A number of members seem to have elected to take an early holiday this year or to have been otherwise occupied at the end of May, but nevertheless 23 stalwarts attended the Annual General Meeting, presided over by the Chairman, Mr. J. C. Thornton, M.A., on the 27th of that month.

The Officers were unanimously re-elected but there were three changes in the Council membership. Owing to his uncertain health, Mr. G. V. Carey, M.A., had expressed his desire to resign from the Council but had been persuaded to accept honorary membership. The Chairman referred to Mr. Carey's great services to the Society which he proposed should be recognised by offering him a Vice-Presidency. This motion was carried unanimously and Mr. Carey has since gratefully accepted this office, joining Mr. A. R. Hewitt as one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Society. The resignation of Mrs. E. M. Hatt, B.A., and Mr. Richard Bancroft, M.A., for personal reasons, were also accepted with regret and both were warmly thanked for their services.

To fill these three vacancies the following members were unanimously elected to the Council: Miss F. V. Clarke, B.Sc., Head of the Central Registry of I.C.I. and Chairman of the Society's panel of non-literary indexers—Miss Clarke had been an original member of the Council until last year when she felt she had to resign owing to temporary ill-health; Mr. Francis Tatham, B.A., the indexer of *Whitaker's Almanac* and *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac*; and Mr. Michael Wace, Head of the Editorial Department of the University of London Press and also an indexer of note. In addition to the Officers and the above newly-elected members, the Council now comprises: Miss Dorothy Atkins, A.L.A., Mr. Tom Barlow, Mr. Jack Bird, B.A., F.L.A. (representing ASLIB), Miss R. D. Coole, M.A., and Mr. John Thornton, A.L.A. (representing the Library Association), Editor of *The Indexer*.

Dr. Robert Dickinson, B.Sc., Ph.D., and Mr. William Davies, A.A.I.A., were elected Hon. Auditors for the ensuing year and a vote of thanks for their valuable services was carried unanimously.

The Chairman paid a tribute to the editing of *The Indexer*, which was now being published to scheduled time and was attracting increased independent support. It was agreed that Mr. L. Montague Harrod, F.L.A., should join the Editorial Board.

After the conclusion of regular business Mr. Robert Collison, F.L.A., gave a stimulating talk on "The Future of Indexing", which will be found recorded on page 138. After the usual lively discussion the speaker was warmly thanked by the Chairman for this thought-provoking paper.

Coming so soon after the death of Mr. Alfred Talbot, our much esteemed Hon. Membership Secretary, the sudden passing of the Hon. Assistant Secretary, Dr. L. E. C. Hughes, B.Sc., Ph.D., on the 9th June came as a great shock to members...
and a grievous loss to the Society, which he joined as a Founder Member in 1957 and served as Hon. Secretary during 1959-60. Dr. Hughes was a scientist of note, particularly in the field of electronics; a tribute to some of his many activities is paid on page 133. A sheaf of flowers was sent on behalf of all the members of the Society for the cremation service at Golders Green on the 14th June and this was attended by the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and the Editor of *The Indexer*.

It is somewhat disappointing to find that only two nominations were received for the Library Association's award of a gold medal for "an outstanding index of the year" 1960, and also that both of those came from members of the Library Association, and none from those of the other nominating body, the Society of Indexers. Surely members of the Society should be apt judges of a really excellent index.

There are four ways in which members are asked to assist the smooth and efficient administration of the Society:

1. By prompt payment of dues on or as soon as possible after April 1st. Those few members who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions for the current year are urged to send without delay their cheques to the Hon. Membership Secretary, 23 Hatherleigh Gardens, Potters Bar, Middlesex.

2. By promptly notifying any change of address to the Hon. Membership Secretary.

3. By keeping the Hon. General Secretary informed of any fresh indexes they have compiled, to enable the panel records to be kept up to date.

4. By attending whenever possible the Society's meetings

G. N. K.

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1960-61**

**DEATH OF MR. TALBOTT:**

At the outset reference must be made to the very great loss the Society sustained during the year by reason of the death on the 20th October of the Hon. Membership Secretary, Mr. Alfred Talbot, who had also served as one of the Society's Hon. Auditors since its inception. By his great kindliness and courtesy Alfred Talbot had endeared himself to very many members, who will wish to endorse wholeheartedly the tribute paid to him in the Spring issue of *The Indexer*. The office of Membership Secretary is an important one and to ensure continuity the Council appointed Mr. Terence Miller to succeed him in an acting capacity; they recommend his full election at the Annual General Meeting. Mr. William Davies, A.A.I.A., M.S.Ind., an International Accountant, was similarly appointed as acting Hon. Auditor and his election is also recommended.