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Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust
Tele 0121 429 1223

*'HYSIL' on the set

Even a hundred or more feet from the lamps, cinema and television actors complain of the unbearable heat. What then, of the heat at the business end of the beam? What about the condenser lenses only a few inches away from arcs burning at a temperature of something like 5,000° C? . . .

Naturally these lenses have to be made of heat-resisting glass; glass with a tremendous resistance to thermal shock. When the arc is struck the temperature rises rapidly and on location they have to stand up to rain which sizzles as it touches them.

A special glass? Certainly; but well enough known in another form. These lenses are made from 'Hysil', the low expansion chemically resistant glass from which we make the beakers, flasks, basins and tubing that are the standard equipment of many of the finest laboratories in the country.

*Registered trade mark

Chance
GLASS

CHANCE BROTHERS LIMITED

Head Office: Glass Works, Smethwick 40, Birmingham.

London Office: 28 St. James's Square, S.W.1.

Branch Works at Glasgow, St. Helens and Malvern.



For Science, Industry and the Home

Telephone: West Bromwich 1824

Telephone: Whitehall 6002.

This is one of a series of advertisements at present appearing in the Trade Press.

Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street, London, W.C.2, on behalf of and in collaboration with Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick.

Chance COMMENTS



SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1951

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Chance

COMMENTS

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

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VOL. 4, No. 4

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1951

Annual

REPORT TO

DEPOSITORS

PRESIDING at the Annual Meeting of Depositors, The Chairman, SIR HUGH CHANCE reported that there were 367 employees who had a financial interest in the Company by being members of the Deposit Scheme which was first introduced 62 years ago. He welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. V. Phelps who had been appointed Deputy Chairman and Mr. Arthur C. Pilkington and Mr. C. J. S. Newman who had been appointed Directors.

Reviewing the financial position, Sir Hugh said that the past year had shown considerable improvement on the previous one but he reminded the employees that tax takes 13/- out of every 20/- profit. The Company had continued its considerable plans for re-equipping and modernising plant and tools and extensions and in consequence the year's profit was small. The Board had decided to pay no dividend to the Ordinary shareholders, but to pay the Depositors 3% free of tax.

The Managing Director, MR. JOHN RAYMOND told the meeting that it had been decided this year to invite each General Manager to report on his particular field of activity. Reviewing matters generally, Mr. Raymond stated that the year 1950-1951 had been an eventful one. Probably the most notable was the steady improvement in the operating of the Blown and Pressed Division and he congratulated the staff on the way they had built up the morale of the Division and had improved its financial results.

The Optical and Special Glass Division had also had an outstanding year. The good results had been helped to a degree by the market conditions and the taking over of Spectacle, but a great deal more by improved management and efficiency.

Very similar remarks applied to the Flat Glass Division, and the fact that we can still sell our Rolled Plate glass at prices only slightly more than they were in 1939 was a clear indication of how Works' efficiency had improved during recent years. The constructional work of our new Tubing Plant at Glasgow was well in hand and when completed would be the most modern plant of its kind in Europe.

The Engineering Division had had a complicated and difficult year, but looking ahead this Division with its present management and technical strength plus the technical skill of its workpeople had certainly more opportunity than at any time previously in the 100 years of its existence.

The Maintenance and Construction Department had had a busy year and in addition to plant extensions it had been possible to catch up with a lot more normal maintenance work and our property and buildings were now in good trim. The Department was getting ready for three major building projects namely a new Blown and Pressed Warehouse, a new Decorating Department for the Blown and Pressed Division, and extensions to the General Office Building.

Touching on the matter of raw materials, Mr. Raymond stated that one thing that is really worrying the Board was the risk of some of our raw materials becoming even more difficult to get than they are to-day. At the present moment our position was reasonably secure and this in spite of the fact that we were very dependent on some of the more critically short materials such as coal, stainless steel and copper. This was very largely due to the foresight and shrewdness of our Buying Department.

Export was quite rightly in the lime-light and the Export Department was doing increasingly what is expected of it. As compared with previous years our total export sales were up by one third and at the present time more than one quarter of our output was going abroad. There was need for the Company as a whole to become more export minded as the time was not far distant when we would have to rely on getting all the export business we could if we were going to keep as busy as we were to-day.

