

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDEXING CHEMICAL LITERATURE.*

THE Committee on Indexing Chemical Literature presents to the Chemical Section its fifteenth annual report, covering the twelve months ending August, 1897.

WORKS PUBLISHED.

Recalculation of the Atomic Weights. By FRANK WIGLESWORTH CLARKE. New edition revised and enlarged. Constants of Nature, Part V. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 1075. City of Washington. 1897. Pp. vi+370. 8vo.

Index to the Literature of the Periodic Law. In: 'Development of the Periodic Law.' By F. P. VENABLE. Easton, Pa. 1896. 12mo.

Partial Bibliography of Argon. By C. LE ROY PARKER. Accompanying his paper: 'Our Present Knowledge of Argon.' J. Am. Chem. Soc. xix+124 (February, 1897).

Bibliography of Agricultural Chemistry (American). Bulletins of the Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture.

In our fourteenth annual report the following correction should be made: for Bulletin No. 9 read Bulletin No. 19, and add Bulletin No. 27 (1897).

A card-index to Experiment-Station Literature is issued by the Office of Experiment Stations; this is sent *gratis* to all the agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States, and is sold to a limited number of individuals and institutions. Eleven thousand cards had been distributed prior to September, 1896.

The detailed index included in each volume of the 'Experiment Station Record' contains numerous references to chemical articles published by the experiment stations in the United States and in foreign countries.

Abstracts of Chemical Work in Agricultural Science, published in: 'Experiment Station Record,' issued by the Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture.

These abstracts were begun in Vol. I., No. 1. (September, 1889). Abstracts of foreign investigations were added, beginning

*Presented at the Detroit meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

with Vol. II., No. 8 (March, 1891), and these have been included, with a quite rapid growth in the field covered, up to the present time. The work is in charge of Dr. E. W. Allen, who is assisted by Mr. W. H. Beal in the department of fertilizers and soils, and by the Committee on Abstracting of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.

The Review of American Chemical Research, edited by Professor Arthur A. Noyes, begun in April, 1895, and formerly published in the 'Technology Quarterly,' is continued in the 'Journal of the American Chemical Society.'

Periodicals Relating to Chemistry and Physics in the New York Public Library and Columbia University Library. Bulletin of the New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations. Vol. I. No. 6. June, 1897. Page 152.

A very convenient check-list compiled with bibliographical accuracy, especially useful to students residing in New York and vicinity.

Bibliography of the Analysis of Chrome-iron Ore, Ferro-Chromium and Chrome-steel. By S. RIDEAL and S. ROSENBLUM. *Chem. News*, Vol. 73, p. 2. (January 3, 1897.)

A Bibliography of the Chemistry of Chlorophyll, by L. Marchlewski, accompanies his monograph: 'Die Chemie des Chlorophylls.' Hamburg and Leipzig. 1895. 8vo.

REPORTS OF PROGRESS.

A Bibliography of the Metals of the Platinum Group, 1748-1896, by Professor James Lewis Howe, has been completed, and after examination by your Committee has been recommended to the Smithsonian Institution for publication. The work is now going through the press.

A Review and Bibliography of Metallic Carbides, by Mr. J. A. Mathews, of Columbia University, was submitted to your Committee, and after examination by each member the MS. was returned to the author for minor improvements. The suggestions of the Committee were promptly accepted by Mr. Mathews, and the revised work has been recommended to the Smithsonian Institution for publication.

A Bibliography of Basic Slags, Technical, Analytical and Agricultural, has been completed by Karl T. McElroy, of the Division of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The channel of publication has not been determined.

The second edition of the *Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals*, 1665-1895, by Dr. H. Carrington Bolton, is entirely printed, but publication is deferred, owing to the preparation of a new Library Check List, with which it will be accompanied. The new edition contains 8,603 titles.

CHEMISTRY.

A Supplement to the Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-1896, has been completed by Dr. H. Carrington Bolton, who has presented the MS. to the Smithsonian Institution. This Supplement contains about 9,000 titles, including many chemical dissertations, and is brought down to the end of the year 1896.

Dr. C. H. Jouet reports his *Index to the Literature of Thorium* 'nearly finished.'

Dr. F. W. Traphagen reports 'fair progress' on his *Index to the Literature of Tantalum*.

Mr. George Wagner reports that he has made progress on the *Bibliography of Oxygen*.

Mr. H. E. Brown, under the direction of Professor A. B. Prescott, is preparing a *Bibliography of the Constitution of Morphine and related Alkaloids*.

Professor William Ripley Nichols, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at the time of his death left an unfinished *Index to the Literature of Carbonic Oxid*; the manuscript was taken in hand by Professor Augustus A. Gill, of the same institution, who has done considerable work upon it; he now reports that he is not in a position to finish the task and he is perfectly willing to relinquish the large amount of material accumulated to anyone who would undertake to complete it.

Professor Clement W. Andrews, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now Librarian of the John Crerar Library, Chicago, reports that he is obliged to abandon work on his *Index to the Literature of Milk*, and will be very glad to turn over the material to anyone who cares to undertake to complete the bibliography.

It has always been the aim of the Committee on Indexing Chemical Literature to prevent duplication of work, but failure to inform the Committee of work in progress may defeat this undertaking. An announcement, in the Fourteenth Annual Report, of certain work having been nearly completed surprised a chemist in another part of the country, and has led to the abandonment by the latter of much laborious indexing.

In conclusion the Committee repeats the statement that it labors to encourage individual enterprise in chemical bibliography, and to record in the annual reports works issued and works in progress.

Address correspondence to the Chairman, at Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.

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Committee.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE STONE AGE OF PHOENICIA.

THE associations of Phœnicia with both sacred and profane history are so numerous that a careful investigation of its oldest human remains will attract general attention. Such an investigation is reported in *L'Anthropologie*, Nos. 3 and 4 of this year, by Professor Zumoffen, of Beyrut, Syria.

He gives a map of the prehistoric stations, and divides them into 'paleolithic' and 'neolithic,' according to the French canons of archæology. Of the former he describes six which he has explored. Two full-page plates present the objects in natural size. The most important finds were in a cavern in the valley of Antelias, which has also been visited by previous students (Fraas, Dawson).

Examined by the canons of American archæology, the claim for the vast antiquity of these remains is open to some doubts. Patination, which the author emphasizes, is dependent on soil and dampness more than age; one or more of the six stations he acknowledges were workshops, and the remains, therefore, are to be classed as 'rejects.' This explains the absence of pottery; but most significant is the fact (p. 426) that the fauna of the 'paleolithic'