means of sub-headings classifies the concepts contained in its subject entries in accordance with the text”.

‘I confess to no longer being very happy about the use of “classifies” in that definition, since the aim of an index should be not classification, but the employment of specific headings. Moreover, a name entry can also be analytical. The term really seems to imply little more that the adoption of a number of sub-headings.’


Dear Sir,

Following the various references in your journal to humorous index entries, I wonder if any of your members can throw light on the following, quoted in F. E. Smith’s (Lord Birkenhead’s) Points of View (Vol. 1 [1922], p. 204):

‘“Chief Justice Best—his great mind.” On turning up the reference [in Williams’ Law of Real Property], the entry will be found “The Chief Justice said he had a great mind to commit the plaintiff”. I have not verified this reference myself, but I was told by a very learned counsel that he had done so.’

I have consulted all the editions of this work at the British Museum from 1 to 13 inclusive, with the exception of the 9th edition of 1870, without finding this alleged entry. I suppose it is possible that Lord Birkenhead was writing with his tongue in his cheek, but one cannot be sure.

Your readers may also be interested in the following, from Palmer’s Index to The Times of 1822 and 1833, published in 1899 and 1900:

(First Quarter, 1822) ‘Weather Incessant Rains, &c’
(Second Quarter, 1822) ‘Weather, Excessive Heat of’
(Fourth Quarter, 1833) ‘Weather the Barometer, Periodical Rise and Fall of’

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE CHOWDHARY-BEST.

EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS

A reader has been sending regularly extracts from reviews, mainly from the Times Literary Supplement, during the past three or four months. It is good to know that so many reviewers are looking for, and at, indexes when reviewing books. The editor is always pleased to receive comments on books and extracts from reviews.


‘A bibliography, an author index and a subject index complete a useful highly expert and specialised volume. Presentation is glossy and immaculate with first class easy-to-digest line drawings and well designed typography.’


‘The notation is generally explained at the start of each chapter (there is no index of symbols) and there is some measure of consistency from one chapter to another. There is a rather short bibliography at the end of the book, to which little reference is made in the text, and which lists Russian works to the near-exclusion of all others. The subject index is short to the point of inadequacy.’


‘It is extraordinary how much Dr. Anstey manages to pack into less than 100 pages. It is a very concentrated and efficient little book. But I cannot resist poking fun at its index, for under “P” we have “Pegs, round, fitting into round holes” and further down the page appears “Round pegs, fitting into round holes”!’

The Indexer 7 (2) Autumn 1970

‘The volume is well indexed.’


‘It must...be confessed that in the historical, and particularly the classical, sections he seems a little out of his depth; nor has the proof-reading or the indexing always equalled the high quality of the typography and the paper, so that we get such solecisms as Virginis in the text and Virginia in the index and separate entries for Strassburg Cathedral and Strassburg Münster—a too faithful following of the text.’


‘As one would expect the whole book is made with skill; the editors provide clear and helpful introductions, notes and indexes, while the Oxford University Press have printed them beautifully. This is a worthy supplement to Dom Schmitt’s edition of Anselm.’


‘The only serious criticisms that can be made are that there is no index and that Mr. Akehurst does not appear to be as well versed in the recent literature of his subject as he is in the old.’

Wagner on music and drama, edited by Albert Goldman and Evert Sprinchorn. Translated by H. Ashton Ellis (Gollancz, 447pp., £2 10s.).

‘The cutting has been ingenious and has preserved the continuity of the argument. There are exact references to Ashton Ellis’s volumes; but an index would also have been valuable.’


‘The bibliography contains some useful recent items, including German ones. Mr. Carter makes a good use of his material, ancient and modern alike. For the benefit of the reader who is unversed in such matters, there is an appendix explaining Roman nomenclature—also explaining, by implication, why writers on classical subjects are well advised to compile their indexes themselves (as Mr. Carter evidently has), rather than leave them to somebody else to do. By the same token, however, did he choose his own sub-title? Probably not, since the emperor called himself Caesar Augustus, not Augustus Caesar.’

The Viking achievement, by Peter Foote and David M. Wilson (Sidgwick & Jackson, 473pp., £3 5s.). Reviewed in the TLS, 11 June, 1970.

‘The volume is well illustrated, with twenty-eight plates, some of them showing several objects, and fifty-nine figures in the text. By some quirk these last are listed without reference to the pages where they may be found. There are no footnotes and no formal bibliography. Instead there are “Bibliographical Notes” which may sharpen one’s wits and will assuredly enliven one’s temper. There is a good working index.’


‘Colonel Watson deals not only with racing in Ireland but also with the doings of Irish horses abroad, and Arkle alone gets ten page-references in the index.’


‘A useful bibliography, and indexes of persons and places complete the book.’
The domestication and exploitation of plants and animals, edited by Peter J. Ucko and G. W. Dimbleby (Duckworth, 147/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 4 June, 1970.

