

A PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

It is considered appropriate that the first article in this number of the Record should be a notice of a recently-completed work by the Librarian; and it is a tribute to the richness of the Library that the bulk of the material recorded is to be found there. Indeed, there are few other places where such a work could have been undertaken.

Taylor, C. R. H. *A Pacific Bibliography*; printed matter relating to the native peoples of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. Wellington: The Polynesian Society, 1951. 592 pp. 42s.

THE CONCERN WHICH HAS SOMETIMES BEEN EXPRESSED about the number of published works dealing with New Zealand could just as appropriately be felt for the output on Oceania as a whole. From the first accounts of the voyages of Cook and Bougainville to the latest Bernice P. Bishop Museum bulletin publishers have added an impressive total to the scattered references in earlier literature. Elmer D. Merrill's *Polynesian Botanical Bibliography* is an impressive example of what can be done in one field. The need, however, for some comprehensive attack on the literature as a whole has long been apparent, and this bibliographical milestone now before us, as well as being exhaustive in its subject, in large measure fills this omission. It is almost impossible to write a book about the islands without touching upon either the original way of life of the inhabitants or the problems arising from their contact with the west. A comprehensive bibliography of Oceanic ethnology is therefore basically a list of the more important works on the islands as a whole.

Though the four pages of entries under the heading *Bibliography—Oceania* show that Mr. Taylor is not a pioneer, there is no other compilation which challenges comparison. Jore's *Essai de bibliographie du Pacifique*, published twenty years ago, is less comprehensive, while