EARTHQUAKE EXPERTS CALL FOR VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

Wanted, earthquake observers! Because of a prejudice against any earthquake publicity, no adequate record has been kept of the shocks during the past few decades. With the passing of the feeling that an earthquake is a disgrace the Seismological Society of Americais asking for help in reporting the shocks.

Where were you when the floor suddently rolled under you? Did you hear any peculiar roar like that of distant cannonading? Were you awakened from your sleep suddenly with a feeling of shock? Did another shock occur while you were awake?

These are the type of question that is asked the volunteer earthquake observer by the questionaire put out by the society. They want a report of every shock in or near the vicinity of the observer.

The study of earthquakes in the west has been organized and initiated by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the Hydrographic Office of the U. S. Navy, the University of California, Leland Stanford University, the California Institute of Technology, and the Seismological Society of America.

NEW TYPEWRITER HAS 7,026 CHARACTERS

Japanese typewriters that have only one key but print 7,026 characters have been installed in northwest Japanese wholesale and commission houses. The machine makes carbons, prints from the bottom of the page and from left to right.

The typing characters are single bits of steel adjusted in a movable tray so as to be pushed into contact with a ribbon above to the paper placed in readiness for the writing.

The Japanese operator, generally a man, often writes at the rate of sixty word a minute. This is twice as fast as he can write by hand. A directory like a city street guide, helps him find an unusual character. It indicates, under the word desired, a description of the row in which the character occurs, andhow many letters up from the bottom or down from the top.

In addition to the Japanese charecters the English alphabet is tucked away in one corner.

WORKING PLANTS LONGER HOURS BY ELECTRIC LIGHT

That electric light may be used in place of sunlight and that it does not pay to use it are two of the first lessons taught by the experiments being carried on at the Boyce Thomspon Institute for Plant Research recently established in Yonkers, New York. The new laboratories give the experimenter for the first time opportunity to change one by one all the various factors affecting plant growth in the open, for in the enclosed underground rooms the temperature, humidity and composition of the air can be varied at will and so also can the amount, intensity, duration and character of the light.

In the experiments on the optimun length of illumination a variety of plants

Science Service, Inc. is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *The Science News-Letter.* www.jstor.org