear energy at power stations, with special reference to *Zeta*; the five-year plan for the development of China's agricultural resources; the work of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; veterinary science, its progress and application in Great Britain; international science; exploration in Antarctica, with reference to the International Geophysical Year; the research and development background to the railway modernization programme; and the medical problems of living in the nuclear age. Representatives of the Committee's Technical Education Sub-Committee discussed with the Minister of Education the question of future finance for colleges of advanced technology, and the Committee has also made representations on the appointment of a person with no legal or scientific qualifications as comptroller-general of the Patent Office, and is seeking further information about the disbanding of the Microbiology Group at the National Chemical Laboratory. A memorandum was submitted in May to the Pritchard Committee set up to consider the rating of charities and similar organizations including scientific societies, and in moving the adoption of the annual report on February 18, the chairman, Mr. R. Fort, said that the Committee and the Royal Society were the only organizations from which the Pritchard Committee took oral evidence; its report is expected early in 1959. Mr. Fort also referred to the way in which the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee could promote the integration of scientific disciplines, which he thought was the most probable line of scientific advance, and to the importance of maintaining varied sources for grants for scientific work.

#### Southern Regional Council for Further Education

THE eleventh annual report of the Southern Regional Council for Further Education, covering the year 1957-58 (pp. 36. Reading: October 1958), records rapid progress in the development of technical education and steady growth of courses at all levels throughout the region. Regional procedure for considering proposals to establish new advanced courses operated smoothly and satisfactorily, while the record of developments in colleges in the area continues to be impressive. The Ministry of Education has now taken over from the Regional Council the annual publication of lists of sandwich courses available throughout Britain: List 182 details 263 courses being held in the session 1958-59, an increase of 65 on the previous session. Stress is laid on the importance of financial assistance in the development of such courses and on the need both for financial assistance from industry for its own employees and of co-operation between authorities and industry for others. Progress is reported in the establishment of formal and informal links between technical colleges and secondary schools in the area, and the Council has asked constituent authorities to agree to a new basis for arranging courses for technical teachers. At the request of the Council, the Regional Academic Board has begun a survey to assess the needs of industry in relation to the development of technical colleges, and attempts have been made to form an area group of the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education. The Board has secured the presence of heads of grammar schools as members of advisory committees. A list of research projects and investigations carried out since 1955 in technical colleges in the region is included.