The Wheatley Medal awarded for 1979

The Panel which recommends the award of the Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index is pleased to report a larger number of submissions for 1979 (21 in all), after last year when no index was found worthy of the award. (See The Indexer, 11 (4) Oct. 1979, 201.)

It is pleasant to report that this year two indexes were of almost equal merit and that two medals have been awarded; one to K. G. B. Bakewell for his index to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed; London: Library Association, 1978, and the other to Annette Surrey for her index to Circulation of the blood; edited by D. Geraint James; Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical, 1978. This is a festschrift of 35 contributions to the immortal memory of Dr William Harvey, 1578-1657.

The books submitted varied from slight volumes to lengthy complicated texts in two and three volumes; their indexes varied therefore from the meagre and simple to the long and more complicated presenting their compilers with greater problems. The Panel must bear in mind the criteria laid down for awarding the medal and consider many aspects of the indexes, appraising the merits of each. Sometimes an index will quickly be seen not to meet several of the criteria; sometimes the indexes have to be examined carefully and critically by each member of the Panel until one or more is found to meet most if not all of the requirements.

One requirement concerns the appearance of the
index in relation to its ease of consultation. In this the publisher is involved, for an index which is not easy to consult does not satisfy the Panel. In both the indexes referred to, subheadings and sub-subheadings are set indented; and Pitman Medical are to be congratulated on providing their index in this way with three columns of entries to each page; this result is largely contributed to by the brevity but adequacy of the indexer's headings.

The members of the Panel were of the opinion that these two completely different types of book presented different problems to the indexers which they dealt with satisfactorily, and were worthy of the medal.

The presentation of the medals was made by the President of the Library Association, Professor Wilfred Saunders, at a reception for the medallists at the Library Association premises on 27 June.

It is suggested that readers examine as soon as convenient the indexes of books published in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and notify the Development Secretary of the Library Association of any which they find worthy of consideration for the 1980 medal, by 2 February 1981.

L. M. Harrod
Chairman of the Wheatley Medal Joint Selection Panel, 1979

NBL moves house
The National Book League, having spent 35 years in Albemarle Street, has removed to another address in London. This is Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18 2QZ, a splendid Victorian building, formerly a town hall, where the NBL will have more room for its multifarious activities in promoting the book.