purpose and it is clear what the arrange-
ment is.

Main entries will normally be arranged alphabetically, but alphabetically by first word or by whole group, e.g.:

- New Orleans or New Orleans
- Newstead or New York
- New York or Newstead

—again the really important thing is for the user to understand which kind of arrangement is being used. Here due attention should be given to B.S. 1749 'Alphabetical arrangement', which covers indexes.

**Consistency**

If, say, 'the generous but poisoned rewards of power' is indexed as: Bribes, receiving of, then 'mighty valour of a martial race' should not be indexed in the same index as: Valour, mighty, of a martial race, but rather: Bravery, typical Scottish (or whatever other adjective is appropriate). In other words, the indexer should decide on his style and stick to it. In some indexes the use of the author's words is very effective but they must not be mixed indiscriminately with the indexer's own rephrasing.

**Clarity of layout**

Certain typographic methods depend on contrast. For example, more than half a column of indentation comes to look like part of a column of unindented main entries, so that if there are a great many sub-entries under any main entry, indentation will need the assistance of contrasting type size or of dashes or rules, etc.

The sub-entries in an index may have to run on because of the lack of space, but such an index is always slow and uncertain in use compared with an index where each new sub-entry starts with a new line.

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**Clemency Canning**

The subject of this valuable biography is Charles John, 1st Earl Canning, a son of George Canning, the famous Foreign Secretary (and later Prime Minister) who 'called the New World into existence to redress the balance of the Old'. Earl Canning was a Governor-General and the first Viceroy of India, for during his six-year term of office broke out the Indian Mutiny of 1857. The nickname 'Clemency' was bestowed upon him as the result of his measures (for which he incurred great odium at the time) to prevent innocent sepoys being punished with the guilty.

The author (and indexer) is a Fellow and the Senior Tutor of Trinity College, Oxford, as well as a great-great-great-nephew of the subject of his biography. The first thing to notice about the index is that it is the work of the author himself, thus confirming the view that, provided he is willing to master the technique, an author can be the ideal indexer of his own books.

In a letter to the present reviewer, Mr. Maclagan admits that this is the first index 'of any moment' that he has ever compiled. It took him three to four weeks without working 'flat-out'. It was, he says, a labour of love—but also of respect, by which I mean the respect due to the reader and perhaps even more to other historians.

The index, over which the compiler has obviously taken considerable pains to render it as serviceable as possible, occupies 70 columns for a text of some 380 pages, which seems good measure. It is preceded (as recommended by the new British Standard on Indexing) by four useful preliminary notes, explaining that: (1) places not shown on the maps have been given
a reference to the nearest well-known town; (2) Indian names with more than one spelling have been given under both [or should it read ‘under each’?]; (3) historical personages are given under the name by which they are best known, e.g., Palmerston, not Temple, but Vernon Smith, not Lord Lyveden. [There is entirely justifiably no entry for Henry John Temple, but there is one for Lyveden, Lord, with a cross-reference to Smith, Robert Vernon]; (4) 40 of the more important ‘abstract’ headings are listed. ['Abstract' is used here presumably in contradistinction to names of persons and places, for it is doubtful if some of these headings, e.g., ‘Commons, House of’, ‘East India Coy’, ‘European troops’ and ‘Newspapers’, would qualify in the B.B.C. radio programme of ‘Twenty Questions’ as abstract conceptions.]

Mr. Maclagan has adopted the ‘run-on’ system for his sub-headings, which are numerous and are arranged according to the sequence of the page-references. Since the text runs chronologically, this is probably the best order in this case, and it also saves the indexer having to hunt for suitable key-words for his sub-headings, as must be done when they are arranged alphabetically.

