

How extensive is the undertaking must be gathered from the fact that the first two volumes, being the first parts of the catalogues in chemistry and botany respectively, for the year 1901, consisting of lists both of authors and subjects and with indexes of organic substances and species respectively, form volumes each of close upon 500 pages of the ordinary quarto size, the titles being given in the language of publication, and where these languages are out of the common. Polish. Swedish. Dutch, etc., the title is translated into English, French or German.

The enormous value of such a compilation to all serious workers is readily understood. Our own feeling of loss, now that the *Index Medicus* has ceased to appear, is an illustration of the value of such a work.

It is true that medicine proper is not included. Notwithstanding the more scientific branches receive full attention, Human Anatomy and Bacteriology being afforded separate volumes, and Experimental Psychology and Pathology being indexed along with normal Physiology. The parts upon Botany, Zoology, and General Biology are, however, all of importance to the medical worker.

As already noted, Canada participates in the scheme, and our Government has subscribed for seven complete copies of the annual issue of seventeen volumes. Beyond this, unfortunately, the Government has not seen its way to proceed, and the Regional Bureau, formed of those undertaking to index Canadian titles, has to find its fund as well as it may. So far such funds are *nil*, and the indexing is a voluntary affair on the part of a few active workers in the different branches of science, who can scarce be expected to subscribe for and obtain possession of all the Canadian literature upon their particular subjects.

Here it might be noted that it will materially aid in the due notification of Canadian work if those writing papers on Human Anatomy send copies or reprints of the same to Prof. Primrose, Biological Building, University of Toronto; if physiological papers be similarly sent to Prof. A. B. MacCallum, at the same address, and if papers containing original notes in Pharmacology, Experimental Pathology and Bacteriology, be forwarded to Prof. Adami, McGill Medical College. Prof. Penhallow (McGill) has similarly undertaken to catalogue Botanical works, and Prof. McBride (McGill), Zoological.

Thus enough has been said to show that these catalogues are absolutely essential to the full equipment of every scientific library.

These first two volumes are well printed on good paper and in clear, readable type. So far as we have been able to study them, they leave little to be desired. It is true that at first it is a little difficult to find one's way about in them—but a little study of the scheme of classification makes matters clear. Time will show whether so large an under-