to find no reference under 'face' or 'complexion', nor a subheading 'face' under 'skin'. At last I looked under 'rash'; but this was pre-judging the diagnosis! When I thought the child has swallowed a bead which might be lodged in its throat, it was astonishing to find nothing under 'swallowed objects'—especially as there is an entry under 'O' for 'objects in nose and ears', but no 'objects, swallowed'. 'Throat' only yielded 'throat infections'. The child wasn't choking, but at last I assumed Dr. Spock might assume a mother to think he was, and looked there; the 'choking' entry led to a paragraph subheaded, 'swallowed objects and choking'. I wonder what the secret aspect of motherhood is, that an indexer wouldn't appreciate, which should prevent her looking under 'swallowed objects' when a child is not actually choking?

It was a long and merry chase to discover whether coffee, tea, alcohol or cigarettes would affect breast milk. The paragraph heading for this is, 'The mother can lead a normal life', following, 'There are other ways to show affection too' (i.e. than breast-feeding); so the two paragraphs come together in the index, as a subhead under 'breast-feeding', 'mother's feelings'. No professional indexer would have selected that heading, true; nor would he have omitted to state anywhere in the index that the figures do in fact refer to page numbers, although throughout the book the paragraph numbers are printed in bold type, by comparison with which the page numbers are inconspicuous and less precise. Perhaps the amount of secret knowledge that Dr. Spock assumes about every mother is indicated by that fact that the only reference to mothers he thinks necessary through this whole 595 page book is, 'mother, working'!

There is a legendary tale of a young mother who saw her baby fall from the bed, and reached for her copy of Dr. Spock before reaching for the fallen baby. I wonder what she looked for in the index? There is no entry under 'falls'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Twenty-five members, with their guests, were present at the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at ASLIB on 28th May.

Before beginning its business, the Meeting stood in silence in memory of the late President, Mr. J. C. Thornton, of whom a memorial appears elsewhere in this issue. The Chairman spoke of Mr. Thornton's erudition, wit and charm, which combined with his considerable practical abilities, had made him such an excellent President.

The Meeting then proceeded to re-elect all the existing officers of the Society, expressing its appreciation of the work they had done during the preceding year. It also thanked Miss R. D. Coole (a founder member of the Society), Mr. R. D. Raper (a former Secretary of the Society), the two retiring members of the Council who did not wish to apply for re-election, and Mr. L. M. Harrod, Editor of The Indexer: their services to the Society have been considerable and are very much appreciated. Mr. Harrod was re-elected, and the two vacancies were filled by Mrs. E. M. Wallis, who has been Acting Editor of The Indexer in Mr. Harrod's absence, and Mr. N. R. Fisk.

The Accounts and Annual Report were accepted, and the Meeting proceeded to the main business of the day, the consideration of the Council's recommendations of fees for indexing work.

The Chairman, introducing the Report, referred to the long discussions which had preceded it (and asked members to correct item (d) by substituting 'index' for 'text'). Several members felt that the document ought to give at least minimum rates for the four other methods suggested, and it was agreed that the Council be asked to evaluate alternative methods and add to the report accordingly. During the discussion it was also suggested that the rates be given in decimal as well as in sterling.
Other points made during the discussion were that the Society should issue guidance on the number of lines of index which should reasonably be expected per page of text: it was felt that this would assist members in discussion with publishers and authors whose ideas on the point were often sketchy. There was discussion about whether, when the Report has been completed, it should be sent to members only, or should it also go to publishers and authors; opinion was divided on this point and it was left to the Council to make a decision.

It was also suggested that in the notes on tax allowances, reference be made to claims for books of reference and books on indexing. It was suggested that the Council should collect from members and publish a list of common reference books such as every indexer would have, and a list of reference books used for special purposes. Also the fact that the Society subscription is a chargeable expense should be mentioned.

The discussion on this subject concluded with a request by the Chairman that members who wished to bring specific points to the attention of the Committee should get in touch with the Secretary and with his invitation to any member present to volunteer to serve on the Committee which was considering the matter.