'If this is not a volume to be placed in the hands of students without guidance, the editors have at least performed a service by providing indexes to the contents and printing bibliographies to a number of the contributions.'

The evolution of man, by David Pilbeam (Thames & Hudson, 42/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 4 July, 1970.

'The index is inadequate. The reader who wants to look up, say, Heidelberg man, menstruation, mosaic evolution (incidentally, why does the author dislike this term which is so useful in zoology?), or Cro-Magnon has to thumb through the book till he finds it.'

The Renaissance discovery of classical antiquity, by Roberto Weiss (Blackwell). Reviewed in the TLS, 23 April, 1970.

'Strikingly, it was classical Rome that held the forefront of attention, though local historians, living outside Rome, increasingly occupied themselves with what was close to hand. In this respect it was a mistake not to include geographical place-names in the book's index. . . . There is an index of the author's use of manuscripts . . .'


'The plan of the book is completed by an extensive bibliography, an admirable index, and a section of 158 monochrome half-tone plates grouped together after the index.'


'One final point: when the International Advisory Committee recommended the commissioning of this work, it made an urgent plea for an index. This has been ignored.'


'One must perhaps regret that the index confines itself strictly to matters of government and omits interesting side-lines in the text such as the Cap of Maintenance.'


'His bibliography gives no indication of a major attempt to deal with the unpublished sources, and his work necessarily suffers because of this. It is far more in the nature of an essay than a serious historical study. It is well written and often amusing, and the index (containing such matters as "vegetotherapy", "the Theosophical Society", "Doctrine of Farms", "anti-commercialism", and "anti-industrialism") promises well, and indeed some parts of the book are extremely funny.'


'In under 75 pages, with a not-altogether-adequate index, the current position is set out clearly.'


'There is a great deal of valuable bibliographical information in the detailed footnotes as well as in the very good bibliography. A guide like this, however, needs thorough indexing, which this one lacks. Out of the six proper names which occur on page 53, for instance, only one, "Chievrefeuil", is indexed. Two are not to be found in any of the three indexes (Tristram, Wales), and although the other three are to be found (Marie de France, Milun and Ker) these particular references are not recorded. And why is La Vie Seint Edmund le Rei under the letter T? Ted's Life?
Thematic bibliographical and critical catalogue of the works of Luigi Boccherini, by Gerard Yves. Translated by Andreas Mayor (Oxford University Press). Reviewed in the TLS, 16 April, 1970.

'The book is rounded off by excellent indexes and a good bibliography, which is not however quite up to date in respect of reprints.'

The Renaissance sense of the past, by Peter Burke (Edward Arnold, 154pp., 30/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 2 July, 1970.

'The argument is supported with selected passages from contemporary writings, which vary in length from half a page to more than five pages . . . The index lists the eighty or so writers thus quoted, starting with King Alfred and ending with Wang Ch’uan-shan.'


'To his 600-odd pages of text he has appended nearly 200 of notes, an impressive bibliography (running to forty pages, even though it omits the purely secondary sources), first-class situation maps, plans of Berlin and of the Wolfsschanze, diagrams of communications and command chains, and a comprehensive index. A careful reading reveals no single misprint, and only one actual mistake in drafting . . . It is a work of which an historian in any field might be justly proud . . . '


'Attention to detail is generally good, as shown by the glossary, index and diagrams which are provided wherever the text needs amplification . . . '

Encounter with the Middle East, by Winston Burdett (André Deutsch, 384pp., 50/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 2 July, 1970.

'The book is well indexed.'


'The book ends with a few pages of additional plates, a number of plans, several indexes, and some pages of tables of dates on which historical events are juxtaposed with artistic monuments. These constitute a thoroughly useful addition to a very excellent book.'


'The facts are here right enough as well as an index for easy reference, but at a straight read through Bones is a bit daunting.'

Christopher Columbus, by Frank Knight (Burns & Oates, 30/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 2 July, 1970.

'The illustrations, for the most part contemporary and all ascribed, reflect the same authentic documentary approach as the text. Surely, one might think, here is a valuable introduction to historical research, and yet—no bibliography, no index!'
From a raindrop to the ocean, by Peter Gal (Richard Sadler, 12/-). Reviewed in the TLS, 2 June, 1970.

'It has much to commend it, but the publishers should take a more critical look at the presentation of material, and at minor items, such as lack of pagination or index and the placing of the contents page at the end of the book.'


'Surnames and places are indexed separately, and the entries are further classified under trades, professions and offices.'


'This good American translation, the first in English, is unabridged. Mr. Sheldon has provided an introduction which is mainly biographical and literary; Sidney Monas has added a "historical introduction". There are some notes and a list of people mentioned which are less useful than they might be (Kerensky is described as a "Socialist Revolutionary" and Rasputin as a "monk", Lenin's attempted assassin is called "Doris Kaplan", and Chukovsky's death last year is not noted), as well as a rather inaccurate index.'


