

## SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*Catalogue des bibliographies géologiques.* Rédigé, avec le concours des membres de la Commission bibliographique du Congrès. Par EMM. DE MARGERIE. Paris, Gauthier-Villars et Fils. 1896. Pp. xx + 733.

The International Geological Congress, at its Washington meeting in 1891, appointed a standing committee on bibliography. The original membership was ten, but provision was made for enlargement by the committee itself, and there were eventually fourteen members, representing the principal countries or regions having geologic literature. North America was represented by Mr. Gilbert, and South America by Dr. Steinmann, of Freiburg, Baden. The duties of the committee, as instructed by the Congress, were : (1) to prepare and publish a list of existing partial bibliographies of geology ; (2) to promote the preparation by geologic societies and surveys of bibliography pertaining to their respective territories, and (3) to study the problem of the systematic centralized publication of the current bibliography of geology. The first of these works was immediately undertaken and has resulted in an imposing volume of 750 pages.

When a cooperative work of such magnitude is carried to a successful conclusion there is usually some one individual to whose skill and energy the success is due, and in this instance that person was M. Emm. de Margerie, of Paris, the Secretary of the Committee. Under his guidance the other members of the committee gathered material from their respective countries or districts, but the whole was classified, unified, and eventually in large part verified through comparison with original sources by him. He, moreover, made a systematic search of libraries and was thereby enabled to make large additions to the list.

The whole number of entries is 3,918 and these are grouped under two 'parts' and many headings. The first part, with various subdivisions, includes bibliographies whose geographic scope is either the whole earth or one of its greater divisions. The second part includes the bibliographies of regions or countries, arranged alphabetically by regions. The regional entries are also classified according to scope and subject, and there are abundant of cross refer-

ences. This elaborate classification adds greatly to the convenience of the book, enabling the user to find in one place, or at most in two or three places, all references to any special subject of inquiry. His convenience is further consulted by the addition of three indexes, referring severally to authors, places and topics. The scope and method of each work listed, when not described in its title, are explained in the annotation.

A summary of the part pertaining to North America (United States and Canada) will at once illustrate the scope of the list and its mode of classification. General bibliographies afford 12 titles; catalogues of publications of official surveys, 33; general indexes of transactions and journals, 10; annual bibliographies, 9; library catalogues, 3; personal bibliographies and biographic notices, 51; bibliographies of special districts, 61; subject bibliographies, 70, of which 52 pertain to special formations, 1 to paleontology and 9 to petrography.

While the primary purpose of the committee was to take an account of stock in the field of geologic bibliography, and thus pave the way for the most intelligent undertaking of systematic and comprehensive work for the future, their catalogue has an immediate value to the investigator as a directory to the places where the literature he wishes to examine is listed.

The chief cost of publication was met by the local committees of the Washington and Zurich Congresses, and copies of the volume have been forwarded to the geologists who attended those meetings. This distribution has not entirely exhausted the edition, and the remaining volumes are placed on sale, the price for the United States and Canada being \$5.00. The Secretary of the Washington Congress permits me to add that the *Compte Rendu* of that meeting will be forwarded without cost to the American purchasers of the Catalogue. Correspondence should be addressed to

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*The Principles and Practice of Teaching.* JAMES JOHONNOT. Revised by SARAH EVANS JOHONNOT. International Education Series, Vol. XXXIX., 12mo., pp. xx+334. D. Appleton & Co., New York. 1896.