EDITORIAL

Any fool can write, but it takes a genius to index.

This issue contains two extensive articles by scientists much concerned with practical indexing. Mr. P. R. P. Claridge, M.A., M.Inst.Inf.Sci., of the Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, addressed the Society on November 5th, 1959, and despite the fact that his explanations were explicit and well-illustrated, it was obvious that members present hoped to be able to study the subject at leisure. His paper is here printed for the benefit of the wider audience it so clearly deserves.

Dr. J. Edwin Holmstrom submits a sequel to his fascinating paper printed in our Autumn, 1959, issue. This is based on extensive personal experience, and it should be emphasized that all opinions expressed in The Indexer are personal. Indeed, they are sometimes contradictory, and not necessarily the official views of the Society of Indexers.

We note an article by Mr. Paul M. Angle entitled “What ! No Index ?” in Chicago History, Spring, 1959 (pp. 218-222), in which he makes some very interesting comments and suggestions. One such reads: “And we should like to see librarians return books to publishers on the ground that without indexes they are incomplete.” An extension of this idea would quickly ensure publishers insisting that the index should be of the same high standard as the text matter. That is one of our aims.

MEMBER’S ADVERTISEMENT

Full-time freelance indexer of technical and scientific publications wishes to contact another established freelance indexer with a view to co-operation and expansion of activities and possible partnership. Office accommodation and secretarial and clerical assistance are available. Please write to: Geoffrey C. Jones, Technical Indexing Service, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.