Our London Office, was, amongst other duties, vested with the responsibility for publicity and during recent years big sums had been spent on advertising and it is true to say that most people in all walks of life and all over the world now know who Chance Brothers are and what they make.

Mr. Raymond paid just tribute to the work of the Mixing, Pyrometry and Refractory Sections and to the Secretarial Department. He concluded his speech by making reference to personnel and said that he felt strongly that it is the individual that counts and machines and organisation are there to help him and not master him. The present year looks bright but there were all sorts of clouds on the horizon and so many things could happen within the next nine months that it would be unwise to be more optimistic at the present time.

MR. H. L. BARMAN made a report on the Engineering Division and on the Costing services. He said that the Engineering Division was passing through a time that was in some ways satisfactory and in others full of difficulties. The Division had received a larger number of orders not only for Lighthouse equipment but also for Austinlite products and in addition, the backlog

THIS MONTH'S COVER

THE hands of the designer on our front cover are those of Jack Batten of the Engineering Division. Jack's job is to design lighthouse prisms and plot their positions. He works out his design on the board geometrically and checks it with pure mathematics.

of orders for pumps was the largest in the existence of Sumo Pumps Limited.

In the United States of America our little subsidiary Company would have done much better if we had been able to let them have all the pumps they had wanted, but unfortunately they have had to wait. However, we have now changed the position and have been delivering to America at a considerably increased rate.

On lighthouses we have again been busy and last year we delivered a quantity of equipment to Nigeria. It is an indication of the quality of our products that the U.S.A. Coast Guard Service has just placed an order with us for a lightvessel optic, similar to the ones we supply to Trinity House.

On the Austinlite side we have an assured order book for standby plants three years ahead—and other Austinlite lines including rotary switches and start-o-matic plants are all in great demand.

At the works at Malvern the personnel are working well and have relieved Smethwick of production that would have been very difficult to work in with the programme. Whilst the Engineering Division had a very full order book and was employing more people than ever before in peace time, we are not turning the work out fast enough and some orders are being produced at a loss.

Turning to a review of costing, Mr. Barman stated that the Cost Office had now been reorganised and it was hoped that the figures provided would be of help to the management. It is no use producing figures unless people can understand and use them and the endeavours are directed towards this end. Mr. Barman made it clear that we are not dropping budgeting and said that budgeting is essential but we do want our budgets to be realistic and we do want people to be able to compare the actual costs and figures with the budgeted costs and figures, period by period.

Summing up the work in the Engineering Division and the Cost Office for the past year he stated undoubted progress had been made but we cannot say that the progress has been quite as rapid as we should have liked.

DR. W. M. HAMPTON gave a review of the work of the Optical and

Special Glass Division and of the Laboratories. In the Optical Division the sales for the past year were 36% up from the previous year and orders were 8% up. The striking feature of the year before last was the rapid increase in the demand for spectacle lenses and during the year we overtook the demand and were actually producing at a higher rate than the market could absorb. We produced over ten million spectacle blanks last year but by the end of the year the peak of the demand had been passed and we are now producing at a very much smaller rate. The falling off in the demand for blanks had been more than compensated by an increased demand for other products, notably optical glass and glass for prisms for Government Departments consequent on the rearmament drive.

The demands for optical glass were running at a very high level and we were particularly pleased that we have been able to sell in Germany and America. Developments at the Division's branch works at Malvern had been very striking. The sales of syringes and Veridia tubing were three times as great during the year as in the previous year and there is evidence that we are making a decided place for ourselves in this particular market.

Turning to development problems, Dr. Hampton stressed that he only had time to deal with a few of the more outstanding.

The manufacture of the cathode ray tubes from Hysil glass for television had brought many problems. The standard of quality demanded was higher than had ever been necessary for Hysil glassware before but as a result of many extensive efforts many of the problems had been overcome and we had had a long run of successful production.

Work had been started during the year on an exploration of the fundamental principles involved in the manufacture of sound signals for marine purposes. Scientific research had become such a part of our daily lives now that it was no longer necessary to explain why such work should be carried out. Dr. Hampton stressed that one can only afford to carry out work of this sort if the money is available to pay for it and the only place from which such

money can come is from profits. The Company must therefore keep on improving on our efficiency and manufacture by getting more output for the same effort.

