elected to succeed him as President of the Society of Indexers and by his intense interest in our activities showed himself to be anything but a mere figurehead. In 1965 he had delivered a delightful talk at the A.G.M. on 'How I Indexed Dickens's Letters', in which he described his indexing of Volume I of the Pilgrim Edition of the Letters of Charles Dickens as well as giving an impression of his work as a member of the Editorial Committee of the Pilgrim Trust. In addition he was responsible for the fine lecture on 'The Long Index' in the Society's Training Course; this can be studied in full in Training in Indexing, recently published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press.

His contributions to The Indexer included a short piece in Volume I entitled 'On the Rocks', which was later referred to by the then editor, his namesake John, as 'a little gem, which describes the acquisition of pieces of rock as essential tools for indexers—and makes out a good case'; a useful dissertation on indexers' punctuation in Vol. III under the title of 'Commas and Colons'; and 'Cook & Wedderburn’s Index to Ruskin’s Works', forming No. 2 of the series of 'Indexing Masterpieces' in Volume 5.

Our late President's striking presence and charming personality, his kindliness and courtesy of manner, his wise counsel and ripe scholarship, endeared him to his fellow members, who will wish us to convey their deepest sympathy to his widow and their two sons.

In the words used by John Milton to address his departed Lycidas:

But, Oh the heavy change, now thou art gone,
Now thou art gone and never must return.

G.N.K.

A deeply impressive memorial service for James Cholmondeley Thornton was held on June 6 at All Souls', Langham Place, W.1, which is near the offices of both the B.B.C. and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The Archdeacon of Macclesfield officiated

and one lesson was read by Lord Kilmaine, the other by Mr. Tangye Lean.

The choral part included a beautifully sung anthem by Sir Henry Walford Davies and what has been called 'the Indexers' hymn', 'Teach me, my God and King', by the Rev. George Herbert (1593-1633), with its often quoted verse:

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws
Makes that and th' action fine.

It is the allusion to 'drudgery divine' which gives it its special significance.

A very distinguished congregation included the following members of the Society of Indexers: Mr. Gordon Carey, President Emeritus; Miss Sally Coole, former member of Council; Mr. A. R. Hewitt, Vice-President; Mr. Norman Knight, Vice-President; Mr. Tom Tatham, Council member; and Mr. John Thornton, Vice-Chairman and former editor of The Indexer.

With much regret we also announce the death of the following members: Mrs. P. Cope of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, and Miss K. R. Steeds of Rimpton, nr. Yeovil, Somerset.

JOHN COOK WYLLIE (1908-1969)

In the recent death of John Cook Wyllie the Society has lost a Life Member, one of its earliest Hon. Corresponding Members, and above all a great friend. Born on 26th October, 1908, in Palatka, Florida, he was educated by a private tutor at Santo Domingo, West Indies, and at public schools at Christchurch, St. Christopher’s and Charlottesville. In 1928 he went to the University of Virginia Library as an undergraduate student assistant, graduated B.A. in 1929, and served as assistant reference librarian until 1933. After spending a year touring libraries in Europe John Cook Wyllie was appointed curator of the University of Virginia Collection in 1934, and director of
rare books and manuscripts when the Alderman Library was opened in 1938. Nominated Head Librarian in 1956, ten years later he became Director of Libraries at the University of Virginia.

Wyllie joined the British Army in October, 1941, and saw service at El Alamein. On returning to the States in 1943 he joined the U.S. Army, and served in Burma. He was acquainted with seven languages in addition to English, and was a member of numerous bibliographical and historical societies. He was the author of innumerable articles and book reviews, and his published indexes include *A Spenser bibliography for 1928-1932, together with an index to the same, 1932*, and *List of recent reports of interest to technical information retrievers, 1965*.

John Cook Wyllie joined the Society of Indexers as a Foundation Member, became a Life Member in 1961 and was made an Honorary Corresponding Member, in which capacity he took his duties seriously. He procured funds from the Advisory Committee on Co-operation with Educational and Professional Organizations of the Association of College and Reference Libraries which enabled the Society to print and distribute its *Standards for Indexes to Learned and Scientific Periodicals*, June, 1960, afterwards printed in *The Indexer* (Vol. 2, 1960-61, pp. 63-64).

The world of librarianship and indexing will be poorer for the loss of John Cook Wyllie. A dynamic personality in a small frame, he possessed a fighting spirit that was evident throughout his career, and inspired him to join the British Army before the entry of the United States into the second world war. He actively supported the numerous organizations with which he was associated, and the Society of Indexers mourns the loss of its keenest overseas member. 

J.L.T.

The Archbishop of York (Most Rev. Dr. Donald Coggan) uses some harsh words about the make-up of the biography of the late Bishop of Bradford, Blunt, by S. Peart-Binns (Mountain Press), when reviewing it in the *Sunday Telegraph* of May 4. 'The finished result', he says, 'needs severe pruning and editing, the printing leaves everything to be desired, and the index is lamentable'. (The last italics are ours.) The above prelate has a succinct entry in the index to the recently published *Walter Monckton: the Life of Viscount Monckton of Brenchley*, by the Earl of Birkenhead (Weidenfeld):

Blunt, Dr. Alfred, Bishop of Bradford, 'spills the beans', 141

This refers to the Bishop's indiscreet speech on December 2, 1936, as a result of which the entire British press, which had up to then maintained a strict silence on the King's affair with Mrs. Simpson, felt free to ventilate the subject. Within ten days (exactly 248 years after King James had left Whitehall), King Edward VIII had abdicated and left these shores.