Following my researches into the mechanics of compiling large indexes, I had the opportunity of trying direct dictation, which is of considerable assistance in other forms of clerical activity, but it requires experts both in the analysis of the work to be indexed and also knowledge of indexing on the part of the typist.

The particular index called for an expert on the subject. He read the page-proofs and decided in his own mind what was worth putting into the index. The latter was specified by the publishers to be of the literary type, i.e., entries respecting major subjects to be run on as little subsidiary indexes, with the very minimum number of page references to a topic, the latter to be enlarged accordingly in number.

As the analyser recovered his topics and called them out with the page numbers, it was found possible to keep up with him in typing on perforated gummed sheets of quarto, taking the proper word first, together with additional cross-references if suitable, and generally anticipating the literary form in which the final entry would appear.

This additional streamlining of the analysis proved very speedy. As soon as the sheets were filled they were torn up and sorted by someone else into a structure made of 72 covers of match boxes, suitably labelled in terms of the alphabet, but more finely. In this way the entries cannot get out of hand or blow away. As before, they are stuck down on sheets of paper for the final editing.

POSTSCRIPT

While this issue was in the press we learned with deep regret of the sudden death of our Honorary Membership Secretary,

Mr. A. T. H. TALBOT.

An appreciation will appear in our next issue.