EDITORIAL

This, the first issue of volume four, has a new appearance; not only is the cover changed but the text has been set in double column, which is contemporary practice in periodical publishing.

The year 1964 may prove an important one in the history of indexing because of two outstanding events which have already taken place. The first is the award of the Wheatley Medal and the other is the publication of the British Standard on Indexing. Both these events are dealt with on subsequent pages.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that it has been possible to make an award for an outstanding index, and we hope that enough recommendations of books worthy of consideration for the award will be submitted in future years, so that it will become an annual event. By no other means, possibly, will indexers be so much encouraged to compile good indexes, and equally, if not more important, will authors, and especially publishers, be encouraged to realise the great importance of providing factual books with adequate indexes: adequate in length, in suitability for the subject, and in comprehensiveness. Most of us who have to refer continuously to books are often annoyed and frustrated because of the insufficiency of indexes to books we consult for facts known to be in them, but hidden because of the absence of an index or because of its insufficiency.

The British Standard will be most welcome to indexers, whether of books or of other forms of record, not only because of the very practical guidance it gives (and as B.S. 1749: 1951 on Alphabetical Arrangement has already given over many years) but also because of the great authority which the British Standards Institution enjoys. We are proud that the Society of Indexers has been privileged to play an important part in its compilation. Our correspondence columns will be open for readers' views.

It is some years since a major book fair has been held in England. Our readers who are within easy travelling distance of London will no doubt make an effort to visit the World Book Fair which is being sponsored by the Publishers' Association and organised by professional exhibition managers. It is to be held at Earls Court from 10th to 20th June 1964. In no other way can those concerned with book production in all its many aspects see the best current books in any quantity. Indexers have a special interest in books and a fair of this nature is an event not to be missed.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held at the Holborn Central Library on Saturday morning, 30th May 1964. Particulars of this, and of the social event to be held the previous evening, will be sent to all members.