Under ‘Any Other Business’, Mrs. Hall suggested, and the Meeting agreed, that the Council be asked to contact the Society of Authors with a view to closer liaison with them, to our common profit.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1968-69

The Council has pleasure in reporting that during the past year the Society has successfully continued, indeed increased, its activities, and wishes to thank all those officers and members who have contributed to this success.

Membership. The total membership at the end of the financial year was 292 compared with 298 in the previous year. New members elected during the year were 51.

Members are reminded that if their subscriptions are not paid by September 1969, their membership is liable to lapse automatically. Subscriptions should be sent to Mrs. M. D. Anderson, 23A Chaucer Road, Cambridge, CB2 2EB.

Register of Indexers. The recommendations approved at the Annual General Meeting in May 1968 were promptly implemented. Since its inception, the Board of Assessors has examined 19 indexes submitted by 9 applicants, of whom four were accepted for Registration.

The number of Registered Indexers is now 117. During the year 63 authors or publishers asked the Society to recommend indexers for specific works and 259 names were put forward—an average of just over four per enquiry. Every effort is made to spread these requests evenly over the members who are Registered Indexers, but since the majority of the requests have been for indexers specialising in scientific works, it is inevitable that Registered Indexers specialising in the Arts have not been so much recommended.

However, the number of requests for indexers has almost doubled during the year, and is increasing; half the requests were received during the last quarter of the year. If this trend continues, we can hope to bring more work to members during the coming year than we have been able to do recently.

Fees for Indexing. A Committee of the Council has been giving detailed consideration to the question of the fees which should be charged for indexing, and the Council
has prepared a statement which is submitted for consideration at the Annual General Meeting in May 1969. If the meeting accepts the recommendations therein, it is proposed to publish this statement in *The Indexer* and to pass these recommendations to publishers, authors and indexers who require information on the subject.

**Meetings.** At the Annual General Meeting in May 1968 members and their guests heard an interesting lecture from Mr. J. Bird of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureau, on *Professional Societies in a Changing World*. This was followed by a wine and cheese party which gave members and their guests a welcome opportunity of meeting and talking 'shop'.

In February 1969 Mrs. M. D. Law, former Editor of Chambers's *Encyclopaedia*, whose talk last year on the making of an encyclopaedia was so well received, spoke on *The Indexing of an Encyclopaedia*; on 11th March, A. Q. Morton delivered a lecture at once interesting and amusing, on *The Use of the Computer in Literary Studies*; and on 15th April, J. F. Drage initiated a discussion on *The Design of Indexes*. All three lecturers, speaking most ably, added noticeably to our appreciation of the problems of our profession, and the Council regrets that their efforts were rewarded by such small attendances.

The Society wishes to put on record its best thanks to these four speakers, and to the Library Association and Aslib for placing their premises at the Society's disposal for its various meetings.

**Finance.** The Statement of Accounts, which shows the Society's finances to be in a healthy position, is circulated with this Report. The Society is most grateful to Mrs. M. D. Anderson for her considerable work as Treasurer and to the auditors, Mr. William Davies and Dr. A. Dickinson.

**Wheatley Medal.** Once again the Wheatley Medal has been awarded to a member of the Society, Mrs. D. Blake. Our congratulations go to Mrs. Blake and her collaborator, Professor Ruth Bowden, who was also awarded a medal, for the cumulative 100-year index to the *Journal of Anatomy*.

The Council has prepared a list of the criteria by which indexes should be assessed, and this is currently being discussed with the Library Association. Also being discussed is the Council's offer to present a Bronze Award in those circumstances in which a second work of outstanding merit has been submitted during the same year; there are occasions on which it is very difficult indeed to select a single winner and it is hoped that a Bronze Award will assist in ensuring public recognition of the work.

**Training Courses.** It was not possible to hold a training course this year but it is hoped to hold one in 1970. In the meanwhile the publication of the lectures and exercises which comprised a recent course will it is hoped prove useful and is an indication of the growing reputation of these courses. (G. N. Knight (editor) *Training in Indexing*; London, M.I.T. Press, 1969, 219 pp.; 75s. 0d.)

