CORRESPONDENCE

ONE INDEX OR MORE THAN ONE?

Sir,

My friend Brigadier Searight seeks 'to enter the lists in qualified support of the "More than Ones"', and I am ready horsed to tilt a lance in a joust with him.

He cites the separate indexes for Subjects and Names in Keesing's Contemporary Archives. I freely admit that the thitherto single index, admirable as it had been, was greatly enhanced in value by the addition of Names in 1959, but why as a separate index? I would venture to suggest that the improvement would have been even greater had the Names been incorporated in a General Index.

The chief obstacle to the integration of Subjects and Names at present would seem to lie in the fact that the two indexes are published at different intervals, the Subject Index appearing fortnightly while the Names Index is issued quarterly.

There may well be reasons of production for this discrepancy, of which I am quite ignorant. But both indexes are cumulative and I can see no insuperable difficulty in the way of assimilating at the end of each year.

There is one aspect of Keesing's Archives which, I am bound to confess, grievously disappoints me. Although on the first page of each index the names of the Joint Editors and the whole body of co-operating experts are all given, what I should have thought equally important in the context is missing—the name of the indexer himself is nowhere shown. Now the new British Standard of Indexing expressly recommends very strongly that in any substantial index credit be given to the compiler by name. Perhaps after its publication the above state of affairs will be remedied and we shall be free to discover the name of the compiler of these exceptionally carefully constructed indexes. But would that they were one!

Yours faithfully,

G. Norman Knight.

PERSONALIA

The Council has learned with great regret the death of a member, Mr. G. Harding, of Harrow, who joined the Society in 1960.

Mr. John Askling, the Society's Corresponding Member for Northern U.S.A., has now found a new occupation, although this will not involve his giving up his highly successful indexing business, for which a year or so ago advertisements were appearing in the (London) Times Literary Supplement. He has been appointed a teacher at Salisbury School, Salisbury, Connecticut. At this Church of England 'preparatory' school (which takes pupils up to the age of 18) he teaches 'Literature in the English language'—this includes indexing and abstracting—and French. The Indexer congratulates Mr. Askling on being able to instil the principles of indexing in the minds of young men of such a receptive age and wishes him all success in his new profession.
Mr. James Thornton, a Vice-President of the Society, is the indexer of the first volume of the Pilgrim edition of The Letters of Charles Dickens, edited by Graham Storey and Madeline House, which is due for publication shortly. He is also compiling the subject-index for the entire edition of at least seven volumes. The project has already taken some seven years.

Two members of the Society are involved in an event of considerable significance in the legal world—the recent publication of the Index to the new (3rd) edition of Halsbury's Laws of England (Butterworths) in 43 volumes. The Index itself comprises two whole volumes, each of roughly 1,000 double-columned pages and contains approximately 350,000 entries. The Chief Editor of this colossal work is Mr. A. R. Hewitt, the first Chairman of the Society of Indexers and now one of its two Vice-Presidents. He has been working on this particular task for eight years and deserves the warmest congratulations on the successful completion of a remarkably fine achievement. In the early stages the indexing of a number of the volumes was personally carried out by Mr. Hewitt, but latterly he found it necessary to assemble a team of indexers and to devote himself to co-ordinating and editing their work. In this he was assisted by Mr. C. C. Banwell, a new recruit to the Society's ranks, and his name is bracketed with Mr. Hewitt's at the beginning of the Index volume. It is refreshing to find such a prominent credit being given to their names, together with those of their three principal collaborators.

Gerald A. Willey, of Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., has joined the staff of Clyde Williams and Company. In his new position, Willey will manage the information services provided through the firm's technical public relations division. International in scope, Clyde Williams and Company specialises in research management, technical communications, market analysis, and business advisory services. Willey graduated from Ohio State University in 1954. He is a member of the Society of Technical Writers and Publishers and the Society of Indexers.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS
It is to be hoped that any overseas member who contemplates paying a visit to this country will notify the Secretary, so that the Society may be given the opportunity of suitably entertaining him or her.

INDEXER REQUIRED for Abstracts Journal dealing with applied chemistry: Knowledge of organic chemistry and nomenclature preferable.

Apply General Secretary,
Society of Chemical Industry, 14 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1