Making his maiden speech as a Director, MR. C. J. S. NEWMAN dealt in the first place with the work of the Administration Department. Probably the greatest problem which faced the Personnel Department throughout the year was that of finding really suitable persons to fill the various vacancies as they arose and unfortunately the indications were that this difficulty was going to continue for some further long time. The position would have been much worse but for the effect of the Company's Apprentice Training Scheme. The number of apprentices increased to over 100 during the year and action had been taken to increase considerably this number during the coming year. Mainly owing to the high reputation which the Company's training policy for young persons undoubtedly has in the district, no great difficulty was anticipated in obtaining the increased numbers now required with the unfortunate exception of apprentice glassmakers. The need for improved Supervisory Training had become greater and Training Within Industry Courses had been re-introduced.

As regards Medical and Health Services, Mr. Newman indicated the usefulness of this function by mentioning that 26,000 visits were paid to the Medical Centre during the year. This did not necessarily indicate that the accident hazard was high as the total number of reportable lost time accidents was only 96.

Unfortunately it was necessary to make some reference to Civil Defence, and the Company were making some plans for setting up a Works Civil Defence organisation. He felt sure that the response to any appeal for volunteers would be just as great as it was 12 or so years ago.

Making reference to the Transport Department Mr. Newman paid tribute to the way in which the Internal Transport Department had kept the production departments supplied with the

materials they required. The Traffic Department had maintained the Company's reputation for courtesy to our customers.

Turning to the Flat Glass Division Mr. Newman stated that the Rolled Plate Department had been faced with the problem of ever increasing costs in the prices of materials, freight and other charges, in a matter of months prices of certain materials had recently increased as much as three-fold. The demand for rolled plate glass in the home market was unfortunately bound to be affected by the increased restrictions on building at the present time but increased efforts were being made to increase the demand from overseas.

Unfortunately it was necessary to record failure to establish successfully during the year the mechanically drawn flashed process. Since the plant was closed down last autumn a number of experiments had been carried out to determine the cause of defects and valuable knowledge had been obtained. Arrangements were being made to put the plant back into production in the near future and all those concerned were confident that considerably improved results would be achieved.

The Flat Glass Division shared with the Blown and Pressed Division the production and sales of "Fiesta" ware respectively. The normal teething troubles which appear with a new process had been largely overcome but we were faced with keen competition and determined efforts would have to be made to bring about a reduction in cost and to extend the range of shapes which can be produced.

Another project in which the Flat Glass Division and the Blown and Pressed Division were jointly concerned was that of Fluorescent Tubing and at our Glasgow Works was being installed at the present time what it is anticipated would be the most modern tubing plant in Europe.

MR. R. WRATHALL, General Manager of the Blown and Pressed Glass Division said that from the middle of the year things had been better and in the latter half of the financial year the Division had operated profitably and was to date still doing so.

He then complimented the work-people and sales people concerned in making this possible, together with

those people outside the Division who had been unfailing in their assistance. He expressed the hope that this help would be continued and intensified to back up the determination of the Blown and Pressed Glass Division to make still further progress.

On the Sales side Mr. Wrathall pointed out that we were regaining the confidence of our customers and that promises made were, in the main, being kept.

Dealing specifically with the various Sections, Mr. Wrathall mentioned that although "Hysil" sales were steadily increasing month by month there was a long way to go before the peak sales figures of 1949 were reached. Cathodes had improved but there was to be no "easing up" on our efforts for better metal and better quality. Machine-drawn Tubing looked more promising than for a very long time but improvements like the present one had happened before and this improvement must be permanent.

Opal blowing showed a steady increase in production but was still not as profitable as it should be and attention was drawn specifically to our failure to make really satisfactory Champagne Opal. Manufacture of hand and semi-automatic pressings, whilst showing some improvement, was in no way meeting orders. Mr. Wrathall stressed that more pressers and larger yields from our existing pressers were urgently required.

The automatic machines had made tremendous progress but there was still no room for complacency before this was turned into a real money making project.

A particular point was made in mentioning the work done by the Time Study people. Mr. Wrathall said the Time Study staff are completely unbiased and fair to both sides—fair to the workman to see he gets a good price for a good day's work, and fair to the Management to see that the Company gets a good day's work at the right price, and he added that if everyone concerned realised this all would benefit.

The closing note was of confidence in the future because of the good work put in by Works and Staff, and an expression of determination to make the Division increasingly profitable in every period of the current year.

