MEMBERSHIP

The present membership of the Society comprises 173 individuals and 25 institutions in this country, and 48 individuals and 15 institutions overseas; making a total of 261. This is an increase of 15 over last year.

DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Owing to poor attendance at meetings the Council decided to hold only three meetings this season. Mr. Michael Maclagan, the first Wheatley Medallist, spoke on the indexing of his book *Clemency Canning*; Mr. John Thornton gave a talk on *Editing The Indexer*; and Dr. J. E. Holmstrom read a paper on *The Indexing of Scientific Books*. Unfortunately these meetings were poorly attended by members. It is difficult for the Council to ask speakers to take the considerable time and trouble needed to prepare papers for the Society if only a dozen or so members are present.

The cordial thanks of the Council are due to our speakers, and the Library Association for the use of their rooms for Council and Discussion meetings.

The Society held its first Sherry Party on the eve of the Annual General Meeting. By kind permission of the Director this was held in the Council Chamber of Aslib. The Society was able to entertain a number of distinguished guests and members had an opportunity of meeting each other in congenial surroundings. The Annual General Meeting was held in the new Holborn Central Library building by kind permission of the Borough Librarian. After the business meeting our President, Mr. G. V. Carey, spoke about the rôle of the Society in the publishing world.

PANEL

During the year the Society has received 49 enquiries for indexers from publishers and others, and 140 names of members have been submitted. This is a reduction of 18 on last year, but does not mean that publishers are making less use of members, as frequently a publisher who receives a good index, as a result of a Society recommendation, will approach the same indexer for more work without getting into touch with the Society again. The Council is concerned about the indifferent quality of a few of the indexes received from members of the panel and wishes to remind members that the reputation of the Society stands or falls by the standard of the work which they undertake.

TRAINING COURSE

The most important aim of the Society is the improvement of the standard of indexing and to this end the fourth Training Course was held at the North Western Polytechnic at the beginning of 1965. There was a good response, as 45 persons enrolled for the complete course. Thanks are due to the Chairman for organising the course and to Mr. Derek Langridge and the Department of Librarianship of the North Western Polytechnic for their help and co-operation.

The Council is considering a long-term policy for the provision of training for indexers and the raising of the standard of indexes.
WHEATLEY MEDAL

The Joint Committee of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers selected J. M. Dickie’s *How to catch trout* published by W. and R. Chambers (indexed by the author) for the 1963 award. The Committee highly commended the index to H. R. Kahn’s *Salaries in public services in England and Wales*, published by Allen and Unwin. The index was compiled by Mrs. J. M. Line, a member of the Society, whom the Council congratulate on this well-deserved commendation.

FINANCE

The finances of the Society are in a healthy state. Full details will be available at the A.G.M.

THE INDEXER

The Society’s journal *The Indexer* continues to increase its world-wide circulation. The Council gratefully acknowledge the vast amount of work which the preceding editor (Mr. John Thornton) and the present editor (Mr. L. M. Harrod) have done to provide the Society with a journal which does so much to add to its prestige.

CONCLUSION

The Society continues to grow and to make a considerable impact on the bibliographical, library and publishing worlds. During the year the work of the Society has been the subject of articles in the professional and trade press, in *The Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement*, in addition to a delightful article on the award of the first Wheatley Medal in the *New Yorker*.

G. NORMAN KNIGHT, Chairman.
E. ALAN BAKER, Hon. Secretary.

THE SECRETARIAT

Since its formation in 1957 the Society of Indexers has had five Hon. Secretaries. The first was the present Chairman, who served until 1958 with Mr. Derek Langridge as Hon. Assistant Secretary, and again from 1960 to 1962 with Mr. Terence Miller as Hon. Assistant Secretary. In between those periods Mr. René Hague and the late Dr. L. E. C. Hughes each filled the office. Every one of the officers mentioned had his own individual contribution to make to the Society’s well-being.

Retirement of Mr. and Mrs. E. Alan Baker. It was a fortunate day for the Society when in May, 1962, Alan Baker was elected Hon. Secretary, with his wife Joan to assist him. It came as something of a shock earlier in the present year when it was learnt that, owing to the former's continued ill-health, they would not be standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. Both have worked indefatigably in promoting the welfare of the Society. How successful have been their efforts during their three years in office is shown—just one indication—by the rise in membership from 191 to the present figure of 261. Alan Baker was particularly successful in his relations with authors and publishers and in devising an improved system for the panel of indexers. He also showed himself a born organizer, whether of the Society's business meetings or of its cocktail-parties.

On Joan Baker during her husband's illness fell not only the task of nursing him but also practically the whole of the secretarial duties.

It is good to know that Alan Baker's wide experience and wise counsel will not be entirely lost to the Society, for he will