

which it is believed can be applied to advantage in any laboratory requiring careful colorimetric determinations. Also the solubility of carbon monoxide in serum and plasma was determined, the amount of carbon monoxide dissolved in the serum proving to have little effect upon the accuracy of colorimetric determinations. The figures for the solubility of carbon monoxide in serum have also a purely scientific value in the calculation of carbon dioxide in serum and the determination of the hydrogen in concentration.

In addition to these studies on carbon monoxide Dr. Yandell Henderson and Dr. W. Haggard, as consulting physiologists to the Bureau of Mines, in work done at the Laboratory of Applied Physiology at New Haven, Conn., on the problem of the elimination of carbon monoxide from the blood after a dangerous degree of asphyxia, have determined that ventilation of the lungs could be increased from 300 to 400 per cent. by adding 6 to 10 per cent. of carbon dioxide to pure oxygen. These investigators have also shown that the effects of carbon monoxide upon the heart are not specific, but are secondary to general asphyxia and a terminal failure of respiration. Material is now available for a report showing that symptoms and effects sometimes assigned to chronic carbon monoxide poisoning are in reality due to the effects of benzol and related substances in illuminating gas. This conclusion has a direct bearing on the use of mixtures of gasoline and coal distillate in underground locomotives.

WORLD LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS¹

THE Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies proposes, if sufficient support is obtained, to arrange for the issue of a world list of periodical publications which contain the results of original scientific research, and has entrusted preliminary arrangements to a committee, of which the following are members: Sir Sidney F. Harmer (chairman), Mr. F. W. Clifford, Sir Richard Gregory, Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, Mr. A. W. Pollard, and Professor W. W. Watts, secretary.

The list will be an octavo volume containing, in alphabetical order, the titles and places

of publication of all such periodicals in existence on January 1, 1900, and of all issued after that date.

Libraries in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Dublin and Aberystwyth which take in these periodicals will be indicated in the list, and, wherever possible, at least one library in the United Kingdom will be indicated for each title.

The copies will be printed on one side only to facilitate alterations and additions.

The objects of the proposed volume are:

- (1) To supply as nearly as possible a complete list of current scientific periodicals; (2) to indicate, where possible, at least one library where each periodical is taken; (3) to form a basis for cooperation between libraries, so that both the number of duplicates and the list of periodicals not taken in may be reduced; and (4) to enable each library to use the list for its own purposes, by placing a mark against the title of each periodical it possesses, by cutting up for a card index, etc.

The trustees of the British Museum, recognizing the importance of this work to scientific research and bibliography, have consented to allow the compilation to be undertaken by the staff of the Museum. They are unable, however, to defray the cost of printing and publication.

Although the value of a list of this kind to libraries and scientific societies would be very great, it is scarcely possible that the production of so costly a work would be entertained by a publishing firm as an ordinary commercial enterprise. If, however, a sufficient number of libraries and institutions agree in advance to purchase one or more copies, when issued, the compilation of the list will be put in hand at once. Already a large bulk of material has been collected in the British Museum by various societies and by the Conjoint Board.

I shall be glad to receive by January 31, if possible, the names and addresses of institutions or individuals who will support this proposal by undertaking to subscribe for one or more copies of the list. The price per copy will be 2*l.* 2*s.* net.

W. W. WATTS

CONJOINT BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES,
BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON, W. 1

¹ From *Nature*.