

Institution of Electrical Engineers' Wiring Regulations

THE booklet on "Regulations for the Electrical Equipment of Buildings" (price 1s. net) published by the Institution of Electrical Engineers has proved a great boon to the industry. It replaces many rules and regulations published by supply companies and insurance companies. The ninth edition was published in May 1927 and the tenth edition is in active preparation. The new edition will contain rules relating to electric signs and to the new luminous discharge tube installations. These new rules have been approved by the representatives of those interested and by the Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. They deal very thoroughly with possible risks of fire and the precautions necessary to avoid risk of shock. These rules are now issued in advance of the tenth edition in a supplementary booklet. Copies of this supplement can be obtained free of charge, for insertion in existing copies of the Regulations, on application to the Secretary of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.2.

Home-Grown Timber in Great Britain, 1930

THE Forestry Commission has issued a small pamphlet on home-grown timber (Report on Census of Production of Home-Grown Timber, 1930. H.M. Stationery Office. Dec. 30, 1932). The object of the pamphlet is to contrast the production or utilisation of timber in Great Britain in 1930 with the amount used in 1924. With this object, schedules were issued to woodland owners who had furnished returns in 1924. The census shows that there has been a falling-off between 1924 and 1930, both in respect of the volume and value of the material produced. As regards volume, there is a difference of 14 per cent, the decline being from 55,985,000 cub. ft. in 1924 to 48,057,000 cub. ft. in 1930. The value of the material utilised has fallen in the same period from £2,036,000 to £1,545,000, representing a reduction of nearly 12 per cent. Prices ruled higher in England than in Scotland or Wales, but were certainly low as a whole, especially for the fine hardwoods such as oak (16*d.* per cub. foot in England with an average for Great Britain of 15*d.*; and 22½*d.* for ash in England with an average of 21*d.* for Great Britain—both for timber of saw-mill size). A little more than one-fourth of the total volume of material produced during 1930 consisted of the three fine hardwoods, oak, beech and ash (a total of 12,934,700 cub. ft.) and the figures demonstrate that the bulk of the fellings of these three valuable species were made in England, where 8,120,900 cub. ft. (out of the 12,934,700 cub. ft.) were cut, of which 6,194,200 cub. ft. were oak. Some of the fellings being made in these English woodlands are of the worst lumbering type—unchecked clear-felling and disposal of all that is saleable, the area being left clogged with rubbish and in a most unsightly state. It may be suggested that the time has arrived when a law prohibiting this type of unchecked lumbering, which has done such extensive harm to forest tracts throughout the globe, is urgently needed.

Cultivated Oaks

SIR OSCAR WARBURG and Mr. E. F. Warburg have published details of the oaks in cultivation in Sir Oscar's garden at Headley, Epsom, and elsewhere in the British Isles ("Oaks in Cultivation in the British Isles", *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, 58, Pt. 1, pp. 176-189, Feb. 1933). The account is copiously illustrated with many clear photographs of herbarium specimens and the various species of the genera *Lithocarpus* and *Quercus*, which all come under the general category of 'oaks', are described in detail. Three sub-genera of *Quercus* are recognised—*Cyclobalanopsis*, *Erythrobalanus* and *Lepidobalanus*. A useful list at the end of the article sets forth the common name, the group and the area of origin in non-technical, as well as in botanical, language. Several notes on some South American oaks and garden forms help to clear up difficulties of classification, and a fairly extensive bibliography is added.

A Polish Guide to Zoology

THE Polish Institute for the Promotion of Science and Letters is publishing a "Handbook for Self-Education" (Poradnik dla Samoúkow) under the general editorship of Prof. S. Michalski, and vol. 10 (554 pages), dealing with histology, animal physiology, embryology and comparative animal psychology, has just been issued (Warszawa, Imienia Mianowskiego. 18 zlotys). This is the second section on zoology and contains contributions from Profs. Maziariski, Białisewicz and Godlewski, whilst Miss Bohn-Drzewina's article on animal psychology, originally written in 1929, is very fittingly appended. The object of this publication is to guide students (and lecturers) in their reading and to direct attention to general principles, to the historical developments and especially to the literature of each branch of the subject. It is not intended to supplant any of the standard textbooks but to supplement them. It is noticeable that the authors are most familiar with German treatises on the various branches of zoology under consideration, but some French and, more rarely, English works are cited and listed in the bibliographies. The work will prove useful to those Polish students who, for any reason, do not enjoy close contact with their lecturers, and it has apparently been compiled with that object in mind.

