modities mentioned by Hakluyt and thus of virtually all the commodities known to the Elizabethans.

Such an arrangement, combining synthesis within analysis, would not serve for a normal index since it would take too much time and would swell the resulting index to unmanageable size. But it is perfect for this special text which is 'one of the more famous works of Elizabethan history and literature' and, as such, a source book for scholars, writers, scientists, thinkers and journalists everywhere in the world. Mrs. Quinn was dealing with barely accessible material, as far as the ordinary reader is concerned; and her index is outstanding for the intelligent, imaginative, and scholarly way in which she has solved the intractable problems such material must inevitably present to the indexer.

One other index, of those submitted for consideration, was singled out by the committee for special commendation. This was the index by Mr. J. C. Thornton (elected President of the Society in May of this year) to The Letters of Charles Dickens, edited by Madeline House and Graham Storey, two volumes (The Clarendon Press, £6 6s.). Mr. Thornton was faced with a formidable task of compression and has succeeded in it so well that 700 pages of text are admirably served in 40 pages of indexing. The first three pages contain a straightforward, alphabetical list of those with whom Dickens corresponded—a model of what such notes should contain—and then come thirty-six pages in which the main contents of the letters are entered and classified for the benefit of all readers and scholars.

The work involved in making this index and the difficulties it posed were described to members of the Society of Indexers by the indexer himself at a talk given at the Society's Annual General Meeting in May, 1965. The substance of the talk was published in The Indexer, Volume 4, pages 99-105.

Most of the indexes submitted for consideration for the 1965 Medal reached a standard well above the general run of entries in previous years. This suggests that the award is beginning to attract the right kind of entries and is serving the purpose for which it was primarily designed—to raise the level of book indexing in England.

Readers are reminded that recommendations for consideration for the Wheatley Medal 1966 should be sent to the Secretary, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London, W.C.1, not later than 1st April, 1967. The conditions were printed on page 90 of the Spring 1965 issue of The Indexer.

PERSONALIA

René Hague, a former Hon. Secretary of the Society (1958-9), and his wife Joan have had a book by Robert Speaight dedicated to them. This is his new Life of Eric Gill (Methuen), the famous sculptor, book-illustrator and typographical designer (of—amongst others—Gill Sans and Perpetua types) who died in 1940. Reviewing this biography in The Daily Telegraph (June 23), Rayner Heppenstall believes that the choice of the illustrations was made by René Hague and that it was the Hagues who appointed Robert Speaight as Eric Gill's 'official' biographer. Mrs. Hague is Gill's youngest daughter and for over 20 years after his death they lived in his house, Pigotts, Speen, Bucks.

John L. Thornton, former Hon. Editor of The Indexer, has two books coming out in October. These are: Medical books, libraries and collectors, 2nd ed. rewritten (Deutsch), and Selected readings in the history of librarianship which comprises revised editions, with additional matter, of Classics of librarianship and Mirror for librarians (Library Association).

Brig. E. E. G. L. Searight was described in our Spring issue as Editor of Keesing's Contemporary Archives. He is Indexer of this publication.