Letter

Without benefit of index

On 21 May 2002 I wrote as follows to Paternoster Press:

I recently purchased a copy of *J. C. Ryle, first Bishop of Liverpool* by Ian D. Farley from Wesley Owen, Liverpool.

The contents table concludes with the following:

Index 259

However, my copy ends at page 258.

Do I have an imperfect copy or did you decide not to include an index? If the former, may I return my copy for replacement or, alternatively, can you please send a copy of the index? If the latter, may I express my regret that you have chosen to spoil an important book by omitting such an important feature.

The publishers replied promptly on 24 May:

Thank you for your recent enquiry about the missing index...

Due to time and money constraints we were not able to supply the book with an index. This late change should have been reflected in the contents page, and we apologise if this mislead [sic] you in any way.

K. G. B. Bakewell, Liverpool

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(17), and at the generally low standard of these. The revised conditions of the award were listed.

SI Council’s annual report recorded SI membership of 363, with 98 Registered Indexers (and only 76 requests for indexers received, those chiefly for specialists in scientific works). At the AGM there had been a suggestion ‘that a highly experienced member of the Society might consider setting up a small “stable” of suitable newcomers on a similar basis to that used by barristers in chambers. This could ... ensure that skilled indexers would be available in the future to replace the older ones when they retired.’

‘Extracts from reviews’ took eight pages. John Shaftesley’s review of *Indexing for editors* by R. F. Hunnisett (‘This extremely useful book ... highly instructive’) took three, in small print.

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