

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDEXING CHEMICAL LITERATURE.

[*From advance sheets of the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Vol. 38.*]

The Committee on Indexing Chemical Literature respectfully presents to the Chemical Section its seventh annual report.

During the year just closed three bibliographies have been published by the Smithsonian Institution.

A Table of Specific Gravity for Solids and Liquids. The Constants of Nature, Part I (new edition, revised and enlarged). By Frank Wigglesworth Clark. Washington, D. C., 1888. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections No. 659. 8vo, pp. xi, 409.

This volume contains the specific gravities of 5,227 distinct substances and 14,465 separate determinations, being more than twice as many as in the first edition with supplement.

Index to the Literature of Columbium, 1801-1887. By Frank W. Traphagen. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections No. 663. Washington, 1888. 8vo, pp. [iv], 27.

This Index contains the threefold arrangement chronological, alphabetical by authors, and subject-matter. The abbreviations of Journal-titles are those adopted by the Committee on Indexing Chemical Literature upon whose recommendation this Index was printed.

A Bibliography of Chemistry for the year 1887 by H. Carrington Bolton. Washington, 1888. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections No. 665. 8vo, p. 13.

Prof. Wm. L. Dudley, Vice-President of the Chemical Section of the A. A. A. S., has appended to his address on the Nature of Amalgams an Index to the Literature of the subject which will be printed in the forthcoming volume of the Proceedings of the Toronto meeting.

We record the publication of the following index. Lists of patents relating to Soap and Candles in "Manufacture of Soap and Candles" by Wm. Brannt, Philadelphia, 1889.

Also:—An Index of Researches upon the Production of Ammonia from Atmospheric Nitrogen. By Ezra J. Ware. Pub-

lished in Proceedings Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association, 1888, H. J. Brown, Ann Arbor, Mich., Secretary.

Reports of progress from several volunteer indexers have been received. Dr. Alfred Tuckerman has completed his Index to the Literature of Thermodynamics except a subject-index to which he is putting finishing touches. He has also begun an Index to the Literature of the Chemical Action of Light, a subject suggested by the Chairman of your Committee.

The publication of this annual report is always followed by numerous applications for information, especially with respect to the method of indexing adopted by the Committee. These inquiries we may in some degree anticipate by repeating the statement that this Committee does not prescribe any standard, nor dictate any system for volunteers to follow. Those interested in the work of the Committee would do well to examine the six reports already published, in which will be found suggestions for systematic indexing (1885), a complete list of indexes already printed under the auspices of the Committee (1887), and a list of "Abbreviations of Titles of Chemical Journals," intended to secure uniformity in references (1887).

The choice of subjects for indexing has generally been made by the volunteers themselves; in a few instances only the topics have been suggested by the committee, at the request of co-workers. These subjects, as shown in our reports, cover a wide range in physical, inorganic and organic chemistry; the desirability of procuring indexes to individual elementary substances should not be overlooked by those who contemplate offering aid. A few copies of the Report of 1887 (which includes lists as above) remain, and can be had on application to the chairman, to whom also letters of inquiry may be addressed care of Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

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