

# The Canadian Engineer

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## THE FILING OF ENGINEERING LITERATURE

THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION IN ENGINEERING AND ITS EXTENSION TO COVER MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING.

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In every engineering office there are catalogues, photographs, pamphlets, drawings, books, clippings, etc., which, to be of the greatest use, must be filed so as to be kept in order and yet to be easily accessible. In addition to such matter, the engineer should keep a list of references to articles in the engineering periodicals and in the proceedings of the engineering societies which are of particular interest to him.

The actual filing of such matter is probably best accomplished by the use of the familiar vertical system, and the index to the contents of the files is most conveniently kept on standard cards, 3 in. x 5 in. in size. Many systems of indexing have been devised which are more or less satisfactory. Any alphabetical system is open to the objection that it requires copious cross-indexing to make it of much value. The numerical systems are, therefore, the more popular, and justly so.

The Dewey decimal system, developed by Melvil Dewey, formerly director of the New York State Library, is probably the best of the numerical systems. It is in great favor with library workers and is used in the majority of the public libraries of the United States and Canada.

The following explanation of this system is based on that given in "An Extension of the Dewey Decimal System of Classification Applied to the Engineering Industries" by Breckenridge and Goodenough, of the Engineering Experiment Station of the University of Illinois at Urbana. This bulletin, as well as one giving a similar extension of the system to cover architecture and building, may be obtained from the Director of the station for a low price.

The essential characteristic of the Dewey system is its method of division and subdivision. The entire field

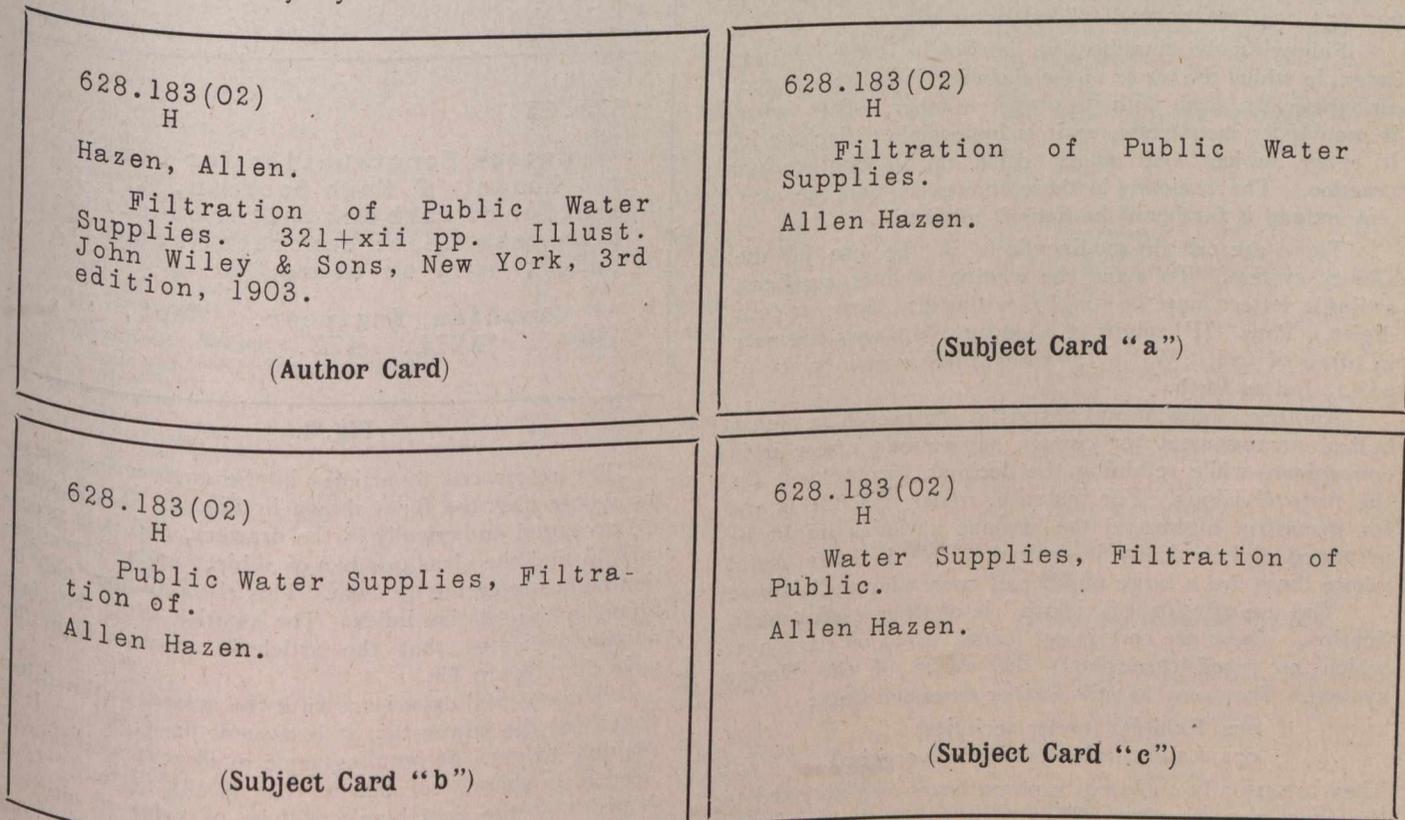


Fig. 1.