CHANCE VETERANS' PARTY

TO our pensioners and fifty years' service employees, the Pensioners' Party is always the highlight of the year. A party of some 170 gathered at the works on an afternoon in July and proceeded by coach to Rednal for tea with the Directors and General Managers and their wives. At the end of the meal, Sir Hugh Chance in a warm speech of welcome reported that there are now 132 pensioners on the Company's records and the average age is 74 years. There were 26 men working at Spon Lane who have had more than 50 years' unbroken service with the Company and there were 280 men who had been continuously employed for 20 years or more—a record which any Company could be proud of. Sir Hugh presented long service awards to Harry Lloyd and Sam Tinsley. Mr. Walter Chance responded to a vote of thanks voiced by our Almoner Mrs. Smith.

In the evening, the party went to Stourport for either a river trip or a sing-song and refreshments and thus ended a completely happy day for the Peter Pans of Spon Lane.





ANGLING

On Sunday, 8th July, the second bye contest took place at Twyning Fleet under ideal conditions.

Some members after walking about three miles along the river discovered they were going the wrong way.

There were eight prizes and the first prize was won by L. Richards of the B. & P. with a weight of 3lbs. 5ozs.

On 9th September the annual contest will take place and on 15th September a team from C.B.'s are fishing a contest at Kirkstead on the river Witham, against the "Lincoln Liberal Club".

The results of these matches will appear in the next issue of CHANCE COMMENTS.

The section would be pleased to welcome new members for the next season which commences on 1st October.

Fifth Annual GALA BALL

at
WEST BROMWICH GALA BATHS
on
FRIDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1951

Further details later

BOWLING

The section is having a most successful season. At the time of going to press they are at the head of the Oldbury Works Bowling League and need only one more victory to be assured of the championship. They have also reached the final of the League's Rose Bowl Competition and the semi-final of the knock-out competition organised by the West Midlands Association of Works Recreation Clubs.

CRICKET

The cricket teams are having a successful season neither team having lost a game during the last six weeks. The first XI are at the top of the Business Houses League and if they win two of the remaining three games they will gain promotion to the 1st Division, an honour which has eluded them for the past three years. The second XI are also well placed and if they win their two remaining games they also may gain promotion. The Annual Dinner and Concert will be held 19th October when the prizes will be presented.

DARTS

The Ladies Darts Team has been in existence since March and after a bye in the first round, played their first game ever in the Pavilion only to lose by five games to four. Since then they have

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting will be held in the Pavilion on Monday, 8th October. At this meeting the Club's Officers and Group Representatives will be elected for the ensuing year. The following are due to retire and will be eligible for re-election.

OFFICERS:

Chairman: E. C. BUTTRESS.
Vice-Chairman: J. R. CHEETHAM.
Treasurer: A. OGDEN.
Arbitrator: H. S. MARTIN.
Auditors: C. T. LEWIS and E. CORNEY.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Rolled Plate, etc.	Vacant.
2. Coloured and Seven Storey	R. FARDELL (Seven Storey)
3. Optical	Vacant.
4. Pressed, Silvering	J. YATES (Pressed Warehouse)
5. Globe	L. HILL (B. & P. Furnaces)
6. L.H. Fitting and Machine Shops	F. WALKER (L.H. Fitting)
7. L.H. Electrical	H. MILLS (L.H. Electrical)
8. Millwrights, Electricians, etc.	T. GRICE (Millwrights)
9. Carpenters, Crate Yard, etc.	E. BULLEN (Crate Yard)
10. Garage, Transport, etc.	W. HOLLOWAY (Garage)
11. Glassworks Offices and Old Hall	J. ALLEN (Ledger)
12. Lighthouse Offices	R. WARD (L.H. Buying)

Further notices of nominations and elections will appear on notice boards.

played 14 games of which they have won seven.

The team entered a knock-out competition and managed to get into the second round before being knocked out. The team plays home and away on alternative Tuesday nights and when home matches are played, the bar behind the Billiard Room is used. The second half of the season has just commenced and any lady interested in

playing darts should get in touch with the team Captain, Mrs. T. Bowden, Ledger Office.

VISIT TO FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

During September four week-end parties were organised to visit the Festival of Britain Exhibition in London and the Festival Pleasure Gardens.

Members of the club in London.



MEET OUR VETERANS

HENRY HILL

HARRY started work at 13 years of age in the year 1885—66 years ago. He is still working and in the same department in which he started in those days of the Egyptian Wars.

