

Heard in the Canteen



This is the property of
Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust
Tele 0121 429 1223

No wonder it's so hard to save. The neighbours are always buying something we can't afford.

Housewife: "We are going to get an electric washer so we won't need you any more."

Laundress: "All right, ma'am, but an electric washer don't give you no gossip."

Etiquette is learning to yawn with your mouth closed.

If you don't claim too much wisdom, people will give you credit for more than you have.

Teacher: "Why does a man's hair turn grey quicker than his moustache?"

Jimmy: "'Cause it had a twenty year start."

Voter: "Why, I wouldn't vote for you if you were St. Peter himself."

Candidate: "If I were St. Peter you couldn't vote for me: you wouldn't be in my district."

Salesman: "These shirts simply laugh at the laundry."

Customer: "Oh, do they? Well, my present ones split their sides quite quickly enough."

A gentleman who was rather sensitive about his figure visited his tailor, and was alarmed to see that the assistant began altering all the measurements recorded in the book.

"About the same as last year, surely?" queried the business man.

"Oh, yes sir," replied the tactful tailor, "chest a little bit lower perhaps, that's all."

He: "I see by the paper that a woman in Oldbury just cremated her fourth husband."

She: "Isn't that always the way? Some of us can't get a man while others have husbands to burn."

Doctor: "Why do you have the number 7640 tattooed on your back?"

Patient: "That isn't a tattoo. That's where my wife hit me with the car while I was holding the garage door open!"

"DOODLE" ANSWERS.
No. 1. "Inn which we serve."
No. 2. Kings Cross!

DOODLE QUIZ

What do these "doodles" mean?
The words below each are a clue.
More "doodles" in our next issue.



1. COWARD FILM



2 ... FOR SCOTLAND

Chance COMMENTS

MARCH
1949
Vol. 2 No. 1



THE Magazine of Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick; published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office J. ALLEN

Blown and Pressed

Decorating A. CHAMBERS
Inspection F. GUEST

F. O'CONNOR

R. TURTON

B. PATRICK

D. DAVIES

S. STOCKIN

F. TATTON

F. HARRIS

Buying & Stationery F. J. WHITE

Costs Miss D. SANDERS

Engineering N. A. W. STACEY

Drawing Office S. DORAN

Electrical D. PRICHARD

Grinding Miss R. TILDESLEY

Machine and Fitting F. STYLES

Production Control J. WARD

Commercial Staff F. W. G. BEAUMONT

Stores J. P. DEELEY

Sumo Office R. P. WARD

Sumo Works W. KINCHIN

Time Study A. HEATH

Toolroom and Mould Shop W. D. COX

Welding and Blacksmiths D. EDWARDS

Works Staff A. SLEIGH

Export H. V. SKAN

Fire Brigade E. FLOOD

Flat Glass

Making and Warehouse R. E. EVANS

Sales S. RAY

Seven Storey A. FARDELL

Laboratory Mrs. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction

Boiler Shop H. HANSON

Building S. BEARDSMORE

Electricians E. A. WHITEHOUSE

Garage V. COCKSEY

Millwrights W. JOHNSON

Old Hall E. BRENS

Stores D. KIRKWOOD

Mixing N. GREEN

Optical Miss E. COTTON

Personnel Miss V. NICKLESS

Pyrometry N. WALKER

Recreation Club E. A. BARRETT

Silvering T. PAGE

Stonemasons H. ARMSTRONG

Transport F. G. ANKORN

Typists Pool Miss S. SPENCER

Wages B. FIELDHOUSE

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow J. A. AITCHISON

London J. W. CHANCE

Malvern Miss D. CLARE

St. Helens Miss WALSH

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NEXT ISSUE: MAY 25th



Some Impressions of PENANG

By Joan L. Beer

IT'S raining again—just like England! The hundreds of palm trees and exotic flowering shrubs, which can be seen from the verandah lounge of this large white house, are dripping with moisture, and in the rain-drenched park not far away the monkeys play, knocking each other over, and hopping amongst the trees like acrobats.

It is prayer-time and the air is full of sound. The wailing voices of worshippers in the quaint Malayan mosque over the road vie with the tinkling of a piano played by a Chinese lady next door, and the laughter of Malayan and Chinese children romping happily in the rain. My musical neighbour by the way has very western tastes in music. As I write she is practising some Chopin pieces, and the other evening she and her family worked their way through the whole of Handel's Messiah on gramophone records.

The children, as they run about, look in the distance exactly like English children at play, and it would be easy to imagine that they were playing exactly the same games. Approach them more closely, however, and you will find them quaintly different in their picturesque little pyjama-like trousers with loose high-necked smocks, surmounted by pale yellow faces and the always characteristic slant eyes. I find them enchanting, but sometimes they can be

rather startling, as for example, when you see a small Chinese girl about six years old, very proud indeed to be dressed up and going to town, clip-clopping along in her tiny wooden shoes — and wearing lipstick and powder, an exact replica of her mother.

Here we have some curious contrasts in transport. On my previous visit to Malaya I was taken from one place to another in a kind of wheeled wicker chair drawn by a bare-footed Malayan or Chinese boy. This old Chinese rickshaw is now, however, being replaced by a tri-shaw—a bicycle drawing a two-seater trailer in which one is pedalled comfortably along at twenty cents a mile. For those who prefer the modern touch there are big American taxis, very luxurious indeed and so streamlined that the back looks like the front and it is difficult to tell whether they are coming or going.

Perhaps the biggest contrast noticed by a newcomer from England is the difference in shopping. On one of my first mornings here I went into a large grocery store and was amazed to see all the shelves packed with British, American and Australian foodstuffs of every kind. It may, however, be some consolation to my readers in Smethwick to know that prices are simply terrible. A tin of Australian ham, for example,

(Contd. Overleaf)

Some Impressions of Penang—Contd.

costs \$4.50, equal in English money to 10s. 2d. That is why the majority of housewives have to be very careful with their housekeeping money and why many European wives are now doing part-time office jobs—a thing they would never have dreamed of doing before the war. The grocers' shops look much the same as in England except that it is quite normal to see a policeman with a gun standing outside the door. The same thing is seen at other shops, business houses and at the post office—the only obvious sign of the troubled conditions in the country. At the moment I am happy to be able to say that things have been quiet since my arrival.

Penang is a very beautiful and picturesque island, more peaceful and settled than anywhere else in Malaya. The plane which brought me from busy, cosmopolitan Singapore arrived here three hours later. It was a fascinating journey—from a great height looking down over the wild Malayan jungle full of tigers and many other fierce animals who make their home in the impenetrable undergrowth.



A group of typical natives tapping rubber in Malaya.

Once we left Ipoh the jungle gave way to a gay pattern of bright green rice fields nearly all the way to Penang. When I have had an opportunity to explore this island more thoroughly and to visit the smaller nearby islands I hope to have plenty of material for another article for *Chance Comments*. I hope, too, to be able to let you have an account of a Chinese wedding, for I have just received an invitation from my neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Cheah Heng Lean, to attend the wedding of Mr. Cheah Poh Keat to Miss Yeoh Goh Guat Gnoh next Saturday at the Chinese church.

