Collison, Librarian of the British Broadcasting Corporation, are recommended. These are: *Indexing books* (1962) and *Indexes and Indexing* (2nd ed. 1959), both published by Ernest Benn.

One could quote hundreds of 'horrible examples'; nearly every review section of newspapers and literary weeklies contains the expression of a critic's regret at the absence, or the inadequacy, of a book's index. But one has particular reason for remembering the scholarly volume issued by a university press which contains 265 quarto pages, 130,000 words—and no index.

Librarians in particular deplore the selectiveness of the index to a standard social history of this country, which suggests from its entries that the only mention of public libraries in this country is for the 17th century, although careful perusal of the text discovers quite adequate treatment of the subject: omissions such as this result in mistrust of the whole work.

There is likely to be no legislation in respect of this aspect of British manufacturers. Is there, perhaps, scope for a voluntary agreement—a publishing code—to which all would be invited to adhere? It is thoughts such as these which prompted the institution of the Wheatley Medal by the Library Association, as a method of drawing attention to the need for better indexing, and of giving recognition where it was deserved in this neglected field.

The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals for children's books have not been without effect. One hopes that British book indexes will soon improve similarly, but has the uncomfortable feeling that it will be a slower process!

### NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Members have been keeping their Secretary and the Council busy with various matters of interest. From overseas Mrs. Brenda Miller, our corresponding member from Australia, writes that she has moved with her husband to Clayton in Victoria and would be pleased to attend to inquiries concerning the Society in that part of the world. Her new, but temporary, address is given on the last page of this issue. Mr. J. C. Wyllie, a life member and correspondent for the Southern States of the U.S.A., has from time to time passed on news on indexing from his library at the University of Virginia. Dr. Theodore C. Hines, a member from Columbia University, New York, U.S.A., has prepared in association with Mrs. Jessica L. Harris *Computer filing of index, bibliographic and catalog entries*, (School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York.) Mrs. K. H. Parker from Ottawa, Canada, has sent us an *Index of the Debates of the Senate of Canada*. She is Index and Revisions Clerk to the Senate.

Back in England there is much to report on members' activities. Brigadier E. E. G. L. Searight, C.B.E., M.C., has helped an inquirer by discussing the tricky problem of indexing Islamic names; his notes are reproduced in this issue. Several members had an opportunity to meet Mr. Robert J. Palmer and his wife, at the beginning of October. Mr. Palmer, a member from New York, was in England for a short while on holiday. They both had an opportunity to meet our Chair-
man, Mr. Norman Knight, Mrs. Margaret Anderson and Mr. Robert L. Collison at a cocktail party.

Mr. Alan Baker was co-opted to the Council in July last year; he has been of great help with his advice. It is regretted that in September Miss A. M. McGrath, the Archivist of the Hudson Bay Co., resigned from the Council because of other commitments, but she assures me that she will continue to keep a close interest in the Society. In early January, Mr. Robert L. Collison, who has been the Society's Hon. Treasurer since its foundation in 1957, found himself obliged to ask the Chairman to release him from office because of his numerous other commitments, which many members will know about. In his place Mrs. Margaret Anderson, our Membership Secretary, agreed at an extraordinary Council meeting in mid-January to accept the appointment of Acting Treasurer for the remainder of the financial year.

It is appropriate at this stage to remind members that subscriptions became due on April 1st and to advise members that the Council has been obliged, for the Society's efficient running, to rule that those members whose subscriptions are not paid up by September 21st will have their names struck from the mailing lists of The Indexer and Society circulars. The constitution states that members whose subscriptions are 12 months in arrears shall automatically cease to be members of the Society. This rule will also be applied more strictly in future.

Up to now this has been a year of consolidation and appreciation of our function in the 'World of Indexing', which includes the more formal problems of information retrieval, indexing of books and journals, preparing name lists and also in the field of cataloguing. It must be remembered that the Society exists to raise and maintain a high standard of indexing; keep a list of Panel Members who can be called upon through the Society to prepare indexes for publishers, authors and others; to act as an advisory body; to publish and disseminate information on the subject; and to safeguard where possible the interests of its members. The Secretary and other officers will welcome any suggestions and inquiries which will allow the Society to fulfil these worthwhile aims, be they from members or other readers of this journal.