During all those years he has never been away from work ill and as far as he can remember has never been late. Harry is justly proud of this grand record.

Starting off in the Crate Yard making himself generally useful he graduated to Crate repairer and repaired crates until he was 21 years of age. In course of time he was appointed as foreman in the Crate Yard and was on this job for some 25 years.

Actually he intended to retire on reaching 70 years but he was asked to continue for a time. He had the offer of several jobs but chose to remain among the timber and went into the Carpenters Shop where he is still regularly at work. Indeed, he declares he feels as good today as he did when he was 50 years of age.

Always interested in music he was for a great number of years a Bandsman and has played a great deal in many orchestras for leading Music Hall companies. His favourite instrument is the trombone but after losing some teeth he resorted to the string bass. He has been married for nearly 60 years and has two daughters.

Harry's record of service takes a lot of beating and he is by no means under the weather yet.

We offer to him our congratulations with good wishes for years to come.

DAVID SMITH

AT 13 years of age David Smith started as a Gate Messenger at the Old Gate. He liked the job alright and remembers those carefree happy days although he had to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and received for this the princely sum of 5s. per week.

After 18 months as a messenger he was moved into the Rolled Plate, Old Number 4, and here his job was to make out billets.

Nearly six years later he went on to cutting and squaring and afterwards all sorts of jobs both in the Rolled Plate and on coloured sorting. On his fifty-second year of service his whole time has actually been spent in the same department.

He declares that unless one has actual experience of the old methods of production that it is hard to visualise the vast strides in progress that have been made over half a century. Changes have definitely been for the better and work is easier and conditions greatly improved.

In fifty-two years there have been many ups and downs but generally speaking he has always been happy and contented on his job.

Happily married with one daughter and two grandchildren he spends his leisure time in the garden or sitting comfortably by the fireside listening to the radio.

The retiring date, so far as David is concerned, is a long way off and he shares the view of many of our veterans that if a man is well and able he is happier carrying on with his job.

We sincerely hope that many more active and happy years lie ahead of him both at work and in leisure.

ISAIAH PARTRIDGE

IT is nearly 52 years since Isaiah started work at Chance Brothers. He started in the Rolled Plate Department on a job then known as "laying on". This was carrying sheet glass and placing on the boards for the cutter. A heavy job and one that provided no spare time during working hours.

Later, he went on to cutting and squaring and then to packing, finally being transferred to the Pressed Warehouse as a packer and where he is still today. Actually for some fifty years of his service he has been occupied packing sheet and pressed glass. There is an art in packing glass properly but few would venture to suggest he does not know all that is necessary to see that a package or crate arrives safely at its destination wherever that may be.

Nearly five years ago he lost his wife who at the time of her death had been an invalid for 25 years. He has a son and a daughter, his son is employed as a cutter in the Seven Storey and has been with the firm for over 22 years. At one time Isaiah was a keen cricketer and footballer and even now is an enthusiastic supporter of Warwick C.C. He has always enjoyed gardening and takes pride in a tidily kept and well laid out garden.

Because of his wife's illness he has had many worries throughout the years but at work has always been contented and satisfied. He hopes to continue packing for a long time yet.

Extending our congratulations on a fine record of service we do wish him everything for the best in the years ahead.



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The works Consultative Committee last met at the end of July and the following is a precis of the meeting.

The Blown and Pressed Production Sub-Committee reported that at their monthly meeting discussions took place on a number of domestic matters including the increasing cost of consumable stores, alterations to the cooling systems in Numbers 8 and 9, the use of sawdust for packing and the need to improve work bins.

At the Flat Glass Division meeting it was reported that sufficient orders were being received to dispose of the output of all three furnaces and that production from these furnaces during recent weeks had been extremely good. Matters discussed included a new cooling system on Number 3 lehr, the arrangements for salvage, and heating equipment.

The Optical Production Sub-Committee had had discussions in regard to the variations in the thickness of glass for colour filters, packing cases, dust extraction on the Ballotini plant and a number of other domestic matters.

At the Maintenance and Production Sub-Committee a large number of items were dealt with including conditions in the Salvage Stores, installation of sawdust burning stoves and the condition of the Boiler Shop roof. The question of fuel economy was also discussed and it was noted that the position next winter, particularly in regard to gas, was expected to be critical.

