NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

INDEXING FEES

The Council, in considering recommendations regarding a basis for fees to be charged, is desirous of knowing the extent to which indexers charge other than by the time taken for indexing books and periodicals. Would all readers who use some other method please write to the Hon. Sec., c/o Barclay's Bank Ltd., 1 Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1., giving as much information as possible. All communications will be treated confidentially.

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The Annual General Meeting is to be held at the offices of Aslib in the early evening of 13 May. Members will receive full details in due course.

INDEXING COURSE

The Indexing Course arranged in conjunction with the School of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, will be held from June 29 to July 2 inclusive.

It will be concerned with book-indexing only and will comprise lectures, discussions, practical work and a question and answer session with the various lecturers participating.

For full particulars write The Organizer, Indexing Course, School of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, 207-223 Essex Road, London, N.1.

VISITORS TO ENGLAND

Members visiting England are invited to advise the Honorary Secretary of their impending visit.

MORE INDEX WITH LESS LAYOUT?

Is it really necessary for indexes always to begin on a right-hand page? Or in general, never to get priority over consistency of layout of the whole book, in allotting space?

These questions are prompted by frustration in using an important text-book on child development, many times reprinted, translated and recommended—Dr. John Bowlby's *Child care and the growth of love*, Pelican edition. To 241 pages of text and 7 of appendices, this book has four pages of index. More—in accordance with the style of layout, which precedes each of the three parts with a left-hand title page, blank on reverse, it also has four pages with titles only, and eight completely blank pages!

The cramped index is densely printed, without even space between the sections beginning with different letters of the alphabet. What is done is well done (although why 'measles, German' instead of 'German measles' or 'Rubella'? 'U.S.A.' appears as a sub-heading, under 'United Kingdom'); but the spatial restrictions mean no indexing of important research workers by name; only ten references to the last 50 pages, added in the second edition of the book; no sub-headings under such wide and manifold concepts as hospitals (8 references listed); institution children (10 references); institutions (12 references); mental health (13 references); psychiatrists (10 references); and workers (14 references).

The inadequacy clearly was recognized at the time of publication, as at the head of the index appears the apologetic note:—

'On account of closely limited space (my italics) similar though not identical subjects are grouped under a general heading, e.g. 'Workers'. Names of towns outside the U.K. are omitted; references to them will be found under the name of their country.'

And this apology is printed opposite a completely blank page!

Hazel Bell.

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