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.

G. N. K.

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.
Holmstrom spoke with authority on the indexing of scientific works (see page 123). All these talks were interesting and stimulated fruitful discussion. These meetings are so obviously a useful means of exchanging ideas and methods of indexing that I think it appropriate to echo the Chairman's remarks at the AGM by appealing to members to make a point of attending the meetings to be held the coming season.

On the evening of May 28th the Society held a sherry party in the beautiful Council Chamber at ASLIB headquarters in Belgrave Square. Our President and Mrs. Carey were present and some 40 other members. The Chairman welcomed members and guests, who included Mr. J. E. Morpurgo, Director of the National Book League; Mr. Tillett, Assistant Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*; Mr. K. Spencer, Librarian to the Ministry of Aviation; and Mr. George Robinson of The Bodley Head.

A delightful evening was spent, for which the cordial thanks of the Society are due to the Director of ASLIB and Mr. Jack Bird, as well as the willing volunteer helpers who had been found by Mr. Alan Baker. The latter was unfortunately not well enough to attend.

The eighth Annual General Meeting was held next morning, the 29th May. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were re-elected, as were the Hon. Auditors. Of the two Council Members who retired by rotation, Miss R. D. Coole was re-elected, while in place of Mr. Tom Barlow, who did not seek re-election, Mrs. Margaret Anderson was elected.

For reasons given on page 92 of the Spring *Indexer*, Mr. and Mrs. Baker felt unable to seek re-election as Hon. General Secretary and Assistant Hon. Secretary respectively. The Chairman paid a tribute to their valuable services and those members present expressed regret at the news of their retirement. As a mark of appreciation, it was resolved to present to them a gift of books of their own choosing.

To succeed them I was elected as Honorary Secretary and my wife Anthea as Assistant Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Margaret Anderson was elected as Membership Secretary in addition to her work with the Council, in order to help with collection of subscriptions.

The business part of the meeting was followed by a break for coffee, after which members enjoyed a most interesting talk by Mr. J. C. Thornton, a Vice-President, his subject being the compilation of his index to the Pilgrim Edition of *The letters of Charles Dickens*, edited by Madeline House and Graham Storey (see page 119). An exhilarating discussion ensued.

Members will help me in my task by keeping me informed of works they have recently indexed, as well as of their other interests and activities.

Meetings of the Society are to be held in London in October, January and March. Particulars will be sent to members by post.

The Council are considering a suggestion that a group should be formed to visit the Netherlands in the summer of 1966 to examine libraries, bibliographical centres and indexing techniques in that country. The tour would probably last eight to fourteen days. Before considering the matter further the Council would like to know what support the suggestion is likely to be given. Would readers interested please inform the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

C. R. R.