Members of the Society of Indexers would not, I imagine, think of an index as an instrument of the Spanish Inquisition. An index may sometimes be regarded as an instrument of torture—either by its compiler or perhaps by its user. But this is certainly not intentional on the part of the indexer (certainly not those members of the Society of Indexers). It will perhaps surprise some readers that the most famous (or infamous) index devised was that by Cardinal Caraffa, the man who restored the Inquisition.

This index was of course the Index Librorum Prohibitorum vel Expurgandorum, or Roman Index. As early as 1543, Cardinal Caraffa had decreed that from that date no book was to be sold, old or new, regardless of its contents, without the permission and approval of the Inquisition. To carry out this decree and give guidance to those whose job it was to enforce it an index was prepared. The work of preparation was split into two main divisions corresponding to the two main parts of the index: firstly a Prohibitory Index in which was listed all books considered to be heretical to the doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church; and secondly the Expurgatory Index which dealt with the contents of books deemed immoral or heretical and forbidding their use until the objectionable matter had been removed.

During the years 1544-56, Cardinal Caraffa and his fellow indexers were busily engaged on the vast amount of preparatory work this entailed; and it was not until the Cardinal became Pope Paul IV that we see the fruits of their labours when between 1557-59 the first full Roman Index was issued. Quite apart from the colossal task of indexing, it was also a large order for the printer, Antoine Blado. Blado had since 1549 held the position of Printer to the Holy See and it was in this capacity that he brought out the Roman Index in sections—completing the task in 1559.

The effect of the Roman Index (which incidentally still exists and is kept up-to-date) has not always had the desired results of its compilers and sponsors, namely to suppress the works of certain writers. Indeed, as in our day, it had the reverse effect, in that books "suppressed " or placed on "the Index" have led to increased sales of the offending book and greater appreciation of the writer. Such was the case of the books by Erasmus of Rotterdam, whose Colloquia Familiaria after making its appearance in the Index sold no fewer than twenty-five editions. Another Index-title by Erasmus the Encomium Moriae did even better.

This was not always the case, however, for the fate of Christopher Plantin's Royal Bible dedicated to King Philip II of Spain was debated for ten years as to whether it should go in the Index, the reason being not the theological outlook of the Bible but the fact (or suspicion) that the printer Plantin was a member of
one of the many secret occult societies flourishing in the Netherlands at about this
time.

The Index at one time contained the works of Jewell, Usher, Chaucer, Spenser,
Goldsmith and Macaulay. A notable list indeed.

The moral of this slight dissertation is that the indexer can become the censor,
either on religious grounds, that of politics, on racial policies or mere personal
whim. Attempts have certainly been made in the twentieth century towards this
d—making the index as in the days of the Inquisition an instrument for the
suppression of thought and expression—with the Indexer in the rôle of censor.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 1960

Atkins, C. C. A., of Surbiton.
Barlow, Tom, of London, W.C.2.
Christie, Miss Helen, S.R.N., of Guildford, Surrey.
Coburn, Miss Kathleen, M.A., B.Litt., F.R.S.C., of Toronto.
Davenport, Cyril, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., of Pinner.
Davey, Fred A., of Eastbourne, New Zealand.
Davis, Donald D., B.Sc., of Tennessee, U.S.A.
Focke, Miss Helen M., B.S. in L.S., M.A., of Cleveland, Ohio.
Freudenberg, Miss Anne, M.A., B.S. in Ed., of Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A.
Harding, Gilbert, B.A., of Harrow Weald.
Hough, Miss Sheila, B.Sc., of Belsize Park, N.W.3.
Johnson, Miss Barbara, B.A., of Arizona.
Line, Mrs. Joyce, M.A., of Southampton.
Maas, Waldo, F.R.Econ.S., of Tigrith, Bucks.
Miller, Terence A., of Potters Bar.
Pinner, R. B., of Cuckfield, Sussex.
Robertson, Mrs. Doris M., of Edinburgh.
Schenk, Mrs. Elizabeth, Ph.D., of Belsize Park, N.W.3.
Sharpe, Miss Avril J., of London, W.1.
Sinclair, Miss Kathleen J., of Windsor.
Whittall, Miss A. N., of Tunbridge Wells.