

development of this work must have been astounded at the number of inhabited caves which it revealed, at the extent and variety of cave faunas (the index to the animals itself occupies 96 pages), and at the vast number of papers which have been written about them. The completed work is in three volumes, the first including introduction and bibliography (pp. 108); the second containing a list of the caves, with literature references to each and the names of the animals recorded from each (pp. 616); and the last containing a systematic list of the animals, with references to the caves in which they have been found and to the recorders (pp. 918). The three volumes are thoroughly indexed, one index of 46 pages referring to the caves, the other (96 pp.) to the animals. The bibliography is itself alphabetically arranged so that it serves as a guide to authors. The Supplement carries the information about cave faunas up to the end of 1935.

#### Work of the Central Midwives Board

THE Central Midwives Board, which controls and regulates the work of practising midwives, has issued its annual report for the year ended March 31, 1939 (H.M. Stationery Office. 4d. net). The number of women practising as midwives in England and Wales in 1938 was 16,761, some 700 less than in the previous year. During the year covered by the report, new training and examination rules of the Board came into operation. The training rules require practising midwives to attend courses of instruction from time to time. A report on the examinations held during the year is included, together with notes of various decisions by the Board on midwives' training, etiquette and practice. The report also refers to preparatory arrangements made by the Board for an efficient midwifery service during a national emergency.

#### Hospital Schools in the United States

SPECIAL educational facilities should obviously be provided for children who must spend weeks, months or even years in a hospital or sanatorium. Some attempt to meet this need has been made in the United States, and information concerning this service has been collected (U.S. Department of the Interior. *Bulletin*, No. 17; 1938). It is estimated that fifty or sixty thousand children in American hospitals need educational facilities, but less than eight thousand appear to be receiving tuition. It is pointed out that the hospital school has three values: therapeutic, vocational and general educational. It aids physical recovery by keeping the child's mind occupied and away from his misfortune.

#### Bibliography of Seismology

WE have just received vol. 13, No. 1, items 4260-4378 of the Bibliography of Seismology, published by the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa. In this number there are fifteen collaborators from Europe, North America and New Zealand, notable absences being South America and U.S.S.R., where it is known that seismological work is being done. In addition to

the particular studies of individual earthquakes, mathematical seismology and general earth structure, a considerable number of the listed papers deal with microseisms and geophysical prospecting. The latter becomes increasingly important as details are worked out and apparatus becomes more applicable to the particular problems involved, needing to be robust, sensitive, and yet transportable. It is noteworthy that item 4342 is of six patents concerned with seismic prospecting, four being U.S. patents, one Canadian and one U.S.S.R.

#### Seismology in the Antarctic

WE learn from Capt. N. H. Heck that it is proposed to instal a seismograph, if possible on a rock foundation, at a base of the forthcoming United States Expedition to the Antarctic. This, along with the stations in South Africa, South America, Australia and New Zealand will be extremely useful in determining epicentres in the southern hemisphere where seismographic stations are all too few, and on the continent of Antarctica in particular, the seismic history of which is little known. Miss Bellamy's catalogue of 1913-1930 shows seven epicentres actually located on the continent, and the Milne seismograph of the British Antarctic Expedition from March 1902 until November 1903 (lat. 77° 51' S., long. 166° 45' E.) recorded 135 earthquakes, of which approximately 75 were local though none was strong enough to be felt by the explorers.

#### Earthquake in the New Hebrides

ON instrumental reports from the seismographic stations of Georgetown, Tucson, St. Louis, Honolulu, Pittsburg, Manila, Weston, Fordham, Pasadena, Hong Kong, Phu Lien, Apia, Huancayo and Lincoln, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association has determined the epicentre of the earthquake of October 17, 1939, as having been provisionally in islands of the New Hebrides group in the Pacific Ocean. More precisely, the epicentre was situated in the sea between the islands of Malekula, Ambrim and Pentecost. This is a seismic area particularly liable to deep focus earthquakes, and this shock was no exception, being situated at a depth probably near 100 km.

#### Royal Academy of the Lincei

THE Secretary of the Royal Academy of Italy announces that the Royal Academy of the Lincei has been amalgamated with the Royal Academy of Italy, which has taken over all the activities of the Lincei. As from July 1, 1939, the publications of the Academy of the Lincei will form part of the combined *Atti della Reale Accademia d'Italia*, which will be divided into *Rendiconti* and *Memorie* of the class of moral and historical sciences and of the class of physical, mathematical and natural sciences. The publication of the *Notizie degli Scavi* will be continued without interruption by the Italian Academy. The Royal Academy of Italy will be pleased to send its