entries. Even at this, however, there was no subject authority list or thesaurus that was found of use when choosing terminology for headings. The most useful already-published source of terms was the *Business periodicals index*. The author's terminology was, of course, used wherever possible.

Soon after the Cumulative index was published, I had a baby and retired from full-time employment. I am now a freelance indexer, working at home, and I still find that choosing proper terminology is my biggest problem. I generally work from galley proofs, although many indexers feel this is unwise and indexing should be done only from page proofs. I copy edit as well as index, and I find that, even if the book I am indexing is dull, it always teaches me something.

Anne Pellowski; Director of the Children's Center on International Culture of the United States Committee for UNICEF.

The Children's Center on International Culture constitutes a reference collection of materials concerning the children of developing nations. I will talk about the problems involved in the indexing of the photographs, children's art, and slides in the collection.

This collection is used to provide information to educators, illustrators, writers, publishers, film makers, and UN personnel on subjects such as: What kind of footwear do school boys in Hong Kong wear? What do Kenya boy scout uniforms look like? We need a photograph of young children smoking cigarettes. We need pictures of methods of carrying children. What does children's art tell us of their concept of the sea?

The photographs, slides, and pictures in our collection are catalogued and provided with an identification number. It is then our task to index them for the retrieval of other aspects of the material. These aspects include things like hair styles, mood of subject, type of activity depicted, expressions on the faces of people pictured, type of clothing, artefacts, or objects in the picture, tribal groups pictures, etc.

One of the most useful things we have done, is to add to the identification number for each item, a two-letter code for the country of origin of the item, since many of our requests call for pictures from a particular country.

Our index is a card index. The cards are colour-coded for type of material (photographs, slides, children's art). Each card bears a subject entry at the top and the identification numbers of the items to which the entry has been assigned. An average of ten or eleven entries are made per item, although some items have been given as few as three entries, and some as many as twenty.

The index headings were originally derived from looking at files of past requests and looking at the materials themselves. There are more than 100 aspects to be considered when indexing each item, and each aspect may have many subdivisions. For example, the aspect that may be paraphrased as "expressions on children's faces" is subdivided into "children smiling broadly", "children smiling without showing teeth", etc.

We have not found any thesaurus or subject authority list or published index that was helpful to us in choosing terminology. We have a list of our own that we revise continually, and which we have been asked to publish. We do not think it is yet ready for publication.

We also have a collection of toys, games, and pre-school educational materials and playthings from developing nations. These are both hard to find and hard to index.

News of the Society

Members who examined the Society Information feature at the back of our last issue may have noticed a new entry—the announcement of an Honorary Solicitor. For some time it has been felt that changing legislation affecting societies and requests from members for guidance on matters connected with indexing where a knowledge of law is necessary for them to be satisfactorily answered, made it desirable for the Society to have ready access to a solicitor. There are several matters concerning the effective functioning of the Society which are under consideration at the present time.

About half a dozen applications for membership are considered at each meeting of the Council, and there is still a trickle of new members from Australia, due to the initiative of Mr. H. Godfrey Green, the Society's Corresponding Member there.
Miss P. M. Trew, who has been Hon. Secretary of the Society since early 1970, has resigned; her successor, who has already taken over his duties, is Mr. W. A. Menzies, ACIS, ATII, of The Old Inn, Keere Street, Lewes, Sussex.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at the offices of the Library Association at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd May. Following this, Dr. Theodore D. N. Bestermann, the distinguished bibliographer who was compiler of A world bibliography of bibliographies, will give an address.

Personalia

Mrs. Magda Whitrow is the executive editor of the ISIS cumulative bibliography, the first two volumes of which were published in 1972; the publication of the remaining two volumes is well in hand. This bibliography of the history of science is based on the Isis critical bibliographies, 1913-65, and has been supported by grants from the United States Steel Foundation, the National Science Foundation (U.S.A.), the History of Science Society (U.S.A.), and scholars and institutions on both sides of the Atlantic have generously contributed both help and facilities. The publisher is Mansell.

Miss Kathleen Sinclair. We are very sorry to record the passing early in March of Miss Kathleen Sinclair after a short illness. She was a high-powered chemist, who had worked for I.C.I. and Shell and was for nearly twenty years a sub-editor of scientific articles for Chambers's encyclopaedia; lately she had worked for the Dutch publishers of Wear a journal concerned with the chemistry and physics of friction. A freelance indexer of scientific books and journals for many years, Miss Sinclair's kindly and charming personality will be missed at meetings of the Society of which she had been a member for a long time. She had supported the activities and the aims of the Society, quietly but constantly and the Council had acknowledged this at its last meeting, by conferring upon her the distinction of becoming an Honorary Vice-President.

We understand that the statement on p.230 of The indexer for October, 1973 that Margaret R. Hunton has 'edited' books published by Knopf, Simon & Schuster and Pyramid, should have been 'indexed'.

A member writes:

"Indexers will not be replaced by Computers"

Thus Mr. Keith W. Wright in The indexer for October 1973, at page 16. On which I fervently comment “Not for me, they won’t”. And here is why.

I recently accepted an invitation to an I.B.M. —House of Commons Library demonstration in one of the smaller halls of the House itself. We were told that the demonstration was designed to show how the latest computer techniques could (inter alia) help to render the “ever-increasing flow of legislation” more manageable and make it easier to pinpoint which documents or parts of documents are relevant to a particular topic; also, to store the full text of documents and so reduce time spent in the manual indexing of legislation. The texts chosen for the demonstration were taken from two groups—Parliamentary Questions, with which I am not concerned, and Statutes in force, published by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, with which I am.

The computer equipment used in the demonstration included visual display units, which were the “terminals” for “conversing” with the computer. The words or phrases to be searched for were typed on a keyboard and almost simultaneously displayed on a screen for checking; then the computer response was displayed on the screen, all at about 250 characters per second. The Statutes in force volumes available covered the subjects Agriculture and Compulsory Acquisition.

I was invited to put an indexing question to the computer, so I asked where in the Agriculture Acts there was mention of the Pig Industry Development Association (P.I.D.A. for short). The demonstrator played a series of keys of what looked like a conventional typewriter keyboard and my question came up on the screen, accurately. The demonstrator indicated his approval; the computer hummed and ha’d to itself for a moment or two; then upon the screen