

Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. In June, 1928, a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences was held at New York, at which informal reports on the progress of the work were presented and various problems as to the plan and procedure were discussed. On December 7 the annual meeting of the board of directors was held in New York, at which a report of progress was presented by the editor-in-chief, Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman, and the budget for the year was approved.

During the year the task of selecting the titles of articles has been actively prosecuted with the coöperation of specialists in the various fields, and suggested outlines of articles have been prepared for the guidance of contributors. Plans as to biographical articles have also received attention. It is proposed to give such articles about one-fifth of the space. Approximately one half of the first volume will be devoted to introductory material, including a series of chapters on the development of the social sciences. Large progress has been made also in the selection of contributors of particular articles, and definite arrangements have been made for a considerable part of the work.

Arrangements for publication have been made with the Macmillan Company, and plans have been completed as to the format and makeup of the volumes. The price of the work will be seven dollars and a half for each of the fifteen volumes, with a forty per cent rebate to members of the constituent societies who send in their subscriptions now.

The staff, under the immediate direction of Dr. Alvin Johnson, includes twelve experts (six men and six women) who are doctors of philosophy, besides secretaries, typists, and file clerks—a total of twenty-five persons, occupying about a dozen rooms. It is hoped to have the first volume ready in September, 1929, and that other volumes will be issued at intervals of about four months.

JOHN A. FAIRLIE.

Social Science Abstracts. The long-projected and carefully-planned journal, *Social Science Abstracts*, will make its appearance at the beginning of March under the editorship of Dr. F. Stuart Chapin. The purpose of the journal is to provide brief summaries of new material as promptly as possible after publication and thus to help workers in the social sciences keep abreast of the bewildering and rapidly increasing output of new work. The fields to be covered

include economics, sociology, statistics, political science, history, cultural anthropology, and human geography. Each issue will fall into two main parts, entitled, respectively, Methodological Materials (including historical, theoretical, statistical, and philosophical method in each of the disciplines) and Systematic (Content) Materials, arranged according to the several disciplines. A provisional scheme of rubrics, arrived at in each instance only after preliminary work by special committees, followed by a large amount of consultation, has been adopted for each discipline, subject to such changes as experience may prove desirable. In political science the main divisions are: political theory, jurisprudence, municipal public law, government (historical and descriptive), political parties and politics, governmental processes, the public services, international law, international organization, and international relations since 1920. A staff of some thirty foreign advisers, a much longer list of American consulting editors, and over eight hundred abstractors has been built up, with an estimated capacity of three thousand abstracts a month. Members of the board of directors mentioned below will also serve as division editors. Abstracts will be made of articles, beginning with July 1, 1928, and also of books, monographs, pamphlets, serials, etc., beginning in 1929.

Social Science Abstracts will be issued monthly, and in the first year at least 15,000 abstracts will be printed, varying in length from a mere citation of title in the case of less important articles to several hundred words in that of important contributions printed in inaccessible journals or in the less familiar foreign languages. Abstracts will be cross-referenced in each issue, and elaborate annual indexes will be published. Periodicals in all languages—a partial list drawn up during 1928 includes several thousand—will be searched for significant materials, thus giving the service a world-wide character. The journal will be published under the general auspices of the Social Science Research Council and under the immediate control of a board of directors consisting of Dr. Isaiah Bowman, and Professors Davis R. Dewey, Ellsworth Faris, Carlton J. H. Hayes, Frederic A. Ogg, Frank A. Ross, Clark Wissler, and Robert S. Woodworth. The subscription rate is six dollars a year. Subscriptions and other communications are to be addressed to *Social Science Abstracts*, 611 Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University, New York City.

FREDERIC A. OGG.