While I have been writing this the clouds have begun to break, the rain is stopping, birds are singing everywhere in the palm trees and it won't be long before all the gaily coloured flowers are again bright in the sunshine. I see the tri-shaw boy pedalling slowly along the road in front of the house. "This," he seems to say, "is Malaya. What's the hurry?"

Ayer Ham Pagoda — a good example of the country's traditional architecture.

The Glassblowers

by LAURIE LEE

Where are the aerial forges?
the vulcan-flashing sulphurous caves
splitting trim lengths of lightning
from the thunderous fists of gods?

Not in this human weekday place;
not here.

And yet this work is godlike;
a thing of fire and incandescent air,
of subtle, soft-blown syllables of form
in shining silent glass articulate.

These men are small and simple-shirted,
given to drinking tea and spitting—
not Homeric:
yet all the hues and gestures of creation
rise lambent, slow, luxuriously controlled
upon their pulsing breath and spinning fingers.

See this grey man—he will astound.
His work is myth, is genesis,
is the whirling womb of worlds.

He sucks his cheek and blows along a rod;
a bud of glass, caught to his iron stem,
swells like a rose.

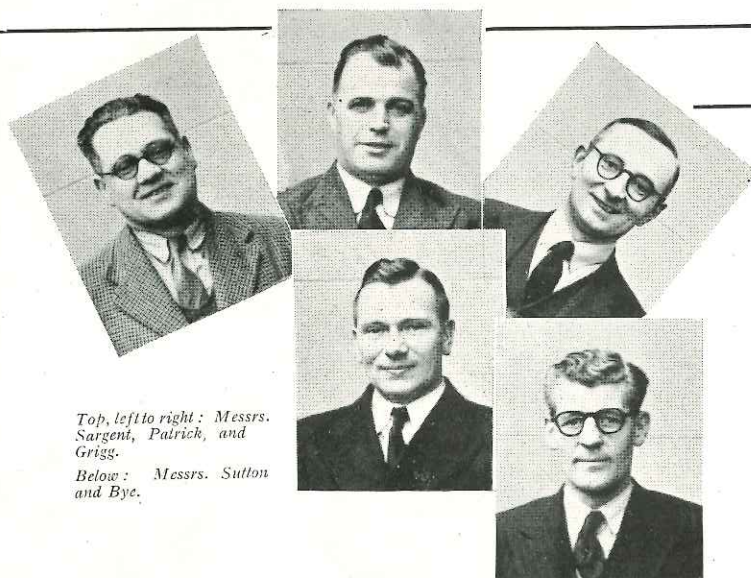
Then, where the furnace-sun glares with its gases,
(a heaving hive of heat, a face of Zeus
whiskered with moon-blue flames)
he thrusts the crimson bloom.

Now, godlike, watch the flowering world within:
the breathing bud from bloom to bubble grows,
the bubble's nebulae to spinning star
spins a whole sky of fire!

A web of glass and air, more air than glass,
the sphere is blown; the grey man draws it forth,
sweating great drops out of his livid cheeks
as though his very pores would ape his skill.

And all about, his fellows in the gloom
roll sheets of light, or mould their plastic skies,
or scooping golden gobs out of the fires
stand in their rows like herald trumpeters
blowing their fanfare harmonies of glass.

*"Reproduced from Britain's business magazine FUTURE
(Adprint House, Rathbone Place, London, W. 1.)"*



Top, left to right: Messrs. Sargent, Patrick, and Grigg.

Below: Messrs. Sutton and Bye.

No. 1 BLOWN and PRESSED

WILLIAM SARGENT

Bill Sargent joined the firm as a boy of fourteen, twenty-nine years ago. His first job was mould operating, from which he graduated to Process, and had experience in all operations in that section. Later he returned to the Making as a Lehr hand, and on to Teasing and Founding where he was able to take charge of three furnaces at the age of 18 years. After eleven years he was promoted to Lehr foreman, and then on to Glass Making foreman at Nos. 11 and 15 tanks.

In 1947 Bill was promoted to Senior foreman over the whole of the glass making of the division, and finally in December, 1948, he became Superintendent. He has an inexhaustible store of stories to tell about the B. & P., and claims that he could write a book entitled "The Blown and Pressed," that would sell better than Hitler's *Mein Kampf*! He has many memories,

pleasant and otherwise of A.R.P. days and recalls the occasion when, called out in a hurry he paraded through the works adorned in pyjamas and steel helmet.

The hardest job in his life, he says, was trying to persuade his wife to visit the works, but he did manage to do this after twenty years. Bill hasn't any family but has a young nephew he likes to think of as his own.

Bill Sargent is a sincere believer in the importance of training for all grades of management and he is a Member of the Institute of Industrial Supervisors.

BERNARD PATRICK

Bernard Patrick joined the firm in 1939 as a cost clerk. In 1940 he enrolled in the armed forces and served with distinction in the R.A.O.C. Armoured Fighting Vehicles Units rising to the rank of Sergeant Major. After a period of service with the Control Commission in Germany he rejoined the Company in 1946.

He was then attached to the Sales Office. Revealing a flair for handling productive activity on the shop floor, he was transferred to the Production

Meet Your SUPERVISORS ★

Control Department in June 1947. Later he was appointed to the supervisory staff of the division, ultimately graduating to his present position of Superintendent, Pressed Making and Processing Departments. Bernard doesn't have much spare time, but makes the most of what he does have supporting and participating in the activities of the cricket team. He is by no means a novice at other sports including football, tennis and snooker. His motto at work or sport is "Play the Game."

GEOFFRY GRIGG

Jeff commenced work as a junior clerk in the General and Export offices leaving Smethwick Technical School in 1925.

He was promoted to assistant foreman in the Globe department in 1933, and foreman in 1942. In 1945 he became Superintendent of Blown and Pressed Warehouse and Despatch.

He attributes much of his success to the splendid team of girls in the Blown department, "as grand a set as anywhere in the works." Jeff claims to have taken from Chance Brothers the best thing they ever had on the works. He is, of course, referring to his wife, Lily Elwell, who was employed on the switchboard for 14 years. He is very proud of his family, Alan aged 10, and Joan and Ian, twins aged 4 years.

He likes a spot of gardening, and is always on the lookout for tips on growing sweet peas.

ARTHUR SUTTON

Arthur started to work at Chance Brothers when fourteen years of age in 1932. Starting off as a mould operator in No. 15 he became a gatherer when he was 16.

He joined the Navy in 1939, reaching the rank of Yeoman of Signals, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1944. He has seen much ser-

vice with North Atlantic convoys, and in African waters, and has vivid memories of stirring actions off the Normandy coast. He returned to the firm in 1945 as a gatherer, later becoming shift foreman, and in 1947 Senior shift foreman. In December 1948 he was promoted to Superintendent No. 15 Making and Process.

