

plants has been bought for the department of botany, and the department of geology has bought a specimen of the teeth of the extinct shark *Edestus* from the Devonian rocks of Rhenish Prussia.

Samples of volcanic dust which fell after the recent eruptions in the Andes have been presented to the department of minerals by the proprietors of *The Times* and by Messrs. H. W. Nelson, Limited. Professor G. Vibert Douglas has collected and presented a large series of rocks illustrating the geology and mineralization of several mines in the "copper belt" of Northern Rhodesia and Katanga, and purchase has been made of a series of exceptionally fine crystals from the Tsumeb copper mines in Southwest Africa. Copper, zinc and lead minerals are represented—among them cerussite, anglesite, chersylite, smithsonite and mimetite.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES LIBRARY

THE Engineering Societies Library, New York, reports that, for the first time since the depression began, inquiries are falling off. Geographically, the decrease is uniform, indicating a lessening of industrial and engineering effort in all nations.

Library readers, however, continue to increase. They were ten per cent. more numerous in 1931 than in 1930, and they are still multiplying, according to Director Harrison W. Craver. The present economic situation, while slowing up the quest of industry for technical knowledge bearing upon problems of development, has stimulated the individual engineer to greater intellectual effort.

Jobless engineers and scientific men, according to Mr. Craver, are likely, in the long run, to profit by their enforced leisure, for, during the era of prosperity which came to an end in 1929, they were so immersed in the practical aspects of the tasks that they had little opportunity to keep abreast of engineering advances in other than their own specialized fields. Hence, it is believed, one result of the economic recession will be a broadening of the outlook of the professional engineer in all countries.

"Not until recently," Mr. Craver said, "did the depression affect us at all. Last year nearly 50,000 requests to supply technical information, a record number, were received. This represents a gain of several thousand over the previous year. But now, the slump in industrial operations is being reflected in a diminished demand for investigating service at the library.

Requests for facts, nevertheless, are coming from practically every country and from every state in the Union. They cover almost the entire range of engineering, according to Julian A. Sohon, chief bibliographer.

Soviet Russia, Mr. Sohon said, frequently asks for technical advice through the office of the Amtorg in New York. American engineers working in Russia also write for assistance from time to time.

The New Zealand Government is another conspicuous source of queries, particularly with respect to public works. Many Swedish engineers also turn to the library, which, despite the low ebb of engineering activity, is developing its facilities in preparation for a great industrial era which, engineers believe, lies ahead.

The library is the largest strictly engineering library in America, and probably in the world. It now contains 128,000 volumes, 5,000 pamphlets, 6,321 maps and 3,872 searches. Alten S. Miller, of New York, is chairman of the Library Board for 1932.

FIELD CONFERENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA GEOLOGISTS

THE second annual field conference of Pennsylvania geologists was held in the Lehigh Valley on May 28, 29 and 30, the geology departments of Lehigh University and Lafayette College acting as hosts. Especial mention should be made of the efficient manner in which the trips were planned and carried out, thanks to the able work of the committee in charge, consisting of D. Fraser, A. H. Fretz, B. L. Miller and L. Whitecomb, of Lehigh, and C. K. Cabeen, H. A. Itter, H. Koerner and F. Ward, of Lafayette. About 75 members and guests from outside Pennsylvania registered at Markle Hall, Lafayette College.

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 28, two field trips were offered simultaneously, the visitors choosing between them. Trip No. 1, under Professor Itter, of Lafayette, covered the three members of the Triassic System exposed along the Delaware below Easton, the well-known "Ringing Rocks" and certain exposures of the Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian. Trip No. 2 visited the cement and slate belts of the Lehigh Valley, including quarries and mills, and proved of unusual interest to the non-metallic economic geologists. It was in charge of Dr. B. L. Miller, of Lehigh University. The Saturday activities finished with an informal dinner at Easton. President W. R. Lewis extended a welcome from Lafayette College, and various members spoke very briefly upon the local geology. During a short business session the by-laws drawn up by committee were adopted. These included the appointment of a permanent secretary-treasurer, who must be a member of the Pennsylvania State Geological Survey. Dr. Bradford Willard was selected for this position.

The Sunday, May 29, trip was attended by the entire assembly. The party left Easton by automobile