

have been engaged upon the given line of thought or who are found to have taken part in the discussion.

Special attention must be called to the recent issuance of a serial index to Government publications, for in the Senate and House documents is buried an extremely valuable mass of engineering information. (The reprints of these should be secured by the student as rapidly and as abundantly as his friends can procure them.) Of these may be mentioned the professional papers of the corps of the U. S. Army Engineers, the reports of the Bureau of Steam Engineering; of the Chief of Engineers; of the Department of Agriculture; of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; of the Geological Surveyor of the Bureau of South American Republics, and of the foreign and domestic, State and Federal officials, and the mineral resources of the U. S. These contain more than mere perfunctory announcements of past history. A careful perusal of any of these public documents will usually reward the examiner with rich finds. They certainly will furnish an excellent relish for the "half hour after dinner or after supper." Again, there is a bibliography of geodesy published in the Report of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey for 1887, and F. P. Dewey has issued a descriptive catalogue of the publications of the Geologic Survey. Dr. Hasser has prepared a list of the works of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and "The Electric Power" has given during 1895 a synopsis of the current electric literature. (This letter has since been reproduced with additions by Van Nostrand & Co., with an alphabetic list of authors and titles.) The record of progress in aerial locomotion has its catalogue, and in zoölogy, too, a card and index catalogue is to be had.

Of current literature, including periodicals as well as proceedings and books, there is not now a general index extant. Neither private enterprise nor Governmental system is likely to supply the need, and unless the happy hope of the present co-operative movement for an international index is realized each weary plodder must find his own salvation. With few exceptions each technical journal issues an annual index of its own publications, and a few publish a general catalogue, covering a more extended period. An important feature of the "American Engineering Magazine" is not to be overlooked in this connection. It appends a discriminating list of technical and scientific articles selected from wide fields. The *Engineering News*, London, maintains a similar department for European fields. Poole's index,