Arthur met his wife at Chance Brothers where she was employed in the Process department, and they have two children.

He enjoys most indoor sports, and is a firm believer in a square deal all round.

HERBERT BYE

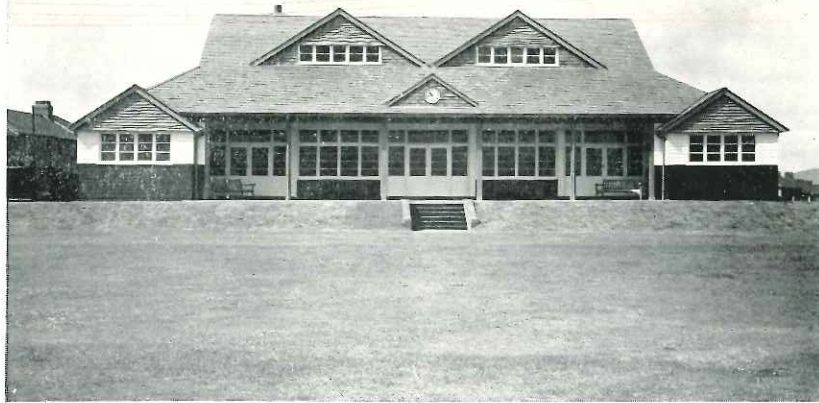
Bert joined the firm in 1932 at the age of 18 years. His first job he describes as "sort of dog's body." Actually he was engaged in assisting foremen in various departments, as and where required. In 1920 he was placed in charge of Inspection in the Cathode section, and at the same time acted in the capacity of standby for all foremen in the division.

In 1941 he was promoted to Assistant Manager of the Blown division under Mr. Martin, and in 1946 attained the position of Furnace Superintendent to the Blown and Pressed Division. Bert is the proud father of two lovely children. Incidentally he met his wife at Chance Brothers where she was employed as secretary to Mr. Martin.

He can claim to be one of the first to weld a cathode ray bulb at these works, and became able to do this by seizing every opportunity outside his working hours "having a go."

An all-round sportsman, he is particularly interested in football, badminton and snooker.

Nothing gives Bert greater pleasure than to meet the works people outside the factory, and enjoy a good laugh and plenty of fun.



Recreation Club News

Dear Members,

I have been asked scores of times, "What do we get for our twopence a week subscription?" Why not come along to the Club and find out?

I am sure you will be interested to know what it costs to run the Club. Here is the estimated expenditure for the year, 1st October to 30th September — that is, the Budget Year for the Club.

	£
Salaries and Wages	1,369
Rates, Fuel and Power	165
Upkeep of Premises and Property	435
Administrative Expenses	255
Reserves for future upkeep of Premises and Property	258
TOTAL	£ 2,482

Your subscriptions produce £960 a year, so you see your Committee has quite a problem in making ends meet. They feel that it is their duty to you to provide well-kept sports grounds and club rooms and to furnish you with adequate service. There are the facilities for you to amuse yourselves and I leave it to you to decide whether or not your Committee deserves your support.

Cordially yours,

EDWARD A. BARRETT

MINIATURE RIFLE SHOOTING

The Club is negotiating for the use of a rifle range, and if successful a miniature rifle section will be formed. The General Secretary would like to hear from members desirous of joining this section.

CHORAL SECTION

For the time being the section has suspended its activities. During the summer months the committee will decide upon a work to be performed publicly. Their inclination is towards an operetta. Vera Horton of B. & P. Inspection is the Secretary and she is now enrolling members. Soloists as well as chorus are wanted. Before you sign up with any other musical society for next year give some consideration to Chance's Choral Section.

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BOWLS

The green is responding magnificently to the treatment given it this autumn and winter and it will be in good playing condition when the season opens on Easter Monday. Some interesting matches have been arranged by the section, and during the evenings there will be the usual practice games.

FOOTBALL

Our First XI is in trouble. They have now dropped to fifth place in Division 2. Shift working has some effect on the composition and balance of the team but the most disquieting feature is players joining up with other clubs who, report has it, have inferior facilities to Chance's. The Second XI has disbanded. The club is protesting to the Birmingham & District Works Football League at the paucity of fixtures in Division 8 this season.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

The "A" team has more than held its own in the Billiards League. Both snooker teams just do not manage to be on the winning side. Even so all the games are full of interest and keenly contested. Club and League individual championships are in progress. Arthur Sleigh was winner of the Dudley British Legion Billiards Championships, playing a very fine game indeed. He owed 75 in 100 and when 107 behind made a break of 93 to run out winner at the next visit to the table.

GARDENING

Do not become alarmed if you see a tremendous amount of activity at the bottom of the sports grounds. It is not the sappers seeking for a buried bomb, but our gardeners who, having awakened out of their winter sleep or whatever it is that gardeners do in their closed season, are now preparing their allotments. The section will exhibit at the Show being organised by the West Midlands Association of Works Recreation Clubs

DARTS

Harry Garratt of the garage is now seeking members for the Darts Teams which he wants to enter in the West Bromwich Darts League whose new season starts in May. He says there cannot be too many members joining his section as he can accommodate them all with matches. This year home matches will be played in the Club rooms and not the Pavilion as was the case last year.

TABLE TENNIS

There was a mighty struggle in the 3rd round of the "T. S. CALLAGHAN" Cup when our table tennis team went down to Hope's. They lost,

but what a glorious defeat it was! Not a point conceded without a grim and dogged fight. Two teams have now been entered for the "DONALD HOPE" Cup. The section still holds on to its lead in the Smethwick & District League. During the summer months the section will continue its activities and it is hoped that some of the lady members of the Club will come along for practice for it is the intention of the section to form a mixed team for next season.

GOLF

In the Hampton Knock-out Competition the donor of the trophy, Dr. W. H. Hampton, defeated John Brownsdon.

CRICKET

Reg Ward has a full fixture list for this season with matches arranged for every Saturday and Sunday. Our very good friends, Rolls Royce and G.E.C. play us at home and at Derby and Coventry respectively. The section is organising a dance for Whit-Monday and from all accounts of the preparations they are making it may very well prove to be the event of the year.

VARIETY

Success after success follows Roger Barron's presentation of "Babes in the Wood" which he has taken on tour around the Clubs in the West Midlands. By the time these notes appear in print they will have played at Normandy Road Community Centre in aid of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship. Both Variety Section and Music Section combined for this pantomime and they have produced something which is unique in presentation and great in entertainment.

BADMINTON

There have been some changes in the administration of the section. John Brownsdon succeeds Marjorie Cole as Chairman and George Thompson has been elected Captain in place of Ron Durbin who with Mrs. Durbin are being missed consequent upon their move to Bristol. There have been some interesting matches and our teams have held their own.

DANCING

Here is a sorry tale to tell! The winter Saturday night dances have not been a success either in numbers attending or financially. With the greatest reluctance we had to part with Tubby Walters' excellent trio and substitute gramophone records. The result was even more disastrous. A committee is needed, people with the courage of lions who will take a personal interest in the dances and try to put some life into them. Who will have a bash?

