latter, thus reducing the number of distributed relatives—and consequently the number of entries necessary in the alphabetical index (whose function is to locate distributed relatives). Again, if some topics lack a clear name (which means they cannot be given the front position as index entries—they are “unsought”) they may yet be looked for as qualifiers of the containing subject; e.g., painting techniques will never be looked for under Techniques, but very likely under Painting. In such cases, a transposition in the alphabetical index, to give an array of such unsought terms as qualifiers of the main subject, might be considered; e.g.,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painting: Composition</td>
<td>751.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting: Equipment</td>
<td>751.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting: Materials</td>
<td>751.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting: Techniques</td>
<td>751.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But this suffers from the fact that it removes an element of predictability and consistency from the index; e.g., an enquirer looking under Painting for Painting, Landscape and finding only the entry Painting 750 immediately gets the impression that the various aspects of Painting must be indexed under the direct form. If he finds some aspects listed under Painting he may not realize this.

Yours sincerely,

J. Mills.

OBITUARIES

ALFRED T. H. TALBOT (1894-1960)

The sudden death of our Honorary Membership Secretary, Mr. A. T. H. Talbot, on 20th October, 1960, came as a profound shock to his many friends in the Society of Indexers, of which he was also Joint Honorary Auditor with Dr. Dickinson since its inception. Almost our entire membership constituted his friends, for he made a point of sitting down at intervals to write to members personal, chatty letters telling provincial members about our meetings, linking together those living in the same locality, and being friendly. This word admirably sums up Alfred Talbot as we knew him, courteous, helpful, efficient—but above all, friendly. This quality was so necessary in building up our young Society, and we owe him a profound debt of gratitude.

Alfred Talbot was born in Highbury, London, on 13th July, 1894, and was educated at the Dame Alice Owen’s School, Islington. In 1910 he entered the Civil Service but two years later went to the institution where he was to make his career—The Bank of Adelaide, London. With the coming of the First World War he joined the Royal Naval Division in early 1915, being discharged in 1919. He was severely wounded in Gallipoli. Back in the Bank he served in many departments but his bent was always for writing; hence for many years he was their Chief Correspondent, combining this later with the post of Information Officer. This brought him in contact with many customers of the Bank
arriving annually from Australia on business or pleasure bent. He found particular pleasure in this and made a host of friends by being able to help them in many ways outside the purely routine bank-customer relationship. Indeed he exhibited throughout his years in The Bank of Adelaide that talent for making and keeping friends which was his hallmark. He retired in 1956.

The social and cultural activities of Alfred Talbot were numerous. He was an avid reader, the author of numerous articles in periodicals, a lay preacher in the country and East End, and a scoutmaster, and was keenly interested in the youth movement and in old people. He joined the Home Guard during the Second World War, and was also a Mason. He spent much of his spare time in helping others, assisting in youth club activities, visiting prisons, and giving generously of his time and money to help anybody in need. When he became our Hon. Membership Officer he did not spare himself in furthering our interests. Nothing was too much trouble, and his efforts were rewarded by his commanding the regard and respect of those with whom he came into contact. We shall miss Alfred Talbot at our meetings, but will always remember the genial, Christian gentleman whom we are proud to have had as colleague and friend.

On hearing of Mr. Talbot's death, Dr. William E. Miller of Philadelphia wrote the following lines to Mrs. Talbot: "Mr. Talbot was one of the kindest men of my acquaintance. To him more than to anyone else I owe my feeling of being so much at home during my visit to England last summer. Soon after my arrival home I received two letters from him giving me information for the book on Thomas Nash which I am now trying to prepare. As you probably know, Mr. Talbot and I had a number of meetings in London during the summer, and I acquired a great respect and affection for him at that time."

Mr. Talbot was married in 1924 to Miss Maud Rayfield, also of Highbury. She helped him loyally in his many activities and was widely esteemed, but had considerable ill-health, dying in 1958 after a two-year illness. He married as his second wife Mrs. Hilda Main, a colleague of his for many years in The Bank of Adelaide. To her we offer our sincere condolences, as we pay tribute to the memory of a man who set an example that few can emulate, but all can admire.

J. L. T.

SIDNEY ROY HOSSELL

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death on the 30th November, 1960, of Roy Hossell after an outstanding career cut short at an early age by a virulent form of poliomyelitis against which he struggled with supreme courage for five years.

