REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1962-3

MEMBERSHIP:

The Society has now 159 individual and 23 institutional members in this country, and 35 individual and 9 institutional members overseas: total membership is 226. During the year 47 new members have been elected and 17 have resigned. The Council records with great regret the deaths of Mr. R. J. Hoy, Lt.-Col. C. S. Rose, and Mr. H. Robinson Shipherd (U.S.A.).

A Membership List (as at January, 1963), for circulation to members only, is being printed.

DISCUSSION MEETINGS:

During the Winter four meetings have been held at Chaucer House. The season opened in October with a characteristic inaugural address from our new Chairman (Mr. G. Norman Knight). In November Mr. James C. Thornton opened a discussion of the draft B.S. for Indexes. The response was so enthusiastic that, in spite of the severe weather, the meeting had to be resumed on the following Thursday. Mr. G. A. Lloyd of the British Standards Institution was present and rendered valuable help. Mr. John Davies of IBM British Laboratories and Mr. Peter Lewis of IBM San José Laboratories, California, spoke to us in January on "Mechanical Aids in Indexing". In February Mr. E. J. Coates, editor of the "British Technology Index", described how this monthly index to technical periodicals is compiled. Instead of our usual discussion meeting in March we visited the new Central Library at Holborn where Mr. L. H. Sidwell spoke to us about the building and the services provided by the library. Members had the privilege of a conducted tour over this much-admired modern library building. The last meeting of the season will take place after the period covered by this report and will be devoted to a discussion on Remuneration for Indexing.

The thanks of the Council are due to all who have come to speak to us, to Holborn Public Libraries for hospitality, and to the Library Association for the use of their rooms for Council and discussion meetings.

TRAINING COURSE:

The Chairman organised the Society's Third Training Course held weekly at the North-Western Polytechnic from 28th September to 7th December, 1962, which was most successful. This year an additional lecture on archive and documentary indexing was included. The Council wishes to record its thanks to the lecturers and the staff of the Department of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, for their help. The Council has decided to have a "fallow year" in 1963, but hopes to organise a course during the winter of 1964/65.

BRITISH STANDARD ON INDEXES:

The draft British Standard on Indexes was circulated to members, and the Society's representatives on the BSI Committee (Messrs. R. L. Collison, G. N. Knight and J. C. Thornton) will put forward points raised by our members, either by correspondence or at the discussion meetings, when the BSI Committee meets to draw up the final version.
PANEL OF INDEXERS:
During the year 46 enquiries were received from publishers and others who required the names of competent indexers. In response, the names of 159 of our members were given. It is now normal routine to notify members when their names are submitted to publishers. More use is being made of this service and the Council have issued a statement on the Society and its services which is being sent to publishers.

FELLOWSHIPS AND LOCAL BRANCHES:
During the year the Council discussed the awarding of Fellowships and resolved that the matter be deferred for some years as the time was not yet opportune. The setting up of local branches was also raised and it was resolved to consider this matter as soon as membership in any region warranted it.

WHEATLEY MEDAL:
The Council is disappointed to report that both the number and quality of the entries for this award for an outstanding index were disappointing and for the second year no award was made by the Library Association. The conditions have been broadened and it is hoped that these will help to produce more and better entries in future.

REMUNERATION FOR INDEXING WORK:
During the year the Council set up a Committee to consider the difficult question of remuneration. The Committee has produced a draft report which has been circulated as a basis for discussion at the last meeting of the season. The Report will then be considered by the Council in the light of comments received with a view to publication.

LIBRARY:
Members are reminded that the Society has a small library on indexing and that books may be borrowed by post (post free on outward journey). Requests should be sent to the Honorary Librarian, Mr. R. L. Collison, 39 Rudall Crescent, N.W.3. A list of the publications held in the Library appeared in The Indexer, Vol. 3, No. 2, Autumn, 1962, pp. 77-80.

"THE INDEXER":
The Society's journal The Indexer, which does so much to add to the Society's prestige, continues to be in great demand and has a world-wide circulation. The Council wishes to record its grateful thanks to Mr. John Thornton for his able editorship.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:
During the year the Officers had the pleasure of entertaining Mrs. B. J. Miller, the Corresponding Member for Australia, who was on a visit to this country. Dr. J. E. Holmstrom agreed to serve as Corresponding Member for Austria. Minutes of Council Meetings are now sent to Corresponding Members for information.

FINANCE:
The Society's finances are in a healthy state (details are published in a separate financial statement) and the Council wishes to record its thanks to the
Treasurer, Mr. R. L. Collison. As approved at last year’s A.G.M., owing to the great amount of office work the Assistant Secretary received an honorarium of £50.

SECRETARYSHIP:

Mr. and Mrs. E. Alan Baker took over the Secretaryship and Assistant Secretaryship of the Society, and the duties of Membership Secretary when Mr. T. Miller resigned on taking up a new appointment in Somerset. The Council is grateful to Mr. Miller for the great deal of work he has done for the Society.

April, 1963.

G. NORMAN KNIGHT (Chairman).
E. ALAN BAKER (Secretary).

CORRESPONDENCE

INDEXING NOVELS

Dear Sir,

The question as to whether novels should have indexes is one that is often mooted among indexers.

A case in point is Frans Venter’s *Dark Pilgrim*, published by Collins in 1959. This is a translation of the Afrikaans original, *Swart Pelgrim*, published in Cape Town by Tafelberg-Uitgewers (Edms) Beperk, date unknown to me. This book, rather similar to the well-known *Cry, the Beloved Country*, contains many African names which are puzzling to the English reader, and which one finds difficult to remember. When one comes across the name Tandiwe, for instance, one has a vague feeling of having seen it before, and naturally one wants to place it in relation to the other characters. This is where an index would make all the difference.

If, as seems likely to me, the sales of this book in the United Kingdom are good enough to warrant a second edition, I hope Messrs. Collins will consider the possibility of an index. This might well “start the ball rolling” among publishers of the more solid type of fiction.

RICHARD BOSWORTH SMITH.

ONE INDEX, OR MORE THAN ONE?

Sir,

Although not a Norman knight, may I be permitted to enter the lists in qualified support of the “More than Ones”? In one particular instance I am convinced that the value of a publication has been enhanced by the addition of a second index. The publication concerned is *Keesing’s Contemporary Archives*.

Up to inclusive Volume XI (1957-58) one index only was issued. This was a cumulative index kept continually up to date and by the end of a volume amounted to anything from eighty to one hundred pages, each page carrying four columns of entries. (An article on how this cumulative index was produced was published in *The Indexer*, Vol. 2, No. 3.)

Although this index covered every event recorded in the volume it could not include as entry-words the names of every individual mentioned in the volume. For example, in the text of one volume the names of 7,447 individuals had been re-