

Chemical Literature

A Guide to the Literature of Chemistry. 2d ed. By E. J. Crane, Austin M. Patterson, and Eleanor B. Marr. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1957. 397p. \$9.50.

Thirty years ago E. J. Crane and Austin M. Patterson put out a splendid volume, *A Guide to the Literature of Chemistry*, which attempted to help the chemist avoid wasting valuable materials and more valuable time in the laboratory in determining what had been already published. The plan of this book of thirty years ago was to divide the chemical literature into three points of view, namely those of production, distribution, and use.

One will find, on turning to the new edition of *A Guide to the Literature of Chemistry*, in the chapter devoted to "Problem and Objectives," that the emphasis remains the same; however, in the preface to the new edition, one finds the statement by Miss Eleanor B. Marr, the new joint author, that the second edition of the *Guide* is intended to be used both as a reference work and as a textbook. In agreement with Miss Marr, this second edition is definitely a reference work and, thus, similar in objective to the first edition. However, the new edition is a thorough and detailed analysis of many items that would be very difficult to present to the beginning student. It would seem that this work is primarily a reference work of great detail, which makes it most usable to the researcher who has had an introduction to chemical literature. From her chapter "Procedure in Literature Searches" one can see that Miss Marr is aware of such an unevenness when she writes,

Within this work, there are some errors in respect to dates of publications. Some specific omissions follow: The statement on page 172 that *Chemical Abstracts* is the only abstract journal that covers Japanese patents should be changed to include the *Referativnyi Zhurnal Khimiya*, and other parts. On page 173, the statement that the *Chemisches Zentralblatt* stopped publishing tables of patent equivalents in 1945 should be changed to point out that this service was resumed in 1953. A statement on page 187

neglects to mention that there are two *Facts for Industry*, one published by the U.S. Tariff Commission, dealing with organic chemicals, and the other by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, dealing with inorganic chemicals. On page 220 is omitted the biographic work *American Men of Science*, appearing in three extensive volumes and of the greatest use.

This book has retained many of the excellent features of the old edition, and most parts throughout have been enlarged. This new edition is still primarily for the scholar, the reference librarian, and those having passed through an elementary course in chemical literature. As a reference work, this new edition is the most important up-to-date book available on the subject and should be bought by anyone working with the literature of chemistry.—*James van Luik, Purdue University Library.*

Russian Bibliography

Zdobnov, N. V. *Istoriia russkoi bibliografii do nachala XX veka*. Izdanie tret'e. Moscow: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo kul'turno-prosvetitel'noi literatur'i, 1955. 607p. 14R. 80K.

Ten years after publication of the first edition, the third edition of N. V. Zdobnov's *History of Russian Bibliography up to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century* has appeared. The editor of this edition, Professor B. S. Bodnarskii, has revised the text slightly and added a few portraits of outstanding Russian bibliographers and facsimiles of the title pages of their works. However, the history of Russian bibliography of the twentieth century and of Soviet epoch is still unwritten, since Zdobnov's death prevented the completion of this great work.

Before Zdobnov published his work, there had been several other works on Russian bibliography, such as those of K. N. Derunov, A. I. Malein and A. G. Fomin. However, Zdobnov points out in his preface that these earlier books were not written from the Marxist point of view, which he follows.

However, Zdobnov has not given any completely new Marxist view on bibliography, as he has not been original (and under exist-