**The Indexer.** The Society's Journal, which now has a circulation of over 750, including 150 to the new American Society of Indexers, has continued to make a valuable contribution to the literature of our profession. The Society is most grateful to the Editor, Mr. L. M. Harrod, and to Mrs. E. Wallis, who so ably took over as his deputy during his absence in America.

Members are reminded that this is their journal: their contributions and letters for publication will be warmly welcomed.

**Society Representation on Other Bodies.** The Society is represented on the British Standards Institution Committee OC/20 by Mr. Bancroft, OC/20/2 by Mr. Harrod, OC/20/12 by Mr. Harrod and OC/20/8 by Miss Piggott. The Society is represented by Mr. Raper on the Library Association Committee on Rules for Computer Cataloguing.

**American Society of Indexers.** The Council sent the Society's good wishes to the American Society of Indexers which was founded at the end of 1968. The American Society has expressed a desire for a close, formal relationship with our Society. The
Council is now awaiting the American proposals on the form this relationship should take, and certainly hopes to have more definite information for our next Annual General Meeting.

Council. In addition to the Officers and members of the Council elected in May 1968, Mrs. E. Wallis, Deputy Editor of The Indexer, was co-opted to membership of the Council during the year. The Council has met five times during the year.

Miss R. D. Coole and Mr. R. Raper have expressed a wish to retire from the Council owing to pressure of other business. The Council thanks both these members for their valuable services over a long period. Under Rule 7(b) of the Constitution, Messrs. Harrod and Raper are required to retire. The Council proposes the re-election of Mr. Harrod, and the election of Mrs. E. Wallis and Mr. N. R. Fisk to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Miss Coole and Mr. Raper.

R. BANCROFT, Chairman.
H. TOWNLEY, Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Sir,

It was delightful to see Mrs. M. D. Anderson's article, in our Spring issue, under the above heading, as I had long felt strongly on this. Many indexes are of the 'wood-for-trees' category, picking out isolated mentions and oblivious to chunks. One can give a numeral, with explanation at the beginning, but it is perhaps better to prefix 'chap.' each time. One has only found one publisher deprecating such references. Care needs, however, to be taken to distinguish these from chapters of works quoted, such as the Bible; e.g. 'Jerusalem, chap. v, pp. 36—'; 'Luke, gospel, chap. xx'. Mrs. Anderson has made a fundamental contribution.

H. V. MOLESWORTH ROBERTS.

CECIL ROBERTS' AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Sir,

As the indexer of The Growing Boy and The Years of Promise, the first two volumes of Cecil Roberts' autobiography published by Hodder & Stoughton, I was interested to read Sean Day-Lewis' comments on the second volume on page 133 of the Spring 1969 issue. 'Lady Cunard' was merely one among more than 200 names omitted from the index to that volume for reasons of space, and with the author's approval. These were people not directly concerned with Cecil Roberts himself. Lord Curzon was mentioned twice, but the author never met him. There were many paragraphs solid with names, but they were associates of others, not the author.

Mr. Day-Lewis would no doubt be relieved to know that Lady Cunard had already received honourable mention in the first volume (and index) of Mr. Roberts' autobiography.

K. ATTERTON.

Dear Sir,

I was very sorry to see from page 129 of your Spring 1969 issue that my letter in the previous issue had given offence to Mr. K. G. B. Bakewell. I am afraid it never occurred to me to consider that the book used as an example by Mr. Negus (Autumn 1967, page 189) must in fact have been indexed by someone, and that that person might take my general remarks about the difficulties and dangers of indexing against the clock as an implied criticism of his work on this particular book. In fact my letter was not in reply to Mr. Negus's original query, but to his evasion of Mr. Dixon's plea for more time, made in the Spring 1968 issue. In that issue the title of the book was not mentioned.

I honour and marvel at indexers like Mr. Bakewell who, in addition to doing (I presume) a full-time job, are able and willing to put aside all other pleasures and commitments, and spend their evenings and weekends making indexes. But Mr. Bakewell admits to one advantage which many of us do not have—a wife who is both willing and competent to share his self-denial and his labours. I have often thought how much less complicated life would be if I had such a wife.

(Miss) ALISON M. HODGSON.