'Judged from a British standpoint, this book is highly unsatisfactory. It consists of two volumes bound together, but separately indexed and paginated . . .

... in a 100-page discussion of the sociology of science, T. S. Kuhn, whose work is progressively transforming it, never figures at all (though he occurs in the index of the first volume).'
Louisa M. Alcott and the American family story, by Cornelia Meigs (Bodley Head, 22/-.). Reviewed in the TLS, 2 July, 1970.
'There is a select bibliography but, as usual in this series, one feels an index would be useful.'

'This book will be of value both to doctors and to elderly persons; it is a pity that it has no index.'

'Whereas the main entries in the second edition were arranged alphabetically, with a brief geographical index, in the third edition they are arranged geographically, with an alphabetical index of establishments, plus an index of personal names and a subject index to specialist libraries, but no list of special collections. This revised layout should make what was already a useful source of information in the medical field even more valuable.'

'The entries are arranged in alphabetical order of place-names, follow a convenient formula, and are well indexed.'

'A first-rate index and bibliography (but with some curious omissions), as well as many good photographs, are positive features, and the book will surely find a useful place on the shelf of herpetology, even if it is studied with interest rather than read with eagerness.'

'The editors' running commentaries are on the whole unfussily helpful, and they provide an excellent series of indexes and cross-references.'

'The book could do with some revision in places. Gandhi is spelt wrongly; the index could be fuller; and there is some lack of uniformity in the rendering of Turkish names.'

'Its technical production matches its style and readability; the index is helpful and reliable.'

'Careful indexing adds to the value of the book.'

'The index is rather ingenious. Under each letter is the first word of titles followed by the authors of that particular letter.'

'The clear structure of these volumes, the full indexing and the admirable printing and production greatly enhance their value for both the student and the practitioner of international relations.'

‘In general, the editing is scrupulous, though a number of repetitions could have been eliminated with advantage, and the index, though most useful, is incomplete.’

CHITONS RIDE IN TAXIS

This entry occurred in my last index (a school biology text book). It is perfectly correct but I thought the possible other meaning might amuse you.

taxis, and distribution of *Lepidochitona*

Of course the taxis refers to attraction as in geotaxis, but I have a vision of little chitons careering about the beach in dinky cars!

Also from New Scientist, 7 May, 1970, book review of British foreign policy since Suez by Donald Maclean: ‘in his otherwise excellent index Mr. Maclean makes no reference to M. Spaak, one of Europe’s great protagonists’.

V. C. Findlay.

THE "HARDWARE" WAY OF INDEXING

According to Microdoc (Vol. 9, No. 1, 1970), the following forms the last of a series of questions and answers on computer microfilm systems in *Information and Records Management*:

Q. Will new advances in hardware eliminate the tedious work required to prepare a total information system.

A. I do not believe so. New advances (such as Electron Beam Recording, Computer Programming, Photo-Optical Recognition, Satellite Transmission, Micro-Holograms, COM, etc.) may improve our efficiency but someone will still have to make value judgments as to the best methods of indexing and the best permutation of a wider variety of complex gear. If you could design a perfect system—you would solve about 20 per cent of your problem with hardware. The remaining 80 per cent must be solved by intellectualization (indexing, programming, system design).

Surprisingly, ‘intellectualization’ is given a brief place (but is not defined) in The Concise Oxford dictionary; but as A.P.H. would say, ‘What a word!’

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. J. Arthur Greenwood, who contributed Some Aspects of Indexing to our Spring issue, and whose Further Aspects are included in this issue, is on the staff of the department of meteorology and oceanography at New York University. He received his Ph.D. in statistics at Harvard University in 1959 and was employed full-time as an indexer from 1959 to 1962 during which time he indexed *inter alia* volumes 1-31 of *Annals of mathematical statistics*.

Theodore C. Hines, Ph.D., A.L.A., and Jessica L. Harris, D.L.S., are both Assistant Professors at the School of Library Science, University of Columbia, New York, and both are closely connected with the work of the American Society of Indexers.

K. A. Mallaber, F.L.A., is Librarian of the Board of Trade.

DIARIES WITHOUT INDEXES

Karl F. Heumann, of 6410 Earlham Drive, Bethesda, Maryland, 20034, writes that in his own collection of 491 diaries and journals, 217 or 44 per cent have no index. He comments that this seems to indicate that a surprisingly high percentage of published diaries are not supplying this necessary tool, and observes that a printed diary or journal without a proper index is a maimed thing and is not able to serve its full purpose even on a first reading. For real historians, or armchair ones, it becomes a frustration to be prevented from using an unindexed volume as a reference book.