ATHLETICS

"Spud" Taylor of the Lighthouse would like to enrol members into the newly formed Athletic section. He is a keen athlete himself and has gathered around him a dozen chaps of similar tastes in this branch of sport. Spud has been elected a delegate to the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association.



Jack Evans, a good all-rounder. Drawn by Walt Johnson.

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From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

As mentioned in the report of the W.C.C., No. 8 tank has been put out for a period, but the Division is concentrating on the output of Hysil ware, tubing, and lamp work.

The Division has little personal news to report this month. By the time this magazine has been printed, Lily Hipkiss of the Pressed Warehouse will have been married to Doug. Perkins of the Globe Process. *Chance Comments* offers them sincere congratulations.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Division staff had a successful dinner at the Market Hotel in Birmingham on the 18th February, when some 40 members attended a first-class meal followed by an entertainment. The Division intends to make this event an annual one.

The Sumo Shop congratulates Raymond Hall and his wife on the birth of a son, Grenville, on Boxing Day.

The Division's apprentices have done extraordinarily well at Technical School this year, and congratulations are offered to Stan Doran of the Drawing Office who has been awarded the Chance Prize for the best Engineering Student at the Chance Technical College. Stan gained a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering with a distinction in Theory of Machines. Stewart Evans of the Drawing Office has gained his Ordinary National Certificate in Production Engineering. Don Whitehouse of Sumo has gained an Ordinary National Certificate with endorsements in Structural Engineering and Survey-

ing. Jim Cox of the Tool Room successfully passed the Final of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Machine Shop Engineering, and Norman Birch of the Machine Shop gained an Ordinary National Certificate in Production Engineering.

The following have recently attained their majority and thus passed from the field of apprenticeship:—

John Wilcox (*Drawing Office*)
Tony Slingsby (*Drawing Office*)
Douglas Potter (*Electrical*)
Alf Neville (*Fitting*)

It was with extreme regret that the Division learned of the passing away of H. Hackett of the Welding Shop, who had been ill for many months.

FLAT GLASS

Repairs to Rolled Plate Furnaces No. 1 and No. 4 have been completed and normal production has been resumed.

In the Coloured Department the Flashed Drawn plant has been put out for repairs, and it is anticipated that towards the end of April experiments with the establishment of the Flashed Drawn Process will recommence.

In the Micro Warehouse there is a spate of orders, and additional female labour is being recruited for training as Micro Cutters. Most of the output of this thinnest of thin glass is for export.

At the end of February, Frank Whitehouse, after 36 years' active service on glassmaking shifts, transferred his

energy and attention to the Millwrights' Shop.

The Company congratulates J. Burgess, R. E. Evans, and A. C. Nicoll of the supervisory staff of the Flat Glass Division on their election as Associate Members of the Institute of Industrial Supervisors.

Our cover photograph for November 1948 showed Bill Goodwin blowing glass. Readers will be sorry to learn that Bill is now away from work with a serious illness and *Chance Comments* wishes him a speedy recovery.

LABORATORY

Betty Davis, a new member of the Laboratory staff who hails from Caernarvonshire, attained her majority at the end of February, and Edgar Tarrington also attained his majority in the same month. We offer them our congratulations.

The Laboratory welcomes Malcolm McKane, who has recently joined the Physics staff.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The whole of the Maintenance and Construction staff has now been installed in the re-built Old Hall. The photograph of the Drawing Office Section shown under *Chance Snapshots*, gives an indication of the splendid accommodation which the M. & C. Division now possess.

Ray Darby of the Millwrights, passed out of his apprenticeship on the 20th

March, when he attained his 21st birthday.

The Company congratulates Albert Sproston of the D.O. who has been awarded the Chance Prize for the Best Engineering Student (Glass Works) at the Chance Technical College. Albert gained an Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

Harry Miller of the Pyrometry has gained an Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical Engineering.

OFFICES

There are vacancies in various Office departments for competent Copy Typists, and readers are invited to let this be known amongst their friends. It is not often that we use the Magazine for this kind of advertising, but the need is urgent.

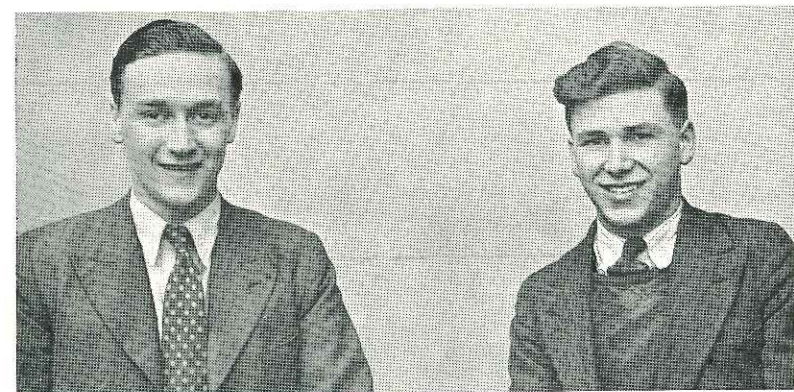
A welcome is extended to Winifred Wilkins who has been appointed Private Secretary to the Company Secretary and Chief Accountant, in place of Mrs. Wankling who resigned.

Barry Evans of the Cost Office has successfully passed the Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants.

OPTICAL

The staff and employees wish to congratulate Doreen Trafford on the occasion of her marriage to D. Hewitt which takes place on March 26th, also Sarah Horton on the occasion of her marriage to G. Durnall on April 2nd.

(contd. on page 10)



Two winners of Chance prizes — Stan Doran and Albert Sproston



Mrs. Stocker, a visiting member of the Medical Centre Staff.

News From All Departments —contd. from page 9

It was nice to see Marjorie Brown after her illness and we hope her convalescence will make her recovery complete.

The Division was very sorry to hear of the loss of Mrs. Elsie Bevan's four and a half months' old son, and extend their very deepest sympathy.

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

The driving staff congratulate Jack Hathaway on the birth of a son on the 7th February.

Many readers will have learned of the serious accident sustained by Tommy Heath whilst working in the coal trucks. At the time of going to press reports on his progress were favourable, and his many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Major Warner who was the Manager of the Transport Department until his retirement has been ill for some time, and we extend him our sympathy and best wishes.

News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● LONDON

There has been a fair volume of sneezing and nose-blowing in London Office during the past month, but the virulent bug has now subsided and the general noise level is down to normal.

We have now at this office Miss R. A. Garland handling the Firm's editorial publicity in place of Mr. du Mont. Editorial publicity is different from ordinary advertising because you don't pay for the space. If you have some new production or process to talk about or some interesting story to tell, it is usually possible to find an Editor who will publish the material. We have had some considerable success in this sphere of publicity since 1943. Articles about our firm and our products have appeared in an enormous variety of publications, many of them overseas. For instance, the photograph and description of our Lighthouse Optic in the 1947 B.I.F. was published in nearly a hundred foreign papers. To have bought the space occupied would have cost us many thousands of pounds. This so-called editorial publicity can be a valuable sales aid if intelligently handled, but you have to make certain that your material does not smack too much of advertising, otherwise it is bound to be rejected.

