We delight to print in full the index to London labour and the London poor: the condition and earnings of those that will work, cannot work, and will not work; Vol. ii, London street-folk by Henry Mayhew, published in 1865 by Charles Griffin and Company of London. (The index appears at the front of the volume.)

Before reading it through, try your hand at finding references to the following topics: chimneys of steam-vessels, employment of master sweeps, London traffic (3 refs.) and water in the streets, Mike the young crossing-sweeper, old shoe renovation, seasonal variations in labour (2 separate entries), sellers of animals, fish, and second-hand articles for amusement. Don’t give up too easily; all are there.

Punctuation and order are reproduced exactly as in the original.

Articles for amusement, second-hand sellers of, 18
Bear-baiting, 62
Bedding, &c., second-hand sellers of, 17
Bird-catchers who are street-sellers, 74
—— duffers, tricks of, 79
—— street-seller, the crippled, 76
Birds’-nests, sellers of, 82
—— life of a, 84
Birds, stuffed, sellers of, 27
—— live, sellers of, 66
—— foreign, sellers of, 80
Bone-grubbers, 154
—— narrative of a, 156
Boots and shoes, second-hand, sellers of, 48
Boy crossing-sweepers’ room, 570
Brisk and slack seasons, 367
Brushes, second-hand, sellers of, 26
Burnt linen or calico, 15
Cabinet-ware, second-hand, sellers of, 26
Casual labour in general, 367
—— brisk and slack seasons, 367
—— among the chimney-sweeps, 424
Carpeting, &c., second-hand, sellers of, 16
Cesspool emptying by trunk and hose, 506
Cesspool system of London, 495
—— of Paris, 496
Cesspool-sewerman, statement of a, 508
Cesspoolage and nightmen, 491
Chimney-sweepers, the London, 382
—— of old, and climbing-boys, 392
—— stealing children, 393
—— sores and diseases, 396
—— accidents, 397
—— cruelties towards, 398
—— of the present day, 400
—— work and wages, 407
—— general characteristics of, 409
—— dress and diet, 414
—— abodes, 415
—— festival at May-day, 421
—— “leeks,” 426
—— knellers and queriers, 426
Cigar-end finders, 161
Clocks, second-hand, sellers of, 27
Clothes worn in town and country, table showing comparative cost of, 216
Coal, consumption of, 189
—— sellers of, 93
Coke, sellers of, 97
Commissioners of Sewers, powers of, 472
“Coshar” meat killed for the Jews, 135
Criminals, number of, in England and Wales, 362
Crossing-sweeper, the aristocratic, 529
—— the bearded, 535
—— a Regent-street, 538
—— a tradesman’s, 540
—— “old woman over the water,” 541
—— old woman who had been a pensioner, 542
—— one who had been a servant-maid, 543
—— the female Irish, 546
—— the Sunday, 550
—— the wooden-legged, 552
—— the one-legged, 554
—— the most severely afflicted, 554
—— the negro who lost both his legs, 556
—— the maimed Irish, 559
—— Mike’s statement, 564
—— Gander, the captain, 565
—— the king of the tumbling-boy crossing-sweepers, 567
—— the girl sweeper sent out by her father, 572
Crossing-sweepers, 527
—— able-bodied male, 529
—— who have got permission from the police, narratives of, 536
—— able-bodied Irish, 545
—— the occasional, 550
—— the afflicted, 552
—— boy, and tumblers, 560
—— where they lodge, 571
—— their room, 570
—— girl, 571
Curiosities, second-hand, sellers of, 25
Curtains, second-hand, sellers of, 16
Dog “finder’s” career, a, 59
Dog-finders, stealers, and restorers, the former, 56
Dog-finders, extent of their trade, 57
Dogs, sellers of, 60
—— sporting, sellers of, 62
‘Dolly’ business, the, 120
Dredgers, the, or river-finders, 165
Dust-contractors, 187
Dust-heap, composition of a, 190
—— separation of, 191
Dustmen, the, 187
—— “filler” and “carrier,” 184

The Indexer Vol. 14 No. 1 April 1984
their general character, 197
Dustmen, sweeps, and nightmen, 177
— number of, 197

Employers, "cutting," varieties of, 262
— "drivers," 263
— "grinders," 263

Fires of London, 428
— abstract of causes of, 429
— extinction of, 431
Flushermen, the working, 486
— history of an individual, 488
Furs, second-hand, sellers of, 51

