ed from the pages of professional journals like *Science.* Payment for writing would have to exceed the literary quarterlies by at least fivefold. None of the reviewers would have to be put in the position of being "regulars," lest they stagnate, nor must they be overworked, lest they come to view writing for the magazine as a chore. The orientation of the whole enterprise must by no means be exclusively literary, and its commitment should always be to the life of the mind, its sole *raison d'être.*

Have we set our sights too low?

But—and here is the kicker—Mr. Hollander then notes: "At a casual estimate, this would cost at least $750,000 a year." —*Richard Harwell, Bowdoin College.*

Indexing Theory, Indexing Methods, and Search Devices. By Frederick Jonker. New York: Scarecrow Press, 1964. 124p. $4. (64-11785).

Indexing is not a new subject to the librarian. It is taught extensively in library schools, and the professional literature abounds with definitive works and treatises on methods and practice. With the growth of scientific and technical literature and the advent of automation, deeper studies have been made to increase knowledge and understanding of the weaknesses and strengths of conventional techniques. Documentalists have explored unconventional avenues of research. The field is therefore in a receptive mood to welcome a solid book on indexing which sets forth the general principles of the science. In this respect, the text under review falls nowhere near the target.

Rather than advancing a major theory, or even evaluating current methods, the book only verbalizes some unsteady personal observations of its author. This alone is confusing because the text is couched in the author's private, technical vocabulary. He speaks of the "terminological continuum," "access guides," "living language," "unpermuted multiple-criterion classification," "systematicity," etc. Not one of these words and phrases is explained in terms of their relationship to established definitions or doctrine. The bibliography reflects a shallow appreciation of standard source material.

Evidently only slight attention was given to page makeup and editorial organization. Several of the illustrations are too small to decipher, and some graphs are either partially or completely unlabeled. A misspelled word appears on the table of contents page, and others are conspicuous through the book. An entire section listed in the table of contents is missing from the text.—*Joseph Becker, Washington, D.C.*

Library Administration: Theory and Practice. By R. L. Mittal. Delhi: Metropolitan Book Company, 1964. xiv, 514p. $5.50.

Believing as he does that the standard works in library administration, foreign and domestic, have an "alien background" and fail to meet the needs of Indian students and librarians, the deputy librarian of Panjab University library has written this book "to present in a compendious form various principles and practices concerning [the] administration of libraries."

Mr. Mittal's compendium opens with three chapters on the "Philosophy of Librarianship," "Library in Education," and "Library Administration: Function and Principles." These are followed by a discussion of principles of personnel administration and library finance. Some later chapters outline in great detail the activities and operations of libraries in the manner of a staff manual: "Processing Work," "Maintenance Work," "Stacking and Shelving Methods," "Care and Repair of Books," "Periodicals Work," "Library Rules and Regulations," and "Charging and Discharging Methods." Toward the middle of the book there is a chapter on reference service in which the author offers his Odyssey of reference books. This change in menu is a welcome relief but, in view of the author's stated purpose, it is surprising to find his annotated list of reference works so heavily slanted toward American publications. There is an index but no separate bibliography.

This book, I am sure, will prove a useful contribution to Indian librarians and Indian students of librarianship. In a sense it is a kind of reference work and it suffers some of the weaknesses of a reference book which was not designed as such. Quotations, formulae, statistics, names, and footnotes shuf-