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
continue to serve as a member of the Council.

The New Secretary. To fill their places the Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Mr. C. R. ('Dick') Raper and Mrs. Anthea Raper. Our new Secretary is by profession an agronomist, aged 36. He is on the staff of the Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops, at Hurley, being employed in indexing and information retrieval.

He was educated at Eastbourne College (which previously had as its headmaster our President, Mr. G. V. Carey) and at Nottingham University, graduating in 1953 with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. After two more years' study at Cambridge and the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad (now part of the University of the West Indies) he joined the Department of Agriculture in Malaya. He has since travelled extensively in Australia, New Zealand, the Bahamas and Canada, where he met his wife (they have two sons of four and two) and where he visited almost every university and major agricultural research station.

Mrs. Raper is no stranger to secretarial work since for several years she was Assistant College Secretary at Balliol, Oxford.

The Indexer wishes to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Raper (and the Society) on their appointment and to convey its best wishes for many successful years in office. Mr. Raper is anxious that members will communicate to him their views on how the Society can best serve the needs of its members and the profession of indexing, as well as news of any appointments or other matters of interest for inclusion in these columns.

The Membership Secretary. In order to ease the strain on the new Secretary and Assistant Secretary it was also decided at the A.G.M. to revive the office of Membership Secretary, which has twice been successfully held in the past—by the late Alfred Talbot and by Terence Miller. The Membership Secretary will in future be responsible for seeing to the renewal of members' annual subscriptions and also the collection of subscriptions to The Indexer.

The member elected to fill this office is Mrs. Margaret Anderson, whose name must be very familiar to our readers as a result of her many lively (and invariably sound) contributions to these columns.

Mrs. Anderson was educated at Newnham College, Cambridge, where she obtained a First in the Natural Sciences Tripos and later received a grant for scientific research. She may be described as almost a life-long indexer, for she started at a very early age by assisting her father, the late Sir William Dampier, in the compilation of the indexes to some of the books he wrote on scientific and other subjects. Her grandchildren (she tells me) take great delight in her indexing activities for they find they can play many fascinating games with her discarded index cards.

SOCIETY NEWS

During the Winter season the Society held three Discussion Meetings at Chaucer House (by courtesy of the Library Association). At the first, on January 21st, Mr. Michael Maclagan, the first Wheatley medallist, spoke most entertainingly on his index to his biography of Clemency Canning; in the second (February 18th) Mr. John Thornton gave an informative account of his stewardship as editor for five years of The Indexer (see page 99); while finally on March 25th Dr. J. E.