

The Library.

In charge of the library is a librarian with an assistant and two clerks.

The library contains some 40,000 publications which are principally works of reference dealing with economic products from all parts of the world. Special attention is given to publications relating to tropical agriculture, forestry, mineral resources, and the production and utilisation of raw materials. In addition, some 590 technical periodicals are regularly received.

The library is principally for the use of the technical departments, but is open to the general public, and a reading room is available for the use of enquirers and other visitors.

During the year, 3,650 new publications and 25,136 periodical publications were received. Selected journals for indexing numbered 6,655; 8,320 technical and other periodicals were issued to the staff for perusal and information.

Lack of accommodation. In order to reduce the storage space it was decided that Government gazettes should be kept for five years instead of ten as heretofore. With the amalgamation of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau it has been necessary to retain additional numbers of selected and indexed periodicals.

All available space is now fully occupied and unless further accommodation is provided much valuable reference material may have to be destroyed which would considerably affect the efficiency of the two technical departments.

The Central Registry.

At the head of the Registry is the Registrar with an assistant and three clerks as his staff.

The average number of letters received was 803 per month.

The average number of letters despatched was 769 per month.

As the volume of correspondence has so much increased (average in 1925, received 524, despatched 490) a card index system of dealing with the registration of letters will be commenced in January, 1927. This will considerably reduce the registration work and it is hoped will result in speeding up the work and an economy in the cost of running.

Lack of accommodation. The stock of publications now held exceeds the storage space, although a large number of old "Bulletins" were disposed of this year by a