When, about five years ago, the need for such a Society as ours first occurred to me, I was not acquainted with a single other person who worked in this field. Consequently it became necessary to sound the views of other indexers by means of letters in the press. Now I feel I know scores of indexers and I count it as one of the achievements of the Society to have removed the intense feeling of solitude in which the indexer (of books and journals, at any rate) used to work.

The response to my appeal was most gratifying, with the result that an inaugural meeting of those who had expressed interest was called. Some sixty enthusiasts from all parts of the country (and one who had flown expressly all the way from Utrecht) attended at the rooms of the National Book League on the 30th March. A successful meeting was held, at which the Society of Indexers was formally constituted and the original officers and Council members elected. The rates of annual subscription were discussed but left for a decision of the Council.

At a Special General Meeting on the 13th July the Society's Constitution and Rules were adopted. It was also reported that the Library Association and ASLIB had accepted invitations to nominate each a representative to serve on the Council. Members were gratified to learn that the Publishers Association had joined the Society as an Institutional Member and would always be ready to receive any representations the Society might make.

At this meeting an extremely interesting talk on 'Co-ordinate Indexing' was given by Mr C. W. Cleverdon, Librarian to the College of Aeronautics and Vice-Chairman of ASLIB. Unfortunately Mr Cleverdon's subsequent absence in America has prevented the publication of this talk in the present issue of The Indexer, but it is hoped to include it in the next number.

The Society was much heartened by the appearance on the 8th May of a highly laudatory leader in The Times, which is reproduced in this issue of The Indexer.

There has been considerable activity behind the scenes. The Council have held four meetings and have set up an Editorial Board and the following Committees: General Literary, Non-Literary, Medical, Legal, and Scientific. A Committee appointed to explore the possibilities of starting a course of training has also held several meetings. Among other matters receiving the Council's active attention is the urgent but difficult problem of indexers' fees.

At the time of writing, some twenty applications have been received from authors, editors and publishers for the names of indexers for specialized tasks. A short list of suitable names was sent in each case and it is hoped that the results have been generally satisfactory to the applicants.
Again at the time of writing, the membership of the Society has reached nearly 150. Twenty of the members are Institutional. Nine reside abroad. In this connexion Honorary Corresponding Members have been appointed for the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, Central and South Africa, and India.

I feel that I cannot end this brief account of some of the Society's activities without expressing most sincere thanks to the Prime Minister for so kindly sending his inspiring 'message'.