NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Our energetic Corresponding Member for Australia, Mr. H. Godfrey Green, has been instrumental in enrolling over forty personal and institutional members in recent months, and a meeting held at his home in Glen Iris, Victoria, resulted in the formation of The Society of Indexers in Australia. This is most commendable, and we shall note with great interest the progress of this society which we trust will develop rapidly.

The Council has looked with considerable concern at the increasing costs of running the Society of Indexers and of the cost of printing and posting The Indexer. The membership subscription has not been raised since the Society was formed in 1957, and at a Special General Meeting held in December 1972 it was decided to increase the annual subscription from £2.10 to £2.50 as from the beginning of 1973. In recent years there have been several increases in printing and paper costs, and postages to home and overseas subscribers have been raised at least five times since 1965 when the price of The Indexer was last raised. These increases are regretted, but we are certain that members and subscribers to our larger journal (128pp. in 1972 as against 90pp. in 1965) will understand the situation we are in, and realise that the Society—which is a non-profit-making organization run virtually by the voluntary services of its members—cannot continue any longer to absorb these greatly increased costs.

All communications for the Hon. Treasurer (including orders for bound volumes, and back- and current numbers of The Indexer) should be addressed c/o Barclays Bank Ltd., 1 Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1. Membership subscriptions, however, should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

A MAMMOTH

CUMULATIVE INDEX

Mrs. Maria Livia Osborn, one of our members who specialises in the indexing of psychiatry, has collected an impressive number of favourable mentions for her indexes to the volumes of *Modern perspectives in psychiatry series*. She provides a separate cumulative author index and subject index in every succeeding volume. The work is edited by Dr. John G. Howells, Director of The Institute of Family Psychiatry at The Ipswich Hospital. Mrs. Osborn, who is Research Assistant to Dr. Howells, helps at all stages of the production of the volumes. When handed the bulky page proofs of volume 1 with the request to provide an index she agreed to meet the challenge.

This small beginning led to a cumulative index of the volumes in the series, six to date, and the indexes now cover 120 pages in tightly arranged double columns and appear in both the English and American editions. *Modern perspectives in psychiatry* is the most extensive international reference source in psychiatry and the five volumes already published consist of 1,250,000 words filling 3,500 pages, divided into 124 chapters giving 7,000 references. The volumes so far published cover child psychiatry, world psychiatry, international child psychiatry, psycho-obstetrics and adolescent psychiatry.

The separate volumes have been extensively reviewed and the index picked out for special mention in all the leading journals dealing with the subject such as the British Journal of Psychiatry, the British Medical Journal, the American Journal of Psychotherapy, New Scientist, Library Journal (New York), and Health Visitor. The index has also been favourably mentioned in German, French, Italian and other foreign journals.

E.J.W.