There has been an emphasis on the sciences in our 1965-6 Winter programme. Judging by the increased attendance at the first two meetings, it has been well accepted. In October Mr. J. E. L. Farradane discussed the interests and activities of the Institute of Information Scientists and in January Mr. John Martyn talked on the use of Citation Indexes. At both meetings lively discussion followed the lectures. This is not the place to discuss them further as the papers presented by the two speakers are appearing in The Indexer. Nevertheless it was also a good opportunity for members to meet each other and for our several guests to see what we do.

The Society welcomes the formation of the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association and the launching of their new journal Catalogue and Index. Their interests fill a much-felt need in the library field and we wish them every success in this new venture. We hope to keep in close touch with the Group and to this end tentative plans are in hand to plan a joint Winter meeting in January 1967.
Members are asked to note that your Secretary has not yet received any inquiries on the proposed visit to the Netherlands during the Summer as a result of the kind invitation by Dr. W. Heckscher. Would interested members please contact him immediately, since arrangements cannot be made at short notice. The opportunity that such a tour offers is well worth consideration by those wishing to broaden their experience.

During the last six months members on the Society’s Panel of Indexers have been recommended to publishers and others to make indexes for over 100 publications (books, volumes of journals, symposia, etc.). Inquiries for indexers are welcomed, as there are on the panel members capable of compiling indexes on just about any subject that readers may care to mention: but a word of caution: this is only a courtesy service provided by the Society, so all final arrangements for an index must be made between the inquirer and the member concerned. Would members please keep in touch with the Secretary if they wish to be recommended, inform him of contacts which result from the Society’s recommendations and provide information on other recent work undertaken.

As members may remember, a questionnaire was circulated last September asking for comments on the best way to hold our various functions and on matters that should receive attention. Just over 100 returns were received, and after adjustment for incomplete forms and forms received after the closing date at the end of November the valid replies were assessed at 43% of the United Kingdom membership. The information gleaned from the returns is enormous and will be reported upon later. Immediately it has guided the Council in their decision to hold the Annual General Meeting this year on the same day as the sherry party; further details will be circulated before the end of April. Meanwhile please note both functions will be held during the second half of May.

We have received a steady stream of inquiries concerning the Society which has resulted in a continuing acceptance of new members who are listed below:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS—U.K.
Mrs. H. K. Bell, B.A. Herts.
Mrs. O. R. Bradley, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S. London
Mrs. V. L. Chandler, B.A., A.L.A.A London
Mr. K. K. Covill Oxford
Mrs. V. C. Findlay, B.Sc. Reading
Mrs. S. Hibbert, B.A. Oxford
Mr. B. R. Hunter, B.A., DIP. LIB., A.L.A. London
Miss M. Johnson, B.A., M.A., F.I.A. Durham
Mrs. M. Kendall, F.L.A. Lancs.
Mr. J. A. Kewell, DIP. PUBLIC ADMIN. Reading
Mrs. P. Millard London
Mr. A. W. Morley Kent
Mr. K. Morton Middlesex
Mr. E. C. Petrie Essex
Mrs. K. M. Suggate Herts.
Mr. A. A. Whittle Devon
Mrs. E. M. Willoughby, B.Sc. Wilts.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS—OVERSEAS
Mrs. Beverley J. Brewster, A.B., A.M.L.S. U.S.A.
Mr. D. G. Fenwick New Zealand
Miss P. M. Fiddes, F.I.A. U.S.A.
Mr. Gnarowski, B.A., M.A. Canada
Miss M. J. Hogan, DIP. LIB., A.L.A. Eire
Mr. Aemil Pouler, M.SACR. THEOL. U.S.A.
Mrs. J. H. Young, A.M. U.S.A.

INSTITUTIONAL
Iliffe Books Ltd. London
Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. London
Society for Analytical Chemistry C.R.R.

Members are reminded that they may borrow books from the Society’s library. Application should be made to Mr. R. L. Collison, 39 Rudall Crescent, London, N.W.3.