

The World of Learning 1958-59

Ninth edition. Pp. xiii+1139. (London: Europa Publications, Ltd., 1958.) 130s. net.

THE ninth edition of the "World of Learning", which is now well established as a valuable guide to scientific, cultural and educational institutions throughout the world, follows the pattern of its predecessors, but is considerably enlarged, due to the world-wide expansion of scientific and technological research, and to the recent foundation of many universities and technical colleges in the relatively undeveloped countries.

The first section, devoted to Unesco, describing its aims, programmes, organization and finance, is followed by a short account of the work and structure of the International Council of Scientific Unions and other international organizations, together with brief statements of their objects and the names of their principal officers.

The remainder of the book is divided alphabetically into the various countries of the world (by their names in English). The arrangement of entries for Great Britain—which occupy 86 pages—affords an indication of the scope of the work: learned societies and professional associations; research institutes; libraries; museums and art galleries; universities and university colleges; centres of adult and technical education; schools of art, music and dramatic art; agricultural colleges; and education trusts. In general, the entry for each institution includes its address, the names of its leading officials; and for each university a complete list of professors is given. Where applicable, the titles of any publications issued by the body concerned are also listed. The entry for the U.S.S.R., which occupies 38 pages, lists the members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the heads of its various departments and research organizations. Forty-one Russian universities are listed, with their faculties, but the names of their professorial staffs are not given; a long list of the very numerous institutions of higher education and research of the Soviet Union are, however, included. The largest single entry, comprising 190 pages, relates to the United States of America.

There is an alphabetical index of institutions, but none of persons, mentioned in the book.

Handbook of the Rubi of Great Britain and Ireland
By the late W. C. R. Watson. Pp. xi+274 (50 figures). (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1958.) 63s. net.

PROFESSIONAL systematists tend to be superior about brambles and batologists, partly because, in Britain at least, batology has been primarily an amateur study, but perhaps more particularly because the *Rubi* refuse to comply with orthodox ideas, and, like slum children in a respectable neighbourhood, are a perpetual affront to the dignity of those who value orderliness and correct behaviour. It was perhaps vain to hope that Mr. Watson's long-awaited monograph would finally set the seal of respectability upon this sprawling and troublesome group, but the opinions of one who studied the brambles assiduously for more than forty years must be given careful consideration. Every line of this admirably produced monograph bespeaks seriousness of purpose, integrity and industry, and the wealth of Watson's knowledge is testified time and time again throughout the book, though perhaps most strikingly in the introductory pages. What a pity

the author did not live to publish a separate and more elaborate essay on brambles and bramble classification, for it must be confessed that his generalizations and *obiter dicta*, though perhaps controvertible, are vastly more intriguing than his detailed and somewhat desiccating descriptions of the three hundred and ninety-one species said to occur in Britain. Admittedly everything possible has been done, in keys, descriptions and illustrations, to convey the author's mature conclusions to the reader, but language and art have their limitations, and the fond hope that the book will "furnish the means of identifying every native species met with" is perhaps a shade too optimistic. The unenlightened sees only one blackberry; the observant possibly half a dozen, but only the specialist, with twenty or more years experience behind him, can hope to recognize the majority of the species included in this book; and then—who knows—the specialist may wish to add a further hundred species of his own to the British list, for one suspects that *Rubus* species, like parallel lines, can be extended to infinity. R. D. MEKLE

Annual Review of Entomology

Vol. 4. Edited by Edward A. Steinhaus in association with Ray F. Smith. Pp. viii+467. (Palo Alto, Calif.: Annual Reviews, Inc., 1959. Published in co-operation with the Entomological Society of America.) 7 dollars.

A REVIEWER always likes to imagine editors and authors feverishly scanning his Olympian judgements and then departing to brood on the error of their ways. While experience must inevitably destroy this pleasant picture, it is gratifying to notice the present coincidence: Volume 4 of the "Annual Review of Entomology" fulfils almost entirely the critical requirements suggested in reviews of the previous volumes in these columns. Thus we have a volume broadly based not only in subject-matter but also in the geographical distribution of its contributors; a review which includes several papers on subjects at the 'growing-points' of entomology—insect physiology, ecology and control—and finds space for one or two on the borderline of other sciences, such as the role of insects as disease vectors. In fact, it would be a dull entomologist indeed who could not find something of interest or profit in the present volume.

If this standard is maintained then critical interest can be transferred to a higher level; although in the present volume the general concept is good, a few of the individual treatments fall short of this standard and degenerate into the 'card-index' type of review. Review articles of the highest quality must not only present a selection—for in these days that is all it can be—of the literature but must also strive to produce some stimulating and if possible enlightening synthesis from it.

In matters of detail the present volume is as well produced as its predecessors and at last each article has a bibliography in alphabetical order; the index is good, although several misprints and incorrect page numbers appear here.

But these are small matters compared with the solid value and interest of this volume; the Entomological Society of America, which this year terminates its financial obligations to the "Review", must be congratulated on bringing into being a work which, on present standards, will be of great value to every entomologist. P. T. HASKELL