We are now getting busy with preparations for the B.I.F. We are to have a large stand at Earl's Court for Domestic Glassware with token displays of other B. & P. Division products. At Olympia we shall have a smaller stand in the S.I.M.A. Section for Optical glass, Hysil, Cinema Mirrors and the All-Glass Syringe.

Our shop-window, the only one in St. James's Square, has a new display, this time of Micro glass under the date 1850, the year we started manufacture of this super thin glass.

● GLASGOW

The Glasgow Rolled Plate furnace resumed production on 17th January, 1949. The major repair carried out in December was well supervised by John Hardy of Spon Lane.

The Glasgow Spectacle Moulding Department is now working under pressure to supply substantial orders for Australia, and in addition, to meet a part of the demand for spectacles, created by the National Health Scheme.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of one of our oldest employees, James Paul. Paul came to Glasgow in 1902 to work on the building of the Art Galleries; answered an advertisement for a stonemason for the Glasgow Plate Glass Co., and remained at the Firhill Works until his retirement in 1931.

The Annual Dance run by the Recreation Club of Chances and Fibreglass was held in the Grand Hotel on 2nd February, 1949, and on this occasion we were happy to welcome a party from Fibreglass Ltd., St. Helens.

The Choir held their Annual Concert on 2nd March in the Woodside Hall.

● MALVERN

A most enjoyable outing took place on Saturday the 19th February. A party of employees of the Optical Department went by Coach to Birmingham to see that amazing performance "Stars on Ice" at the Hippodrome. Miss Hickling

A group of happy visitors at the St. Helen's Children's Party.

(Time Study, Spon Lane) met the party at the Theatre. One and all enjoyed a most wonderful show. We are now looking forward to our annual outing.

Molly Ulett is now back at work after 12 weeks absence through illness.

We are still hoping to get an invitation to visit our parent factory at Spon Lane.

● ST. HELENS

The highlight at St. Helens has been the Children's Party on 22nd January, when 35 children of employees were entertained. After tea the fun really started with a conjuror, a ventriloquist, a film show and games. A good time was had by all and eventually the little guests went home with gifts and prizes.

The engagement was announced on 16th January of Mabel Burt to Bill Owen. We offer our congratulations to both.

The first meeting of the St. Helens Sub-committee of the Suggestion Committee was held on 10th February, when two suggestions were on the agenda. It is hoped that at future meetings more suggestions will be forthcoming.

Tom Litherland (Fitting Shop) has now left us after 55 years service at Pilkington Brothers, Umbroc Limited, and Umbroc Works. Tom worked as a "Flattener" in the early days of Sheet Glass making before the machine process. We wish him the best of health and many happy days in his well-earned rest.

The output from the St. Helens factory for January was a record breaker, and we are now hoping to pass this record. Congratulations to all concerned, and keep up the good work.

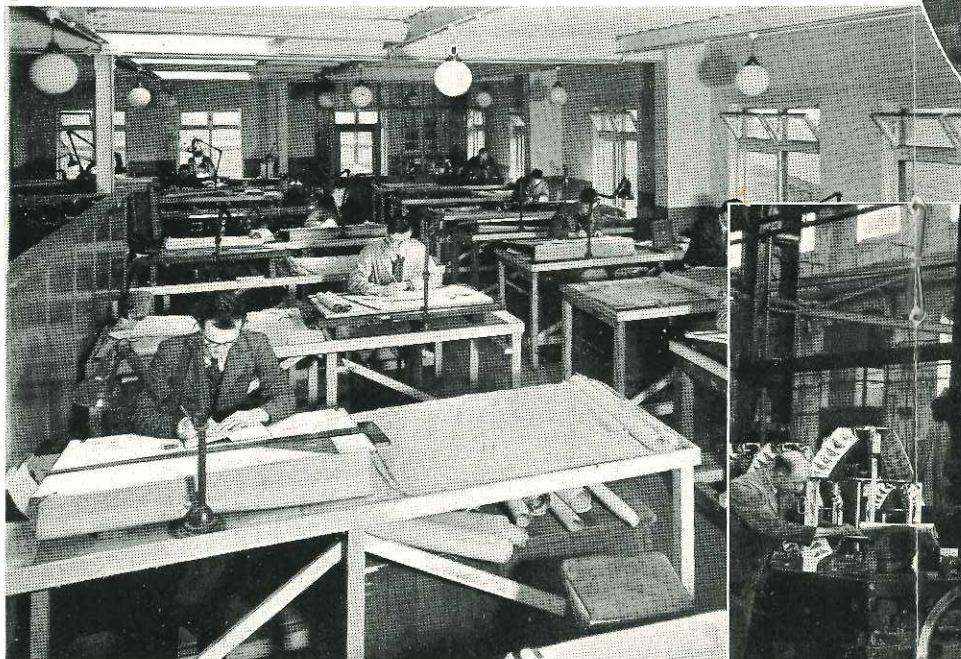




1.

- 1.—Our works medical officer, A. S. Pearson, talks things over with Senior Nurse McMahon.
- 2.—A view of the new Maintenance and Construction Drawing Office situated in the Old Hall.
- 3.—Tube drawing in No. 9 Blown and Pressed. Joe Shaw is the post holder, and Bill Satchwell the blower.
- 4.—Assembling a second order light for Souter Point on the East coast. Photograph shows Arthur Hughes, Fred Ashley, Jeff Moore and Frank Walker.

2.



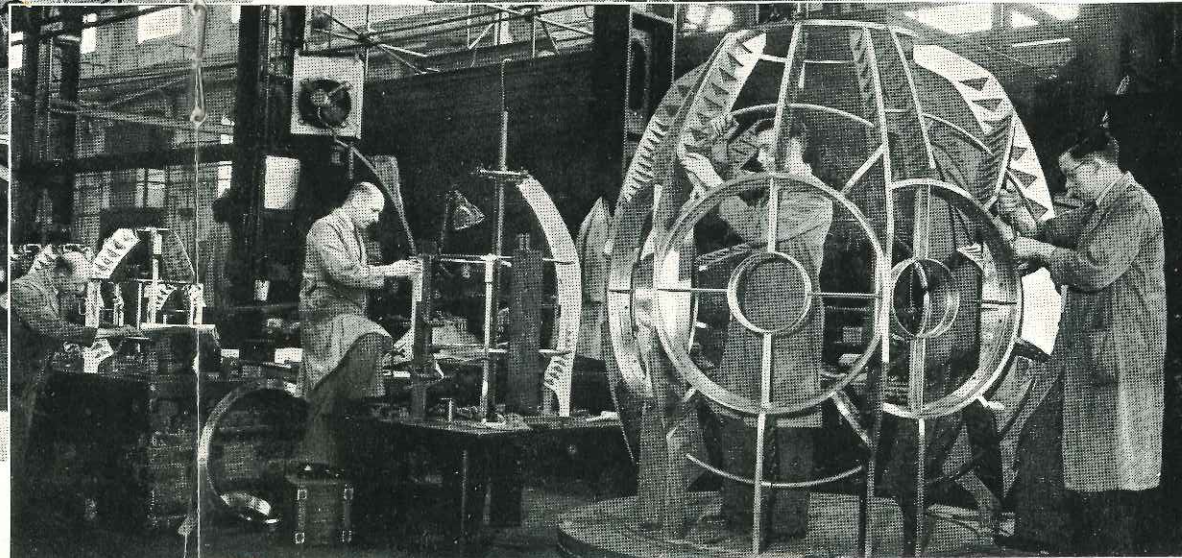
4.

