EDITORIAL

Attention is drawn to a most important document—Indexers' remuneration—already circulated to members of the Society and repeated in this issue of The Indexer. This is an interim draft of proposals and to the best of our knowledge it is the first attempt to codify on some rational basis (and so regulate relations between indexer and publisher) payment to indexers for work performed.

Members will know only too well from their own experience of the lack of uniformity for work undertaken and it was to end this and to establish recognised scales of fees and payments that Council appointed a special committee.

Our members, and other indexers, work in different fields of knowledge, e.g., scientific, technical, literary, artistic, legal, etc., and the standard of expertise required varies with the employing publisher, whether book or periodical, academic or popular. Similarly, and to an alarming extent, payments vary. Mostly they are of the rule of thumb of kind which in many cases have become sanctified by usage and mutual acceptance and also through lack of any known scales. This is clearly very unsatisfactory to all concerned—indexer and publisher alike. Other skills and techniques have their recognised remuneration and it was to establish the rate for the job that the special committee was formed. It has done a good job and submitted concrete proposals for your consideration. It is now for the members to relate their experience to the general recommendations and suggest any improvements or any additional feature that may have been omitted.

This document may well become one of the most important ever to be issued by the Society. Please give it your serious consideration.