Born in 1921 and educated at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield, of which he became head boy, Roy Hossell served thereafter for five and a half years in the R.A.F. He then, in 1946, went up to Oxford, where, as a member of St. Catherine's Society, he graduated and later qualified as a Master
of Arts. After taking the Diploma of Education he became a schoolmaster and taught with much success at John Gulson Grammar School, Coventry and afterwards at Taunton Technical College, but he had not been at the latter for more than a few terms before he was struck down by poliomyelitis, which necessitated his spending three months in an iron lung and a further year in hospital before he was sufficiently recovered from total paralysis to be allowed home.

Thus debarred from further following his chosen profession, he decided to seek a livelihood from indexing, among a remarkable list of other new activities, which included private tuition and compiling three crossword problems a week for a Fleet Street agency. It was only in January, 1959, that he joined the Society of Indexers, but he succeeded from this period in securing commissions from Collins, Frederick Muller, Max Parrish and Darton, Longman & Todd to compile the indexes of no fewer than 21 books—more than ten a year. These included such well-known titles as Vol. 1 of the Fontana edition of A History of Europe by H. A. L. Fisher; Minney's The Private Papers of Hore-Belisha; Sir Arthur Bryant's Restoration England; Virginia Cowles's The Great Swindle; and that much publicized and highly controversial work, A Full Life by Sir Brian Horrocks. He also indexed two volumes of a journal, The British Chess Magazine.

In the chess world indeed Roy Hossell earned deservedly a very high reputation both as a player of top county strength and also as an organizer. He was a member of the Development Committee of the British Chess Federation and he was elected the sole Hon. Life Vice-President of the Warwickshire Association. His Dictionary of Chess Terms, started towards the end of his life, was accepted by the Oxford University Press but alas! was never completed.

Roy Hossell leaves a widow and four young children. To them we offer our deepest sympathy.

G. N. K.

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS

The announcement of the death of Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers on 7th October, 1960, signified a personal loss to many librarians. It meant the passing of one of the truly great gentlemen of our profession who continued to take a keen interest in librarianship long after his retirement. He was a source of inspiration to younger librarians, an authority willing to share his vast knowledge, and approachable by all in search of guidance. The physique and manner of speech associated with an archbishop rather than a librarian caused some to consider Berwick Sayers pompous, but he was anything but that. Proud of the developments in librarianship, to which he has contributed in no small measure, Berwick Sayers influenced many, including hundreds of students to whom he taught classification. He simplified the subject for us, yet was not left behind by modern advances, although he was possibly more concerned with practical
application than with abstruse theoretical ideas. Berwick Sayers was a great librarian and teacher, and his past influence for good may be the more appreciated now that he is removed from our midst.

Details of Berwick Sayers' career have appeared elsewhere, but we pay tribute to his memory, and publish a letter received in reply to a request for an article. Although not a member of the Society of Indexers, he was keenly appreciative of our objectives. His willingness to contribute was indicative of his character, and the modesty expressed in his letter was not false, but typical of sentiments expressed in many other letters received from Berwick Sayers during the past thirty years. Librarianship is the poorer for his passing, but is greatly enriched by his having chosen that profession for his life's work.

J. L. T.

1st February, 1960.

My dear Friend Thornton,

Nothing would please me better than to say I would send you a screed in time for the Spring number of The Indexer which I like very much indeed; but when I do a script—and I will—you may say that it is only of stale material. I do not pose as an expert in the modern associative types of indexing. All I could do would be some light stuff about my own experience in trying to index things for my own use; my own books; the snags I have met; the fun I have enjoyed; the misleading indexes; the too brief indexes; and the efficient ones that get everything in them, so that if one has read the index one has (save the mark) mastered the book; and then, to close these immediate impressions, the "index impossible", that registers every subject, aspect, relation, thought and allusion in every sentence, paragraph, page, chapter and in the added things in book, periodical or literary or recorded piece. Quod est absurdum!

That's the sort of stuff, "guff" you may say, which is all I can hope to do. Hope is the imperative word. I am up to my eyes in inky murkiness at present.

With all good wishes,

Yours ever,

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS.

UNPARDONABLE

The Observer for 7th August, 1960, contains a review by Sir Harold Nicolson of Letters of Edward Fitzgerald. Edited by J. M. Cohen (Centaur Press), in which the reviewer states: "... it is unpardonable that an English publisher should produce a book of this nature without providing an index".

(Cutting contributed by G. V. Carey.)