Gander, the "captain" of the boy sweepers, 565
Garret workmen, labour of, 342
Glass and crockery, second-hand, sellers of, 17
Gold and silver fish, sellers of, 90
Hare and rabbit skins, buyers of, 123
Harness, second-hand, sellers of, 27
Hill men and women, 193
Hogs'-wash, buyers of, 146
Home work, 353
Horse, food consumed by, and excretions in twenty-four hours, 218
Horse-dung of the streets of London, 217
— gross annual weight of, 219
House-drainage, as connected with the sewers, 491

Iron Jack, 13

Jew old clothes-men, 133
— street-seller, life of a, 136
— boy street-sellers, 136
— their pursuits, traffic, &c, 137
— girl street-sellers, 138
— sellers of accordions, &c, 145
Jews, the street, 127
— history of, 129
— trades and localities, 129
— habits and diet, 135
— synagogues and religion, 138
— politics, literature, and amusements, 139
— charities, schools, and education, 141
— funeral ceremonies, fasts, and customs, 145
Jewesses, street, the, 138

Kitchen-stuff, grease, and dripping, buyers of, 123
Knollers and queriers, 426

Labour, economy of, 347
Lasts, second-hand, sellers of, 27
"Leeks," the, 426
Leverets, wild rabbits, &c., sellers of, 89
Linen, second-hand, sellers of, 15
Live animals, sellers of, 55
London street drains, 450
— extent of, 454
— order of, 454
— outlets, ramifications, &c., of, 459

Low wages, remedies for, 286
"Lurker's," a career, 59

Marine-store shops, 120
May-day, 421
— sweeps' festival, 421
Men's second-hand clothes, sellers of, 46
Metal trays, second-hand, sellers of, 14
Metropolitan police district, the, 177
— inhabited houses, 183
— population, 184
"Middleman" system of work, 373
Monmouth-street, Dickens's description of, 41
Mud-larks, 173
— story of a reclaimed, 174
Mineral productions and natural curiosities, sellers of, 93
Music "duffers," 23
Musical instruments, second-hand, sellers of, 20

Night-soil, present disposal of, 509
Nightmen, the, working and mode of work, 510

Offal, how disposed of, 9
Old Clothes Exchange, the, 30
— wholesale business at the, 31
— old clothes-men, 129
Old hats, sellers of, 49
Old John, the waterman, statement of, 543
Old woman "over the water," the, 541
Old wood gatherers, 162

Paris, cesspool and sewer system of, 502
— rag-gatherers of, 157
Paupers, street-sweeping, narratives of, 277
— number of, in England and Wales, 362
Petticoat-lane, street-sellers of, 42
"Pure" finders, 158
— narrative of a female, 160
Puri-men, the, 107

"Rag and bottle" shops, 120
Rag-gatherers, 155
Rags, broken metal, bottles, glass, and bone, buyers of, 118
"Ramoneur Company," the, 423
Rat-killing, 64
River beer-sellers, 107
River finders, 165
Rosemary-lane, street-sellers of, 45
Rubbish-carters, the, 317, 326
— wages and perquisites of, 328
— social characteristics of, 331
— casual labourers among, 365
— scurf trade among, 369
Salt, sellers of, 103
Sand, sellers of, 104
Scavenger, statement of a "regular," 252
Scavengers, master, of former times, 231
— oath of, 232
— working, 242
labour and rates of payment, 246
“casual hands,” 247
habits and diet, 255
influence of free trade on their earnings, 256
worse paid, the, 261
Scavengery, contractors for, 235
— regulations of, 236
— premises of, 242
Scavenging, jet and hose system of, 311
Scavenger, contractors for, 235
— state of, 236
— works of, 242
— premises of, 242
Scurf-labourers, 266
Scurf-labourer, statement of, 267
Second-hand apparel, sellers of, 28
— articles, sellers of, 7
— experience of a dealer in, 13
— articles, live animals, productions, &c., street-sellers of, their numbers, capital, and income, 110
— garments, uses of, 33
— varieties of, 36
— store shops, 28
— miscellaneous articles, street-sellers of, 26
Seven-dials, Dickens’s description of, 41
Sewage, metropolitan, quantity of, 439
— qualities and uses of, 456
Sewerage, the City, 457
— new plan of, 465
Sewerage and scavengery, London, history of, 101
Sewers, ancient, 440
— kinds and characteristics of, 442
— subterranean character of, 446
— house-drainage in connection with, 447
Sewers, ventilation of, 479
— flushing and plunging, 480
— rats in the, 489
— management of the, and the late Commission, 470
— Commissioners, powers of, 472
— rate, 479
Sewer-hunters, 168
— numbers of, 170
— strange tale of, 172
Sewermen and nightmen of London, 433
Shells, sellers of, 105
Shoddy mills, 34
Young Mike the crossing-sweeper, 564

