it is necessary to indent, then make it the minimum indent; but I honestly wonder if it is essential. Where you run to sub-subs, you have a problem. I throw out two suggestions. First, use italic for sub-subentries and run on. It won't work if you are already using italic for something else, like book titles. Second, turn the subentry into a main entry; instead of Black, sub-John, sub-Mary, why not two full-out entries, Black, J; Black, M?

I am sure that if we kept to a single index, reduced unnecessary punctuation, stopped cross-referencing, freed the indexer from having to search for full proper names, ran-on all subentries, reduced sub-subs to an absolute minimum and tried to run them on also, so as to make the fullest use of the narrow column measure, significant savings could be made. And every penny saved is helping to save the index itself.

**Discussion:** Lively debate followed Mr Turnbull’s controversial address. Defence of the cross-reference was made by Mr Bakewell, Mr Dixon, Mr Gordon and Mrs Howat from both the indexer’s and the user’s point of view, and Mr Dixon also challenged the view that run-on subheadings were easier to use than those in tabulated form. Mr Turnbull, however, maintained his position on both matters. Mrs Dainty asked about the use of capitals, which Mr Turnbull thought were best limited as far as possible. Mr Vyner suggested numbering paragraphs at the typescript stage, but the usefulness of this was considered to be doubtful. Mrs Wallis asked the speaker how he judged an author’s indexing competence and how he made allowances for the author’s preferences if an indexer was employed. Mr Turnbull said it was a matter of personal judgement in assessing an author, usually with acquaintance over a period of time, and though he found it exceptional for an author to be a good indexer he could also make useful suggestions about indexing his own work.

**HOW A DICTIONARY WAS MADE:**

**THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL DICTIONARY**

Russell Walker
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Mr Walker defined the scope and intention of the ten volumes that comprise the *SND*, and stressed that it is not a dictionary of Scottish Gaelic or a dictionary of the whole of the Scottish language; the words dealt with are those used from about 1700 to the present day. And, despite its name, it has no connection with the politics of Scottish Nationalism. He then commented on Scottish participation, of long standing, in British lexicography, starting with Dr Johnson who had conceived the idea of making a Scottish dictionary, though this came to nothing. Of the six scribes employed by Johnson in preparing his own dictionary, five were Scots.

Dr Johnson’s Scottish counterpart was Dr John Jamieson who, in 1808, issued his *Etymological dictionary of the Scottish language* in two volumes. Jamieson mistakenly thought that the Scots language was a direct derivative of Scandinavian tongues and that the Picts were Scandinavian Goths, but his was a splendid piece of work for one man and he recruited many helpers or correspondents throughout Scotland who sent him words and examples of current usages in their dialectal areas, Scott described him as ‘a little prolix and heavy, somewhat prosaic’, and he was taken in by some young ‘correspondents’ in rural Ayrshire who obliged him with a list of absurd but plausible words which he printed in his dictionary as ‘possibly French’. They have been preserved in the *SND*, with a parenthetical note: ‘Jam., of extremely doubtful origin’.

Jamieson’s work encouraged publication of early Scottish texts and glossaries, and Andrew Crawford, a contemporary, produced what he called *An eik to Dr. Jamieson’s Dictionary*, ‘eik’ being, as in English ‘to eke out’, a supplement, and can be used for ‘an addition to a glass of whisky’.

Continuing a historical progression of Scottish lexicographers, Mr Walker mentioned in particular Sir James Murray, a famous philologist, and Sir William Craigie of Dundee, probably the most distinguished English/Scots lexicographer of all time and one equally renowned in America. When, in 1907, the Scottish Dialect Committee was formed, Craigie was collaborating with William Grant and the collection of material for the *SND* was begun. Craigie began work in 1928 on the *Dictionary of the older Scottish tongue*, which deals with the middle period of Scots before Parliamentary Union, 1707, whereas the *SND* records Scots words after 1700 and up to the present. Its Scots-speaking areas exclude the Highlands and Western Islands, but include Campbeltown, Ulster, Caithness, Orkney and Shetland.

In 1929 Part I of the *Scottish national dictionary* was published. It was based partly on historical
principles, like the *Oxford*, partly on geographical lines like the *English dialect dictionary*, and it showed all the variants of all Scottish words in existence after 1700, ascertained pronunciations with dialect variations according to locality, and full derivations or etymologies.