Throughout the index, except in the main heading devoted to him, Lord Canning appears very sensibly in the abbreviated form of Cg. The entry for Lord Canning occupies no fewer than three whole pages and is divided into four sections: Career; Appearance; Character; Opinions. In the light of Mr. G. V. Carey’s strictures on this subject*, may one with all deference suggest that a least the first of these sections, which fills nearly four columns (including a block of 48 page numbers under ‘Mentioned briefly’), is really unnecessary since it is practically a synopsis of the entire text, while the majority of topics occurring in its subheadings can be found far more readily by consulting the appropriate separate headings.

In this connexion, one very minor discrepancy is detectable. Under Career we come across a sub-entry: ‘introduces “Gagging Act” for Press, 101-4’, while under ‘Gagging Act’ as a separate entry the page numbers are given as 101-2 (the page-reference italics are mine.)

Again, several printers’ errors reveal themselves. In the first place, the British Standard lays down that wherever subheadings overflow from one column on to the next, the heading (or its key-word) shall be repeated at the top of the new column, followed by (contd.). But this has not been done in this index. Secondly, the usual space between letters has been omitted in the case of T and U. Thirdly, we have an entry:

Colvin, John Russell (d. 1857) . . . grant
to do work of, 120

Here ‘grant’ does not refer to a grant-in-aid, as might well be imagined, but to Sir John Peter Grant and should have been furnished with a capital initial letter. Moreover, as another Grant—Gen. Sir Patrick—figures largely in the story, the initials ‘J.P.’ might perhaps have been added with advantage.

Of the many unusual excellences in this index I must mention just one. Where the name of a historical character occurs as a main heading, in nearly every case it is followed by the date of death in brackets, as with Colvin above. This innovation, which is particularly useful in a historical biography, must have involved consider-

*See 3rd edn. of Making an Index, by G. V. Carey (C.U.P., 1963) or his ‘No Room at the Top’ (The Indexer, Vol. II, p. 120).
quite well go in and I have not searched the book for them. There are doubtless scores more.

First words of headings or entries are not repeated for second entries beginning with the same word, neither are second or subsequent ones. This results in waste of time in consultation because one cannot always immediately determine the meaning of an entry, and it results in the breaking up of the names of institutions and publications. It is apparently done to save space in the index but this does not always result. Examples:

1. Indian
   Agricultural Res Inst H3221
   Council of
   Agricultural research M313
   World affairs K112
   Science
   abstracts D13
   bibliography M32
   in
   Fourth Plan M332
   Third Plan M33

   [Note.—Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Council of World Affairs are both proper names and Indian science abstracts is the name of a periodical.]

2. National
   central
   medical library M312
   science library M2
   Building of M17
   Capital budget for M82

   There are four pages of definitions. I checked the first five entries; they are all entered but only two with the indication that they are definitions and three of them have wrong numbers, the chapter number being either duplicated or omitted. This last is not surprising because of the omission of each chapter heading number in each paragraph or sub-paragraph in the text.

This index suggests that the work was allocated to a junior clerk who was told to index according to the words of the paragraph heading and was given no instructions about duplicate entries, consistency in entering or making sure that he knew the subject matter of the paragraphs. Much of the usefulness of this book, as with other of Ranganathan’s books, is lost because of inadequate or inaccurate indexing.

L. M. H.

NO COMMENT

‘There is even a classified index on “methods” from “A” for “Assassination” to “W” for “Without a Body Murders”’ —Bernard McElwaine, reviewing Encyclopaedia of murder, by Colin Wilson and Patricia Pitman (Pan) in the Sunday Mirror, January 5, 1964.

Clemency Canning, contd. from p. 20.

able research. Where he has been unable to supply the date of death the indexer sometimes replaces it with a brief but colourful description, as in the following:

Khanlar Mirza, craven Persian prince, 53.

If the test of a good index is that it enables the user to find what he is seeking in the text with the greatest of ease, then the index to Clemency Canning triumphantly passes the test. The Indexer would like to be associated with the congratulations due to Mr. Maclagan for his well-deserved award. He has undoubtedly compiled an outstanding index. Perfect, perhaps no. But then who can claim to have compiled the perfect index?

G. N. K.