THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Aslib on 12th May, 1970, and was attended by some 30 members.

The Minutes of the 1969 AGM were approved and the Report of the Council for 1969-70 adopted. Tribute was paid to the late Mr. G. V. Carey whose work for the Society and for indexing in general had been so outstanding.

The election of Mr. Norman Knight, M.A., Founder of the Society, as President, and Miss R. D. Coole, M.A., and Mr. John L. Thornton, F.L.A., as Vice-Presidents, was received with acclaim. Mr. Knight, expressing his gratitude to the meeting, said that the Society had awarded to him the greatest honour it was in their power to bestow; it gave him intense pleasure and he was deeply grateful. He continued:

I was amused a few days ago by the following story that was told me by Philip Unwin, who is shortly retiring after being a director of Allen & Unwin for 21 years, about his uncle, the great Sir Stanley, who soldiered on as chairman until the end of his long life. When Sir Stanley was writing his autobiography, which he called The truth about a publisher (1960), Philip suggested to him that it might be a good idea to include one or two instances in which his judgment had been at fault.

Sir Stanley was indignant: 'What!' he exclaimed, 'do you expect me to start writing fiction at my time of life?'

Similarly, if anyone were to say to me: 'What's all this fuss about being President of your Society? Surely, there can't be all that much to it?' I should have to retort: 'Do you expect me to start writing fiction at my time of life?'

I feel that part of this great honour is that it means my following two far more distinguished predecessors. None the less, as your President I shall do my utmost to further the interests of the Society, as I have always endeavoured to do hitherto.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year:

Chairman:
Mr. R. F. L. Bancroft, M.A.

Vice-Chairman:
Mr. F. H. Tatham, B.A.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary:
Mrs. M. D. Anderson, M.A.

Secretary:
Miss P. M. Trew, B.A., A.C.I.S.

and Mr. J. M. Shaftesley, O.B.E., B.A., F.R.S.A., and Mr. M. Wace were re-elected to the Council for a further term.

Members were gratified to see from the Accounts for the year the healthy state of the Society's finances and congratulated Mrs. Anderson on her management of the funds. Votes of thanks were also recorded to the Auditors, Mr. Wm. Davies and Dr. R. Dickinson, to the Hon. Editor, Mr. L. M. Harrod, F.L.A., and to Mrs. E. Wallis, A.L.A., who had deputised for the Editor during his absence abroad and who now maintained the Register of Indexers.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the new terms for the award of the Wheatley Medal which had been drawn up in co-operation with the Library Association, and which were being published in the next issue of the Library Association Record. It was hoped that the revised conditions would improve the flow of applications for the Award.

Following the formal business of the meeting, Miss Helen Townley, B.Sc, A.I.Inf.Soc., gave a most erudite talk on 'The Impact of Computers in the next decade'. Many members present were no doubt relieved to hear Miss Townley express the belief that 'human' indexing would continue at least for ten years—or more—in the non-technical fields but within this period it was likely that computers would take over a great deal of the work in the technical fields.

The meeting closed with an informal reception which provided an excellent opportunity for members to exchange information and ideas with each other on a person to person basis and one can't imagine computers doing this in the future!