(152 cm), a height which would correspond to 5 feet 4½ inches for male individuals. With such a height *Sinanthropus* ranges within the group composed of medium-size people of to-day. At any rate, it is certain that *Sinanthropus* was not a pygmy.

The three facts, namely, that the two femora were found as isolated pieces without any other human bones, furthermore that they represent only more or less complete specimens and finally that the fragment of femur J was burnt, point in the same direction as the finds of skull and jaws. All the *Sinanthropus* bones recovered from Locality 1 of Choukoutien had received the same treatment as the game which *Sinanthropus* hunted. This hominid, therefore, was a cannibal.

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INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

THE increase in the number of research laboratories maintained by industrial concerns in the United States during the last few years has made it seem desirable to issue a new edition of the National Research Council's Bulletin, "Industrial Research Laboratories of the United States," fifth edition.

On March 25 questionnaires were mailed to the 1,562 concerns which were included in the last edition of 1933, and to a large number of new concerns which are thought to maintain laboratories.

If the reader of this note is a member of a firm which maintains a laboratory where research looking towards the development and improvement of products is carried on, it is hoped that he will ascertain whether a questionnaire has been received by his company, and if not that he will request one from the Library, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

There is no charge for the entry in the bulletin, the only requirement being that the laboratory is undertaking research.

It is desirable to have the information for the bulletin in hand as soon as possible so that the publication may appear within the current year.

CALLIE HULL,
Librarian

THE CYCLOPEDIC VALUE OF BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE value to the research worker of an up-to-date synthesizing abstract service covering the world's progress in the broad field of biology has been stressed from many view-points and by many individuals. This was the primary aim in launching *Biological Abstracts*. What has not been sufficiently emphasized is the fact that outside his own field the specialist immediately becomes a layman, who, if he is an intelligent layman, is constantly seeking information on a wide range of subjects cropping up in his daily life at every turn and about which he knows little or nothing.

Even without an adequate abstracting service, I in my own field of phytopathology am not irrevocably lost, because I have at least some idea as to where I must look to find out what I want to know. The task may be exceedingly laborious, but it at least is not entirely insurmountable. However, the further I go from my own field the more I am reminded of the babes lost in the woods. The information in textbooks is often ten years old before it is out, the indexes are rarely if ever adequate, and unless I am fortunate enough to have a large library at my elbow even such sources are not available to me.

I am reading an interesting article on *Arbacia*. My early zoological training not having sunk entirely beyond recall, I remember it to be an animal of some kind, but where does it belong? I reach for my *Biological Abstracts* index. Under *Arbacia* I am referred to the taxonomic index, and, presto, I know that it is an echinoderm, and if I wish to go further the detailed analytical index refers me to specific and diverse information on many species of the group. Examples might be multiplied indefinitely: I am in doubt about the spelling of an insect name. Knowing the infinite care with which Dr. Mary Jones Fisher has checked over the spelling of zoological names in *Biological Abstracts* I am as confident as though I had gone to the original source. I want to learn quickly some specific point about diet, this or that vitamin, the effects of sodium chloride on the system, what does the electrocardiagram mean in terms of life processes or expectancy, what human diseases are spread by insects, what are the effects of light on plants and animals, etc., etc. The taxonomic, geographical, geological and fully cross-referenced, detailed analytical subject indexes of *Biological Abstracts* lead me quickly to most of what I want to locate in the daily routine of work and general reading.

I am not suggesting here the potential usability of *Biological Abstracts* as it might sometime become, but rather am presenting my own actual personal experience with it as it was yesterday and is to-day. I shall continue to use it in such a capacity for years to come, even though no further issue should ever appear.

What does all this boil down to, but that the value of *Biological Abstracts* can scarcely be overestimated, even when viewed solely as an up-to-date encyclopedia of information on all matters pertaining to living things, for the daily use of intelligent, inquiring minds, old and young. The educational value in high schools, colleges, industries and homes of such an encyclopedia