Chance

SNAPSHOTS

IN this issue our photographer is again "on the job" with pictures showing a further selection of the many activities which go to make up our organisation.

3.



Jottings

OF SHORTER ITEMS
AND EMPLOYEES'
CONTRIBUTIONS

Deposit and Employee Share Schemes

AS far back as 1889 the Company introduced schemes whereby selected employees could acquire a direct financial interest in the Company on favourable terms.

One of the schemes enables staff or workpeople to acquire holdings of employee shares, but perhaps the most attractive scheme for the average saver is the Deposit plan. Under this plan the Company pays interest on the amounts deposited at the same rate as the dividend paid to the Shareholders. Thus, if the Shareholders receive 6% dividend, the Depositors receive 6% interest. There is, however, an exception — the Depositors never receive less than 3% nor more than 10%, so that if the Shareholders receive no dividend or only 2½% the Depositors would receive 3%, and similarly if the Shareholders receive more than 10% the Depositors' interest would be restricted to 10%. The rate of interest (paid free of income tax) is declared at the Depositors' Meeting, and is credited to the Deposit Accounts as on 31st March each year. Where a Depositor closes his account on a date other than 31st March, interest is credited to that date at 5% per annum from the previous 31st March. Details of Deposit Accounts are kept private even from the Directors, and are known only to the Secretary and the Cashier, who are bound to secrecy.

There are 390 employees who have invested their savings with the Company and it is now possible to consider increases in holdings, and applications for new accounts. Applications should be made to the Company Secretary, but in the first instance the Departmental Manager or the Personnel Department will gladly advise those who are interested.

The Bird and the Beast

A child of ten was asked to write an essay on a bird and a beast and here is the result (its genuineness is guaranteed):—

"The bird that I am going to write about is the Owl. The Owl cannot see at all by day and at night is as blind as a bat.

"I do not know much about the Owl, so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the Cow. The Cow is a mammal. It has six sides — right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with, and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell; one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country.

The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much, but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is all full up with grass."

World's Press

IT was an important day in the history of Chance Brothers, when the Overseas Correspondents of the World's Press visited the Works on the 17th February.

There were 43 visitors, representing 60 newspapers published in 22 different countries.



Another attractive drawing in pen and ink by Eric Juggins (General Office)

JOTTINGS—Continued

The Government was represented by the Regional Controller of the Ministry of Supply, and the Chief Information Officer and Senior Press Officer of the Central Office of Information.

After being entertained to lunch by the Directors and members of the Sales staff, the party visited many sections of the Works.

Inglish az shi is Prunaunct!

DURING the war Norman Stacey of the Engineering Division Drawing Office was a Major in a Home Guard Detachment, and he assures the Editor that the following is a genuine letter which he received from a member of his unit.

Dear Sir,

Just a few Line to Let yow now that I Cane Not Come on thursday night.

wenmdday moning has I went whit accident whit my head I had Sume

TUBS Drop on It I have a way from work for 2 ore 3 Days I got to go to Hospital on Sat moning Sir I had your Letter from you I have no Clothing eguipment at all Let me nou Sir If you get this Letter from me Safe I think this will Be all for you now.

you have the addrse of my hous to right to me I think I have Sed all for you now.

Works Tours

LAST year employees were afforded facilities for bringing friends and relations round the Works on Saturday mornings. This scheme was suspended during the Winter months, but will restart on Saturday, 2nd April, and will continue thereafter every other week.

Anybody wishing to take advantage of this should make application to the Personnel Department, when a pass will be issued. Children under 12 years of age cannot be included in these tours.

JOTTINGS — Continued

Industrial Injuries

ALTHOUGH it is now nine months since the State took over the payment of benefits in respect of industrial accidents, it is common for those who are unfortunate enough to receive injuries at work to go to the Personnel Department to claim compensation, and in some cases there has been real hardship in the resulting delay in putting the claim through the proper channels.

If you have an accident at work make sure that it is reported to your foreman

and entered in the Accident Book at the Works Medical Centre.

If you have to stay away from work see your doctor and get a medical certificate from him. This medical certificate will include a claim form, and you should send it without delay to your local National Insurance Office. If you live in Smethwick this is at Rolfe Street, if you live in West Bromwich it is at Wigmore Schools, and if you live in Oldbury it is at Windsor Road.

It is *YOU* who must take the necessary action to claim benefit, but if you are in doubt about what to do see the Personnel Department.



Members of Malt House at Windmill House.

Malt House

THE Malt House Youth Centre had its Second Annual General Meeting last month, when the Committee for the coming year was elected.

Malt House continues to be one of the leading clubs of its kind in the Midlands, and the *Birmingham Despatch* referred to it as "a particularly virile Youth Club Movement."

A party of members of the club spent a week-end at the Windmill House Holiday Home at the end of February, and the photograph shows — from left to right — Audrey Baker, Joyce Shepherd, Marion Jones, Jean Parkes, Gordon Watts, Rose Cooper, and Ron Penfold.

SOME HOWLERS . . .

Gross darkness is a religious darkness, 144 times as dark as ordinary dark.

The Pope was so pleased with Wolsey that he made him a cardigan

The sun never sets on the British Empire, because the British Empire is in the east and the sun sets in the west.

Queen Elizabeth rode through Coventry with nothing on, and Raleigh offered her his cloak.

A trade union is a place to which a workman goes when he gets the sack.

The cause of dew is through the earth revolving on its own axis and perspiring freely.

A deacon is the lowest form of Christian.

Pope Gregory sent Saint Augustine and forty monkeys to convert the English.

An angle is a triangle with only two sides.

If he just presses a button, our Organist can change his combinations without moving his feet.

J.C.P.

Women's Page

features

MORE HAIR-STYLES from the STARS



THE display of film-star coiffures in our last issue proved extremely popular amongst our women employees, and we have been asked to publish a further selection. Here they are — one well-established success, and three up-and-coming youngsters whose charm and talents give promise of a brilliant future.