Russell Ash in The Bookseller (14 Jan. 1984) suggests new eponymous origins for bookish terms, including the hitherto unsung—

Jacobus Index (c. 1446–1502), an Italian scribe and halfwit, gave his name to the ‘index’ despite the fact that his first attempts were less than useful as he had totally failed to grasp the concept of alphabetical order.
Misrepresentation—passim

*A man of honour* by Joseph Bonanno (Deutsch, 1983) is the self-aggrandizing autobiography of a Sicilian Mafia leader or 'Godfather'. Its 10-page index (to 406-page text) shares this tendency regarding the book’s main character. Bonanno’s entry takes nearly a full page, including the subheads:

- generosity of
- handsomeness of
- intellect of
- language skills of
- tact of
- wit of

which may doggedly indicate only half a sentence of text: ‘handsomeness of, 175’ leads only to, ‘In general, people considered me an attractive man’; ‘intellect of, 176’, to, ‘They kindly praised my charm and intelligence’; ‘wit of, 168’, to, ‘They used to say that I was the toasting champion of the dinner table’—no example is cited.

The technique is used against others, though, either as disguise or heavy sarcasm. Under ‘Luciano, Charlie’ is included a somewhat startling subhead, in gangland context;

literary sophistication of, 14, 161

and under ‘Magaddino, Stefano’, also is listed, ‘literary sophistication of, 14’.

Turning to these references, we find that page 161 refers to Charlie Luciano thus: ‘Although illiterate, he possessed a shrewd intelligence and level-mindedness that made him a good leader and superb organizer’. So *this* is literary competence . . . ? And in the Introduction, which begins on p. 11, we find, ‘Men such as Charlie Luciano, . . . and Stefano Magaddino were baffled whenever I would slip a literary allusion into our conversations. When I spoke Italian, they often complained that I used words they did not understand. They had grown up in the impoverished fields of Sicily or in the tenement streets of America. Their language was coarse and expedient.’

Unfortunately for the indexer’s irony, if that is what it is, the prelims pagination was presumably changed after page proof stage; for page 14, to which readers are directed for these literary flights, is in fact blank. Perhaps, after all, more appropriately.

Has not done better

In *The Indexer* 13 (2), 123–4, we examined Gordon Wells’s *The successful author’s handbook* (Macmillan, 1981) which included three pages of advice to authors on preparing indexes, but itself had a deplorable index. Now Mr Wells has brought out a further book of advice to writers, *The craft of writing articles* (Allison and Busby, 1983). This tenders no advice on indexing; but we turned with interest to its index to see whether the lessons we suggested had been learnt, and grieve to find that this is not the case. Again, Mr Wells provides a terrible index to his book of advice to writers.

The index is of two pages (to a 95-page text), and repeats all the faults of its predecessor. Strange terms are lifted straight from the text and shoved into the index without explanation: 5WH test; WWWWWH test; Using a model (i.e. of writing style—not for photography). The first pages only of references extending over several pages are cited; instead of ‘SHE 36–8, 82, 83’, we have only, ‘SHE 36’. Many topics and references are omitted from the index. Topics are strangely dispersed: ‘Accounts 87, 92’ and ‘Book-keeping 84’ have no linking cross-reference. ‘Target magazine’ (4 refs.) is not listed under or cross-referred from ‘Magazines’ (4 other, different refs.). ‘Closing paragraphs’, ‘Linking paragraphs’, ‘Middle paragraphs’ and ‘Opening paragraphs’ are all entered thus, and omitted under ‘Paragraph content/Length’. ‘Drawings, pen and ink 72’ is missing under both ‘Illustrations’ and ‘Pictures’. These two terms are not cross-referenced, neither is either to or from ‘Photographs’, which also lacks ‘Black and white photographs’ and ‘Backgrounds (for photographs)’, both of which are listed only under B. A sample entry, illustrating this indexer’s understanding of pagination, punctuation and alphabetization in indexes, is:

Writing ability 9
  a series 11 [should be 11–12]
  methods 48
  style 50 [should be 50–3]
  the article 11.

We suggest that in future editions of his books of advice to writers, Mr Wells includes as a golden rule; *Engage the services of a professional indexer to index your book.*

H.K.B.