(Dahomey and Upper Volta) withdrew; then with great pomp and ceremony the remaining two members (Senegal and French Sudan) proclaimed officially their fusion and independence as the Mali Federation; within two months Senegal seceded from the Federation, which then ceased to exist, its remaining member (French Sudan) adopting the designation “The Republic of Mali”. You can well imagine how successive entries required considerable sorting out!

Proof-reading is of course extremely important in all forms of indexing. In this respect the cumulative indexer has one advantage: until the index of a two-year volume is finalized he has always the opportunity to correct an error either in reproduction or due to his own omission or commission. On the other hand, the index becoming the size it does by the end of even a quarter, it is really not practical to check old entries every time an issue appears, and this emphasizes the importance of meticulous correction of the proofs of each fortnightly index.

In conclusion, I would like to mention two factors that have helped me enormously in my work. First, I work in the same building as the writers of the articles and can consult with them at any time and discuss with them the relative importance of items in their articles and obtain their views on possible future developments. Secondly, our offices are five minutes’ walk only from the printers; I correct my proofs in the composing room and can discuss with the head compositor how best a correction can be effected without entailing a too radical alteration in the frames already set up.

(Examples on pp. 83-84)

CONFERENCE ON BETTER INDEXES FOR TECHNICAL LITERATURE

This conference arranged by Aslib and the Society of Indexers was held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on Tuesday, 31st January. Attended by about 130 persons, many of whom took an active part in the discussions, this was a great success from every viewpoint. The speakers were controversial, the audience responsive, and we look forward to the issue of Aslib Proceedings which will contain a full report of the events of an instructive and entertaining conference. This will be distributed to members of the Society.

Speakers at the conference were as follows: J. F. Hinsley on “Moans of a user”; A. K. Parker presenting “The publishers’ view”; W. J. Bishop described “Techniques of indexing books”; Geoffrey C. Jones dealt with “Techniques of indexing periodicals”; and C. W. Cleverdon explained the intricacies of “Mechanical aids to indexing”. L. E. J. Helyar concluded the day’s session with an admirable summary, and we anticipate with pleasure re-evaluating the papers presented.