Reading from top to bottom we have *Joan Greenwood* who has starred with John Mills and Stewart Granger, and will shortly be seen in Compton Mackenzie's "Whiskey Galore," and playing opposite Dennis Price in "Kind Hearts and Coronets"; *Rona Anderson* who began to make her name in "Sleeping Car to Trieste" and whose next films will be "Floodtide" and Eric Linklater's "Poet's Pub"; *Zena Marshall* who was also seen in "Sleeping Car to Trieste," and has her best part to date in "I Want to Get Married," due for release very soon; and *Sonia Holm*, whom you will remember in "Miranda," and who has recently been kept very busy making "The Bad Lord Byron" and "Stop Press Girl."

The Editor of *Chance Comments* again thanks the J. Arthur Rank organisation for permission to reproduce these attractive photographs.

It's Only Cullet!

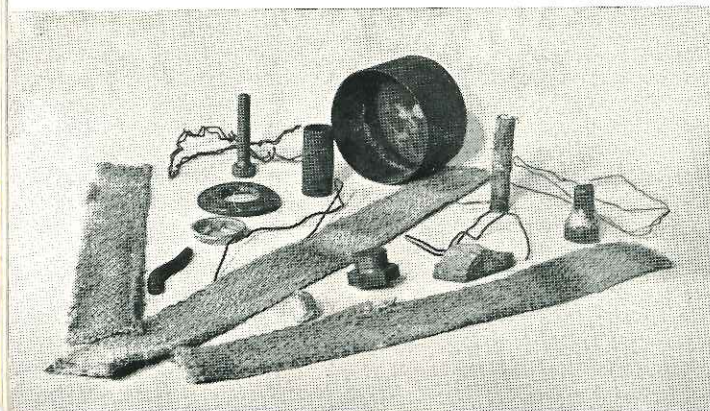
By Charles E. Gould

EVERYONE who works in a Glass Works knows what cullet is. It is just scrap — broken glass which is going to be added to the batch for melting up again. Whatever the method of manufacture you can't avoid producing quite a lot of cullet: even in such an economical process as continuous rolled, a strip has to be cut off each side of the sheet as rolled, and in the case of glass which is gathered and blown we are very lucky if as much as a third of the gathered weight is in the article sold.

Obviously we cannot afford to throw all this glass away because we have had to pay for the raw materials which were used in its manufacture so we add it to the batch and melt it up again. In this way we avoid the serious waste which would occur if we threw the cullet away and, what is perhaps even more important we improve the melting and refining of the glass. It is in fact very difficult to make good glass at a high rate of production unless some cullet is mixed with the batch.

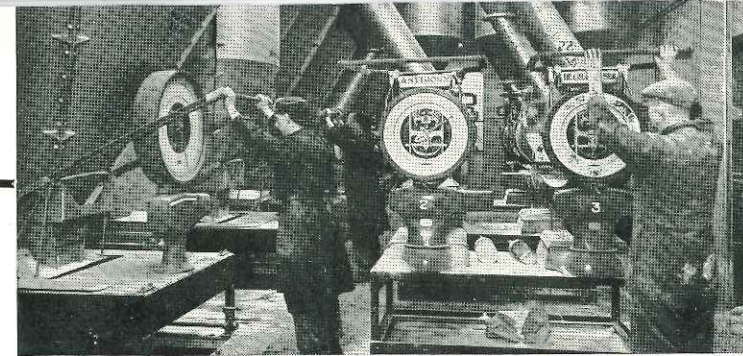
It is fatally easy to get into the habit of regarding cullet as mere scrap of no importance and to think of a heap of cullet as a suitable place to throw that odd brick end into, to push the floor sweepings into or even as the repository for that old rusty nail which is such a danger lying in the road. But although cullet may be scrap from the point of view of the warehouseman, as soon as it gets back to the mixing department it becomes a batch material just as important as any other batch material. The sand, alkali and other materials we use in our batches are carefully selected for their high degree of purity and we have to pay a great deal more for these materials than we should if we were content with a lower standard of purity. It is easily seen that all this trouble and expense we go to to get pure materials is of no avail if we then proceed to add to the batch a large quantity of cullet which has been contaminated with road sweepings, brick ends and old iron.

Iron in glass gives rise to the greenish colour which we associate with cheap bottles; glass which is intended for such purposes as domestic ware would be



*Dangerous scrap
picked out of a raw
material batch.*

*The new Mixing Mill.
Arthur Darby, Harry
Lloyd and Joe Partridge
are in the photo-
graph.*



unsaleable unless its iron content is very low indeed. The most iron which can be tolerated in such glass is about .002% — that is, one part in five thousand. One day recently our Technical Advisor, S. W. Shaw, casually picked out a handful of odds and ends from a glassmaking mixture. The photograph shows the result. Not very much perhaps, but more than enough to cause colour trouble, and if this collection had got into the furnace, special and expensive de-colourising action would have had to be taken.

Some contamination is bound to occur for even the dust floating in the air contains some iron, but there is room for great improvement when we realise that as much as a third of the total iron in some of our glasses comes from avoidable contamination.

Another form of "matter in the wrong place" which often gets into cullet is pieces of brick and similar material. Such things are only very slowly dissolved by molten glass and what happens when they get into the furnace is that they break up into small fragments the greater part of which appear as tiny "stones" in the final product and thus render the glass unsaleable. A "stone" one-twentieth of an inch in diameter is quite a serious defect. Now half an ordinary brick contains nearly one million fragments of that size so it will be seen that a very great deal of glass can be spoiled by even a small piece of brick which gets into the cullet. No doubt someone would notice a half-brick and pull it out before the material got into the furnace, but smaller pieces are easily overlooked and every year we lose thousands of feet of rolled glass from this cause which would otherwise be saleable. It all boils down to taking the greatest care to avoid contamination of our raw materials. Many of the materials come in bags or casks and are thus protected from contamination, but sand has to be stored loose and because it is relatively cheap and is not a manufactured chemical it is easy to think that a bit of dirt swept into it or thrown on it doesn't matter. A heap of cullet offers an even greater temptation to use it as a dust bin and we shall continue to suffer from the contamination troubles described above until we can all get it into our heads that cullet is not just scrap but a batch material equal in importance to the most expensive chemical we buy.

From
your

COMMITTEE ROOM

PROVIDENT SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Provident Society was held on the 22nd February, when the following were elected as the committee for the coming year :—

John Raymond (*Chairman*); A. Wood (*Cashier*); A. Ogden (*Personnel*) *Secretary*; R. Booth (Blown and Pressed); J. Braden (Rolled Plate); E. Bullen (Crate Yard); E. Buttress (Offices); R. Cosnett (Globe); W. Durham (Optical); Miss B. Grey (Globe Process); T. Griffin (Electrical); F. Guest (Pressed); W. Hicks (Rolled Plate); J. Hill (Boiler Shop); J. Hinton (Boiler Shop); W. Holloway (Garage); J. Inston (Machine Shop); T. Palmer (Tool Room); A. Richards (Seven Storey); Miss B. Williams (Seven Storey); Mrs. R. Yates (Globe).