William Grant died in 1948 and David Murison, a classical scholar of high academic achievement and personality, became Editor. In 1954 the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh became the centre of operations and work was carried out by a team of five assistants, of whom Mr Walker was one for seven years. Periodically the Editor would send out a questionnaire to the correspondents in the dialectal areas, and this was often heralded by a press notice in the local newspapers. During his personal revision of the slips he would relate the results of these questionnaires to the material already available, amplifying or modifying the information. Each assistant was allocated a letter of the alphabet and within it the words from the thousands of slips had to be reviewed in alphabetical order. Meticulous checking had to be carried out to ensure that sources were correct; sometimes a word would be of early usage, sometimes one would have been noted only a month before in some local newspaper, and scanning local newspapers in search of topical words was an interesting exercise.

The assistants composed the word articles from the slips, the Editor annotating and revising, with immense care about etymology. Quotations had to be checked at libraries all over Scotland and a bibliographical card-index was kept. Finally a typescript was prepared, sent to selected readers for review and returned to the Editor for the last approval. The dictionary was issued to subscribers in paper bound parts. Four parts made up a volume and the full set of ten volumes now costs £250.

Mr Walker described the scope of the information given in the Dictionary, under the following heads. First, it contains lists of words peculiar to Scotland and words in current use; for example, ‘puddock’ for frog, ‘smeddum’ meaning liveliness, good sense or intelligence. Second, words which are common to Scots and English but which have different meanings; a ‘dyke’ in Scotland is a wall, but in England it is a ditch. Third, words relating to Scottish institutions, the Church, the Universities, the Law and Local Government. Here Mr Walker, commenting on the last category, asked where are now the Deans of Guild, the Baillies, the Provosts or the Royal Burghs. But there are still the Kirk, the Moderator, the General Assembly. Until recently, he said, we had Humanity and Natural Philosophy in our universities; now we have Latin and Physics; we still have Advocates and the Procurator Fiscal in our Scottish Law Courts. There are words relating to folk-lore, games and sports, dances and food; hallowe’en, curling, strathspeys, cock-a-leekie. History is revealed in the hundreds of Gaelic place-names and geographical words like glen, loch, craig and cairn; the Norsemen and the Dutch and the French have also contributed to the language with brae, croon and tassie. These examples are but a random selection, some of very early origin; nearer today Sir Walter Scott and Thomas Carlyle enriched the English language with many words which are now taken for granted, such as raid, glamour, feckless and outcome. ‘Outwith’, however, is a mere Scotticism, in itself a subtle distinction.

And so, concluded Mr Walker, the Scottish language is recorded, as is proper, for it is rapidly disappearing. The *Scottish national dictionary* is its monument, not only for the benefit of academics but for the people too. In a sense it is the product of the people themselves, refined by scholarship but not lacking the common touch. It is there for all time to the language with brae, croon and tassie. These generations who want to understand and appreciate the achievements of their forebears, which were not small.

**DISCUSSION**

Asked if the Dictionary continued, Mr Walker told Mr Goudie that supplements were in progress; *The short Scots dictionary* would appear in about seven years and work continued on the *Dictionary of the older Scottish tongue*. Mr Berrill mentioned Dr Johnson’s ‘dictionary-maker as a harmless drudge’, but Mr Walker reminded him of the Doctor’s great care and kindness to his poor drunken Scots scribes. Mr Vyner queried restricting ‘translate’ and it was agreed that the usage included academic advancement, though Mr Bakewell recalled Shakespeare and Bottom. Mrs Dainty accepted ‘crown’ for ‘croon’, and Mr Vyner ‘witchcraft’ or ‘ghostliness’ for ‘glamour’. Mrs Flenley asked if there were queries from abroad, especially from America, but was told that this was not so. Mr Bradley asked about sources of locally restricted words and Mr Walker said local glossaries were a prime source and could be followed up. Mr Goudie queried the difference between a dictionary and a lexicon; Mr Walker said a dictionary was a basic word book while a lexicon was amplified, but Mrs Wallis, Mr Berrill and Mr Goudie agreed in the end that a dictionary dealt with a spoken language and a lexicon was used for words of higher scholarship. Mrs McCarthy also spoke of the differences between the written and the spoken word, and Mr Walker discussed spurious literary uses in the 19th century, saying that in general if a word was used in Scots it was in the Dictionary. Mrs Dainty quoted Alexander Grey who, in the twenties, said of Hugh MacDiarmid’s *Lallans* period that ‘the poet had needed his Jamieson as much as the reader did’. Mr Walker agreed that MacDiarmid had dredged Jamieson for his effects but for only a comparatively short period before turning to English.