Veterinary Research in the Union of South Africa

THE eighteenth report of the Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Industry, Onderstepoort, Pretoria, contains matter of value to the veterinarian and agriculturist. Several papers deal with parasitic and virus diseases of animals, and considerable space is devoted to the subjects of mineral deficiency and metabolism and to plants poisonous to stock. Mr. Bedford contributes an exhaustive synoptic check-list and host-list of ectoparasites found on South African mammals, birds, and reptiles, and Mr. Steyn has continued his observations on the effect of sulphur on merino sheep. A ration of 5 gm. of sulphur thrice weekly improves the condition of the sheep and

increases the wool yield from an average of 8.4 lb. to an average of 11.625 lb. It also increases resistance to prussic acid, and may be of value in reducing 'geilsiekte', a poisoning that arises from ingestion of certain plants in which a cyanogenetic glycoside is present. The report, in two parts, is admirably produced and illustrated (Government Printer, Pretoria, 20s.)

Health of the Navy during 1931

THE statistical report of the health of the Navy for the year 1931, by the Medical Director General, Vice-Adm. R. St. G. S. Bond, states that there was an increase in the incidence of disease as compared with the five years' average and with 1930, largely due to an increase in influenza of nearly 2,000 cases. Malaria and venereal diseases declined markedly. Nine cases of undulant fever were reported from the Mediterranean station. It is remarked that undulant fever has increased among Maltese civilians, and in consequence a Government commission is considering the possibility of introducing the compulsory pasteurisation of goats' milk at a central distributing station and the prohibition of retail sales as at present transacted by driving the goats from door to door. Only five cases of enteric fevers were reported.

Index Veterinarius

THE first number of the *Index Veterinarius*, covering the indexing done at the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health during the first quarter of 1933, will be issued during the summer. This work will be a complete index to publications relating to veterinary research and public health administration and education. An annual volume, which will be in crown quarto size, will run to about 1,600 pages; and a number, consisting of about 400 pages, will be issued each quarter. About 10,000 references will be indexed each year, each reference being suitably cross-indexed alphabetically both under the names of authors and subjects and, with cross-indexing, there will be about 50,000 insertions in a volume. The price of the *Index* is £4 a volume (four quarterly issues) including postage. Orders should be sent to the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health, Veterinary Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Weybridge, Surrey, England.

Library of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

THE London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has issued a second edition, compiled by the librarian, Mr. Cyril Barnard, of the "Hand List of Periodicals" contained in the Library on January 31, 1933 (Wightman and Co., Ltd., Dugdale Street, S.E.5. 1s. 3d.). The arrangement of entries is alphabetical by titles, according to the rules adopted in the "World List", and the "World List" numbers are added to all the periodicals which are contained in that publication. An index of societies and institutions is appended, with the number in the list of the periodicals attached to each entry.

Service for the Blind

THE Report of the Librarian of Congress for 1932 witnesses to the effort being made to meet the needs of blind readers in the United States. The number of blind readers who borrowed embossed material during the year was 3,225, and the library collection now contains 24,824 items. An attempt is made to furnish blind readers with the best literature in all fields of knowledge which, on account of the financially unprofitable nature of embossed printing, they have hitherto been unable to obtain. The type of book suitable for transcription is limited, since works the value or attractiveness of which rests largely upon illustrations, are barred. But within the limits, the special accessions, which began with Woodrow Wilson's "George Washington" and contain, on the scientific side, works by Jeans, Maeterlinck, Arthur Keith, Harvey-Gibson, Russell and others, make a notable list of 126 works in Braille and 31 in Moon type.

Preservation of Metallic Objects in Museums

MUSEUM curators are often faced and baffled by the problem of dealing with objects of metal which have deteriorated through exposure, and tend to go from bad to worse when placed on exhibition. They will find a very useful guide to the most satisfactory methods of treatment in a paper by Dr. Alexander Scott in the *Museums Journal* of April (p. 4), where, in addition, hints are given for making brittle substances flexible, for using hydrogen peroxide in restoring degraded flake white to its original colour, for treating foxed prints and removing oil stains.

Collection and Preservation of Animals

THE National Museum of Canada has just published a work on "Methods of Collecting and Preserving Vertebrate Animals", which ought to prove useful to travellers and holiday-makers who wish to add to their pleasures that of contributing to the knowledge of their country's fauna (Nat. Mus. Canada, Bulletin No. 69, Biological Series, No. 18, Ottawa, 1932). While less compact and less convenient in size for carrying than the well-known British Museum collectors' handbooks, Mr. R. M. Anderson's book has the advantage of being more thorough in its treatment and of containing a large number of illustrations showing steps in the progress of skinning. In separate chapters it deals with the collecting and skinning of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes, and a special chapter describes the collecting of skeletons. There are 135 pages of descriptive matter, a very complete index of 5 pages, 46 illustrations, and the cost is only 25 cents.

The late Lieut.-Col. A. W. Alcock

IN connexion with the obituary notice of the late Lieut.-Col. A. W. Alcock in *NATURE* of April 22, Dr. B. Prashad, of the Zoological Survey of India, states that Col. Alcock's association with the Indian Museum began at the end of the survey season of 1888-89, for with the beginning of the south-west