After the meeting copies of the accounts and balance sheet were posted in each of the Gatehouses, and these show the most satisfactory position for the past few years. Your Committee decided that for the year 1949 there should be no change in the contribution or benefits.

It is felt that many of the workpeople are not fully aware of the benefits that can be derived from the Provident Society. Every man and woman employed in the Smethwick Works is a member of the Society, and the contributions are deducted from wages. After 13 weeks' service with the firm any employee is entitled to receive a weekly sick benefit from the Society, and grants are paid out from the Girls' Canteen each Monday between 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The Society also provides surgical appliances which are not obtainable under the National Insurance Scheme, and convalescent and rest home facilities are also provided for. On the death of a member a benefit of £5.0.0 is paid.

Any employee who is uncertain of procedure in obtaining benefit should consult the Personnel Department.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Although the frequency and severity rates for accidents in this factory compare favourably with the statistics for other firms, your Safety Committee rightly refuse to adopt a complacent attitude to this matter.

The loss borne by the community as a result of industrial accidents is considerable both in terms of wealth and human suffering. This loss is even more serious because subsequent investigations of most accidents usually reveal that many could have been prevented.

The Safety Committee meets each month and closely investigates the cause of each accident, and endeavours to ensure that action is taken to prevent recurrence.

But safety cannot be left entirely to a committee. If any employee notices anything that might be dangerous he should report it immediately to the Departmental Foreman, and to assist in reporting hazards each foreman has a supply of accident hazard report forms available in his office.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

The last meeting of the Suggestion Scheme Committee was held on the 16th February, and this was probably one of the most successful meetings which had been held for some months in that a total of £20 was awarded in respect of some very valuable suggestions.

The high-light of the meeting was a double award to John Hill of the Boiler Shop, who received £10 for a suggestion for a refractory to be fitted to the water-cooled shades at No. 9 Tank, and £3 for the fitting of an attachment to the cracking-off stand in No. 9 Tank. Our photograph shows John Hill posting his suggestion forms in the box at the New Gate.

£3 was awarded to Austinlite Tester C. G. Hughes in connection with the

fitting of "Pullin" type instruments on power plant cubicles.

L. T. Waldron of the Millwrights received £2 for an idea for improving the red devil cutting tools used in the Rolled Plate Department.

S. Barnard of the Blown and Pressed Division submitted an idea for removing the frost from the glass made on the Deeley machines at No. 9 Tank, and the adoption of his suggestion resulted in him receiving £1.

10/- each was awarded to E. Armfield of the Optical Department in connection with the moulding operation in the Optical Department, and to W. R. Sheldon of the Boiler Shop for an obvious yet original suggestion that the men's lavatories in the Boiler Shop be fitted with a roof.

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

At the February meeting of the W.C.C. the members were amused yet interested in a series of "conjuring tricks."

J. Leicester, Chairman of the Blown and Pressed Production Sub-Committee wanted to emphasize that his committee was giving some thought to the possibility of reducing the amount of paper work that was involved in the despatch of orders, and as a visual aid to his point he had arranged for a specimen of each form that was now used to be gummed together, the resulting ribbon of forms stretching the whole length of the Conference Room table!

Later on in the meeting H. S. Martin, who was appealing for steps to be taken to avoid contamination of glassmaking materials, produced from his pocket a handful of rusty bolts, screws, nails, and odd pieces of iron, which had been casually picked out of a glassmaking batch. He successfully demonstrated that this handful of scrap would have completely spoilt the colour of the glass, and if the batch was intended for a pot the iron would probably have punctured the base of the pot with a resulting serious loss of glass. (*The matter of cullet contamination is dealt with fully in the article on page 18*).

W. Standley, the Traffic Manager, has some strong views on salvage, and he produced a pile of optical glass cartons and a considerable roll of

corrugated paper which he had found on a scrap heap. He successfully emphasized that there was still far too much waste of valuable material and appealed for such scrap to be sent to the Waste Paper Salvage Store.

After receiving detailed reports of the various Departmental Production Sub-Committees, the Chairman presented his monthly review of the production position, and stated that in the Engineering Division the order book was still full, and the prospects for the future remained good. In the Optical Division the all-glass hypodermic syringe was now being produced satisfactorily, and good business was expected for this new product. There was, however, some concern in regard to Optical glass orders as we now had to count on competition from Germany. There was no sign of any falling off in home orders for Flat Glass, but the export business was showing some decline. In the Blown and Pressed Division it had been found necessary to arrange for No. 8 Tank to go out for a period, during which time the Tank would be repaired and efforts made to catch up with the arrears of mould deliveries. Output from the Hysil Tank and Tubing was to be emphasized, and Lamp Working was to be developed.

There is always a better way for
John Hill.



Billiards and Snooker

By Arthur Sleigh

WITHOUT a doubt billiards and snooker have become among the most popular of indoor games, and at Chance Brothers we are very fortunate in having an exceptionally well-equipped billiard room.

To be a really good billiards player one must devote quite a number of years to become reasonably efficient. The intricacies of the game can only be achieved by constant practice and concentration.

Snooker, however, is much the simpler game of the two, and quite obviously the most popular.

A normal person with reasonable eyesight should be able to play snooker without the long period of practice which is essential to billiards.

I suppose I am sticking my chin out with these remarks; but I say this quite openly, that I come to these conclusions after having spent at least 20 years studying both games.

Although one must be reasonably fit to play either game, they open a field of recreation to people who could not possibly play badminton, table tennis, etc., for physical reasons.

During the present season we have had at our club quite a few matches in the Midlands Amateur Billiards and Snooker Championship and we are expecting a visit by F. Edwards of Stourbridge, who is probably the best amateur billiards player in the country to-day. To watch him compile breaks of 200 to 300 with regularity is quite an experience, and makes the game look very simple, but behind his play there are years of practice.

As a sort of guide to all players in the normal class I should like to give a pointer or two as to their ability.

At snooker a break of 20 is average. 30 is good local competitive average. 40 is the Midland area average. 50 is top class amateur, and 100 top class professional.

At billiards the breaks differ very much in size. A normal player would make 30's, good average 50's, Midland area 150's, top class amateur 300's, and professional 1,000's.

Comparing the two I must point out that there is a limit of 147 to a break at snooker, 15 reds, 15 blacks and all the colours. Joe Davis has made several breaks of 140, so you see that the game can be mastered. At billiards, as long as you score within the rules, the break is unlimited.

But big break man or novice, do come often to the Billiards Room over the Canteens.

There are three excellent tables waiting to welcome you.

VERY IMPORTANT PERSONS

... more charming studies
of Employees' Children



- 1 Bryan, son of Ernie Jones (Pressed).
- 2 Sandra and Robert, children of Stan Pickering (St. Helens).
- 3 Susan Mary, daughter of Tom Grice (Millwrights).
- 4 John, son of John Raymond (Managing Director).
- 5 Patricia, daughter of Frank Walton (Gates).
- 6 Pauline, daughter of Len Burford (Seven Storey)