

authorities of the Insurance Institute that these lectures were of great value to them and they have announced their intention of sending further parties during the coming year. This opens up new ground and it is my intention to approach similar institutions, such as the Grocers Institute, with a view to arranging for conducted tours of students attending courses. Members of the Textile Institute paid an organised visit during December, and members of the Conference of Educational Associations are paying a similar visit on January 8th.

The Central Stand. The Central Stand is established in the Main court of the south gallery and here an officer is in constant attendance to answer general enquiries concerning the exhibits. Technical enquiries are referred to the departments concerned. The Stand is stocked with pamphlets giving information concerning industries, life and occupations in various parts of the Empire. Much of this literature is given away gratis, but a charge is made for certain publications. The proceeds from sales since re-opening amount to £13 2s 2d.

Postcards depicting scenes in the Dominions and Colonies, made up in sets of six, are also sold, and 478 packets have been disposed of during the year, in spite of the fact that the galleries were closed for 9½ months of this period.

School specimens. The surplus specimens of economic products are utilised for supplying to school museums. These samples are put up in stout paper bags, properly labelled, and showing country of origin. They can be obtained on application at the rate of 1d. per bag.

The number disposed of in this way during the year was 3,231. Parcels of a number of specimens contain, in addition, a selection of free pamphlets containing information concerning the countries of origin.

Disposal of exhibits to other museums. The following were the recipients of surplus exhibits that became available owing to the reduction in the number needed in our galleries under the new scheme of arrangement:—

The British Museum, Bloomsbury. Indian coins.

The Victoria and Albert Museum. Indian and Malayan Royal presents. Carved Lucknow screen and doorway. Photographs of ancient Indian buildings. Silver-gilt howdahs and palanquins. Malayan pottery.