OUR CONTRIBUTORS

G. Norman Knight. A founder of the Society of Indexers of which he was first Hon. Secretary, and is now a Vice-President.

Mrs. M. D. Law is a former Editor of Chambers' encyclopaedia.

Dr. Peter Spufford is Honorary Secretary of the British Record Society and a member of the staff of the Department of History at the University of Keele, Staffs.

Oliver Stallybrass, formerly cataloguer at the London Library and Librarian of the Royal Institution, is now an author, translator, editor and literary consultant.

PERSONALIA

Congratulations to Mr. R. L. Collison, a founder member of the Society and former Hon. Treasurer, who has resigned his position of Librarian of the B.B.C. and leaves England in May to return to the Library (in Los Angeles) of the University of California where he worked during 1951-52.

Mrs. Doreen Blake, a member of the Society, has just completed a ten-year task which is being published by Cambridge University Press with the title The Journal of anatomy: index to the first 100 years, 1866-1966. It is hoped that an account of Mrs. Blake's work will appear in the next issue of The Indexer.

Because of rapid developments in the management field during the six years of its existence, the classification scheme used for the Anbar Documentation Service on Organization, Management and Methods has recently been revised following an investigation by a member of the Society, Mr. K. G. B. Bakewell, F.L.A., A.M.B.I.M. The revised classification will be used from Volume 7 and there will be adequate cross-references to the classification scheme used for Volumes 1 to 6 so that the abstracts can still be used for retrospective searching.

FREEMASON INDEXERS

Skilled Freemason indexers are invited to participate, on a voluntary basis, in a project for the indexing of the 80 volumes of Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the premier Lodge of Masonic research in the world. Each indexer would be asked to undertake the indexing of a single volume of the Transactions. To ensure a proper and uniform standard of work they would each be supplied with a copy of 'Notes for Guidance' prepared by A. R. Hewitt, Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England, a Vice-President of the Society.

Those interested and willing to help in this important work are invited to write to the Lodge Secretary, Harry Carr, 27 Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2.

OBITUARY

E. ALAN BAKER

It is with great regret that we record the death on September 18th, 1967, of Alan Baker at the age of 53. This sad and premature event was very briefly noticed in last autumn's Indexer, then in the press.

Alan Baker joined the Society of Indexers in 1962 and the same year was elected its Honorary Secretary, his wife Joan serving as Hon. Assistant Secretary and Membership Secretary. This admirable partnership continued until 1965, when they were compelled to resign their appointments owing to Alan's continued ill-health. His secretaryship was notable for the close relations he established with publishers, for having completely re-organized the Society's panel of indexers, and for the extremely thoughtful and exhaustive memorandum on the 'Future Policy of the Society' which he produced in March 1964. Many of its proposals have since been adopted by the Council. He was also responsible for organizing the first of the Society's sherry parties, which have subsequently become an annual event.

Educated at Hereford Cathedral School and at St. Christopher's, Letchworth, Alan Baker became a distinguished and very active librarian. He joined the staff of the National...
Central Library in 1932 and during the war years was in charge of its Information Department, which remained in London when the rest of the N.C.L. was evacuated. After three years (1946-9) as Reference Librarian at Holborn Central Library he was appointed Chief Librarian to the Ministry of Food, later becoming responsible also for its archives. It was during this time that he wrote, in collaboration with D. J. Foskett, the Bibliography of food (Butterworth, 1958). When the Ministry of Food was amalgamated with that of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1956, Alan was transferred to the Chief Librarianship of the Ministry of Supply, which in due course became the Ministry of Aviation. He was a member of the Circle of State Librarians.

In 1964 he retired prematurely from the Civil Service because of ill-health and accepted a part-time job as librarian in charge of the London University Library Depository at Egham, near his home. He was devoted to librarianship and interested in its every aspect. His connexion with the Library Association, which he joined in 1932 (A.L.A., 1938; F.L.A., 1964) was intimate. Among its many committees on which he served he was Hon. Treasurer of the University and Research Section (1946-7) and its Hon. Secretary thereafter till 1951, being nominated as its representative on the L.A. Council. He was also active on Aslib committees.

Alan Baker's indexing activities included compiling the index to the following publications: The Economist from 1962 to 1966; The year's work in librarianship for 1936, '37 and '38 (L.A.); The Commonwealth Universities' yearbook for 1961 and 1962 (Association of Universities of the Commonwealth); and Criterion—a cumulative index for the whole of that literary magazine's existence (1922-39). This last-named has not yet been published.

At the funeral, which was held at St. John's Crematorium, Woking, on September 22nd, a moving address was delivered by the Rev. R. H. P. King, Vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water, who spoke of the enormous courage with which Alan had faced his final, crippling illness. The writer of this short memoir, who was privileged to represent the Society of Indexers at that ceremony, feels that by the passing of Alan Baker he has lost more than a doughty opponent at chess; he has lost a devoted friend.

The dearest friend, the kindest man,
The best-conditioned and unwearied spirit
In doing courtesies.

To his widow, who tended him so devotedly throughout his illness, and to their 13-year-old daughter, Diana, the members of the Society of Indexers offer their deepest sympathy.

G.N.K.

K. HOWARD DRAKE

It is also with regret that we have to record the death in November of Mr. K. Howard Drake, Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies since 1947, when the Institute was founded, and a member of the Society. He was also Editor of the Index to foreign legal periodicals and had been Secretary of the Selden Society since 1951. An obituary appeared in The Times of 28th November.

To Overseas Members. Will any member who proposes visiting the United Kingdom during the year very kindly get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, so as to give Council members an opportunity of entertaining him or her in London.

W. G. Overand, reviewing The chemistry of cellulose and wood by H. I. Nikitin (published in Israel and distributed by Oldbourne Press, London, 1898.) in Chemistry and industry of 7th October, 1967, wrote: 'Those who persevere will find much useful information in this book, but only by the expenditure of considerable effort because a better index is needed and the book is difficult to read.'