

Journal of Electronics

THE first issue of the *Journal of Electronics*, a new scientific publication, appeared in July (London: Taylor and Francis, Ltd. 20s. each part; subscription, £5 10s. for 6 parts). Sir Edward Appleton welcomes the new journal in a foreword to the first issue, and the editor, Dr. J. Thomson, explains and discusses the title, to which different readers might otherwise attach very different meanings. Prof. N. F. Mott will be consultant editor on the new journal. The *Journal of Electronics* is to cover any behaviour of electrons when they are nominally free or only loosely bound. The chemistry and metallurgy of any materials the properties of which contribute to, or are affected by, the behaviour, design and properties of new electronic devices are included; but descriptions of equipments using electronic devices, already well catered for elsewhere, are excluded. Several of the papers in the first issue deal with electron dynamics; but one of the longer papers deals with the structure and magnetic properties of ferrites, and another with a mass spectrometer. The second issue will, according to its table of contents announced in the first issue, be devoted almost entirely to the intermetallic semiconductors. The new journal will appear every two months. Its progress will be watched with much interest. Comparisons with the *Philosophical Magazine* (also published by Messrs. Taylor and Francis), the size and layout of which are used, may be inevitable; but they could act as a powerful spur, particularly to the many young scientists engaged in the fields now specially catered for, to set and maintain a high standard of scientific writing and hence to justify fully the new venture.

U.S. Geological Survey Technical Files in Palaeontology

A TECHNICAL file concerning the Cambrian fossils of the world has been prepared by personnel of the Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch of the U.S. Geological Survey from an earlier file compiled by Dr. C. E. Resser, of the U.S. National Museum. This is now available as an 'open file report' of the U.S. Geological Survey, and positive microfilm or paper facsimile copies may be purchased at cost of reproduction by filing a prepaid order with the Map Information Office, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C. Charges are based on current materials and labour costs. As in previous releases of technical files, no guarantee of the accuracy of the file is made. It consists primarily of uncritical compilations in large part brought together by clerical help, and commonly not checked as to accuracy or consistency of usage; on the other hand, the file is a useful research tool in judicious hands, and it is being made available to the profession at large. The nature of the material and the amount of professional time that would still be required to prepare it for publication has determined the form of release. The technical files of the Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch that are now available are: objective synonymy catalogue of the Cambrian fossils of the world (5 microfilm rolls; more than 14,000 images); compendium of palaeobotanical species (28 microfilm rolls; 135,490 images); palaeobotanical bibliographical index (5 microfilm rolls; 17,356 images); Mesozoic species index—North and Central America, including the Caribbean (8 microfilm rolls; 25,459 images); Mesozoic species index—South America

(3 microfilm rolls; 8,345 images); Cushman catalogue of Foraminifera (33 microfilm rolls; 118,967 images). The original records and subsequent additions to them remain available in the Survey's offices in the U.S. National Museum, and with the Museum's "Cushman Collection".

Wild Life Preservation in Burma

U. TUN YIN, formerly of the Burma Civil Service, reports that the Wild Life Protection Act of 1936 is still in force in Burma (*Oryx*, 3, No. 2; August 1955). The only blot appears in section 6, which, *inter alia*, gives protection to the rhinoceros. Unfortunately the section contains the phrase "provided that it shall not be an offence for any physician or druggist to possess or sell, or for any person to possess for private medical purposes rhinoceros blood or any preparation thereof". This exception was essential or the Act would not have been passed; many people in Burma have implicit faith in the efficacy of rhinoceros blood for medicinal purposes. U. Tun Yin writes that the Forest Law Amendment Committee has recommended the deletion of the proviso and this should lead to greater conservation of the rhinoceros. A further difficulty arising from the Act is that its application to the States comprising the Union of Burma is complicated and obscure. It does not apply, for example, to the Kachin State. The few Sumatran rhinoceros which survive there are wholly unprotected, as are also, in that State, takin, musk-deer, panda, goral, serow and other rare animals. If these are to be saved, not only must the Act be extended to the Kachin State, but also the Kachin Hill Tribes Regulation and the Hkamti Long Administration Order must be amended. There should be a uniform wild-life protection law throughout the Union of Burma. At present the law is almost ineffective, for there is no central authority directly responsible for its enforcement.

New Ammonites

SOME new and little-known ammonites in South Africa have recently been described by E. C. N. van Hoepen (*South African J. Sci.*, 51, No. 12; July 1955). One, an unusually large form of *Pervinqueria* (*Styphloceras*) *multicostata* from Zululand, is described as the biggest *Pervinqueria* yet discovered. From the Umsinene River come some large specimens which represent a new species that has been named *Puzosia willemventeri*; a new genus of *Scaphites*, represented by a new species, is described under the name *Zuluscaphtes orycteropusi*. A new genus, *Collignonicerias*, of the family Acanthoceratidae, is established for two species, *C. hammersleyi* and *C. peregrinator*, and for a species previously described by Venzo as *Mortoniceras vinassai*. In the family Pachydiscidae, a new species of the genus *Lewisicerias* is introduced and compared with four similar-looking species from Madagascar. This is the first record of this genus in South Africa. A new family, Gauthiericeratidae, is established for the two genera *Peroniceras* de Gross. and *Gauthiericerias* de Gross. Two new species of *Peroniceras*, *P. platycostatum* and *P. undulato-carinatum*, and three new species of *Gauthiericerias*, *G. libertae*, *G. obesum* and *G. planulatum*, are described. A family, Erioliceratidae, has been created for three new genera of keeled *Albian ammonites*, which lose their keel at a late stage; they have parallel flanks and their ribs are more or less overhanging backwards on the shoulder.