

In its preparation, the new map was designed not only for manuscript notes, but for reduction to at least half-size in publication, and full permission is generously given by Dr. Hall and the publishers for the reproduction of this map to illustrate geographical distribution of plants (or animals) in scientific publications.

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MECHANICS OF INDEXING

THE "Easier Method for Making an Index" (SCIENCE, March 10) is extremely rapid and simple in comparison with the method described in the issue of January 20, but it involves perforated sheets, which are not always available; tearing off the slips takes time, and perforated edges do not facilitate filing. In this department we have used a slightly different method. Typewriter paper is marked off in rectangles, ten of which may be used on a sheet if entries are brief. After writing a few sheets, the typist becomes

familiar with the spacing, and guide lines are unnecessary. When the typing is completed, all the sheets, whether 50 or 500, are sheared (in one operation) with a paper cutter to the dimensions of the original guide lines. This procedure was used here in 1936 in indexing a bibliography ("Non-Metallic Inclusions . . ." by McCombs and Seherro) with 2,136 items, and three or four times that number of entries in the index.

For an index which is to be printed, rather heavy paper should be used. A compositor expects his copy on sheets, and sometimes does not welcome slips. We use a rack or "gadget" which holds several hundred slips directly in front of the compositor. If the paper is not too flimsy, this works very well. Before going to the printer all slips, including cross references, should, of course, be consecutively numbered with a numbering stamp. After all, this mechanical work of recording and filing entries is only a very minor part of making a good index.

E. H. McCLELLAND

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

ASIATIC BOTANY

A Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany. By ELMER D. MERRILL and EGBERT H. WALKER. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, New York Botanical Garden and Harvard-Yenching Institute. Quarto. Pp. xlii + 719 (double column), 2 maps. Jamaica Plain, Mass.: Arnold Arboretum, 1938. Price, \$12.50.

ALTHOUGH most large bibliographies defy "reviewing" in the ordinary sense, such an ambitious undertaking as that cited above should certainly be brought to the attention of all botanists and scientific libraries. It is the type of work whose every page betrays many hours of careful and persistent searching, note-taking and checking, not to mention the arduous task of proof-reading and rechecking the numberless details for which none but the authors can be responsible.

Work on this bibliography of eastern Asiatic botany covered a period of ten years, beginning at the Smithsonian Institution in 1928 when Mr. Walker, engaged in identifying material at the United States National Herbarium, found it necessary to familiarize himself with the literature of the plants of China. The project grew in scope until the area finally covered by the bibliography comprises China, Japan, Formosa, Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet and eastern and southern Siberia. In addition, the major published papers pertaining to adjacent areas, such as the Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Burma, India and central and northern Asia, are included, "because of their importance

in the study of the plants of eastern Asia, and because through them the subsidiary literature on these areas can be reached."

The bibliography proper (occupying 550 double-column pages and printed in a compact but very readable style of type) contains more than 21,000 titles listed by author. The majority of the entries are briefly annotated, and there are hundreds of cross-references.

Following the main section is an appendix consisting of (1) a list of older Oriental works, many of which have not been heretofore mentioned in botanical literature; (2) a reference list and index of Oriental serials, with titles given in English, in Chinese or Japanese characters and in transliteration; (3) reference lists of Oriental authors (also with the Chinese or Japanese characters); (4) a subject index (in three parts—general, regional and systematic); (5) a family index of generic names of vascular cryptogams and seed plants; and (6) an index of the principal geographic names used in the subject index. In addition, the bibliography is prefaced by a reference list of more than 1,200 serial publications that are cited, with their complete and abbreviated titles. These various indices and appendices render the work extremely usable, though the labor of their compilation must have been great. Fortunately, both Dr. Merrill and Mr. Walker have worked in the Orient and were familiar with many problems, such as the need for careful translation and uniform transliteration of Chinese, Japanese and Rus-