Amongst domestic matters discussed at the Engineering Production Sub-Committee was the re-decorating of the Tool Room, provision of bench lights, cooling fans for the Winding Room and general tidiness.

The Canteen Sub-Committee had urged the management to carry out repairs to the furniture in the Girls' Canteen and to provide additional facilities for fish frying. The Committee had to report that complaints were arising from the Canteen Management that crockery and cutlery continued to disappear at an alarming rate. The Sub-Committee was also greatly concerned by unclean habits of certain of the Canteen users. Details of the increased prices for certain food and beverages which came into operation on the 31st July were reported.

One of the highlights of the Works Consultative Committee is always the Chairman's review of the position in each Division. At this meeting Mr. John Raymond mentioned that the Flashed Drawn Plant would be starting up again in the early future and the new Tubing plant at Glasgow was expected to be put into operation at the beginning of October. The Engineering Division had recently received an order from the United States of America Coast Guard Authorities for light vessel equipment and this was particularly interesting as it was very many years since we had been asked to supply such equipment to America. The market for Sumo Pumps in America was being satisfactorily developed and about 20 pumps per week were now being sent there. The Blown and Pressed Division and the Optical Division also continued to be very busy.

SUGGESTION SCHEME COMMITTEE

Joe Fenton of the Rolled Plate Department has hit the Jack Pot. Through the medium of the Suggestion Scheme he suggested an improved method of cooling glass on the Rolled Plate Continuous Process. From the technical angle this suggestion was simple but the adoption has resulted in the Department effecting a considerable financial saving. The Suggestion Committee is authorised to pay up to £25 for any one suggestion and in awarding Joe this maximum amount a recommendation was made to the Board that a further £100 should be awarded making a total of £125.

F. Bradbury of the Lighthouse Tool Room received £3 15s. 0d. for suggesting a modification to the winding machine in the Electrical Department. £1 2s. 6d. was awarded to G. Jenkins of the Lighthouse Electrical for ideas concerning the multi lamp changers. C. Kirkham

of the D.R.M. Shop some time ago suggested improved organisation for controlling the scrap metal drive on the works. At that time his suggestions were rejected but exercising his right under the Suggestion Scheme, Charlie appealed, and his appeal was upheld and 12s. 6d. was awarded. J. Jennings of the Sumo Shop suggested a brass ring be placed behind the bearing sleeve of the thrust block on the rotor thus eliminating any excess movement and 10s. was awarded.

Even the most simple and obvious suggestion can win a prize, for example, E. Taylor of the Sumo Shop pointed out that the Notice Board in the Lighthouse Electrical Shop was placed in an inconvenient position. The Board was moved to a more suitable point and the suggester received 5s. W. R. Ball of the Rolled Plate Department suggested that window frames be cut in the wall at the grid end of Number 3 Rolled Plate Tank so that cool air could reach the glass. The adoption of this suggestion did not result in any financial saving but it did improve the working conditions. 5s. was awarded.

Mr. John Raymond presenting a cheque for £125 to Joe Fenton.





● George Perry of the Fitting Shop assembles the clockwork mechanism which still turns most of the lighthouses of the world.



● Arthur Ormandy fitting the glass prism to lighthouse optics.



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

The Globe Department congratulates Richard Palmer who was married to Nancy Hollingsworth on August 18th.

The Decorating Department offers congratulations to Irene Walker on her marriage to George Richards, Muriel Pamplin on her marriage to George Allsop and Peggy Kennedy on her marriage to Robert Eggington. The Department hopes to have their new lehr in operation by the time the magazine goes to press.

ENGINEERING

Members of the Sumo Shop had a successful outing to Rhyl on the 25th August when a good time was had by all. The Shop is sorry to lose Bill Kinchin who has moved to the Malvern factory. A welcome is extended to Joan Poynton.

The Machine and Fitting Shop were pleased to see Bert Taylor after an absence of eleven months and hope

that Bert will soon be fit enough to return to work. Best wishes for a speedy recovery are extended to "Big Bill" Holden who is in hospital.

The Grinding Room held a successful Social Dance in the Pavilion on July 20th and the proceeds were given to Tom Fenton who has been ill for some time.

The Production Control Office offer sincere congratulations to Ron Jobbins who has recently married Nellie Perkins of the Electrical Shop.

The Installation and Service Department welcomes T. Perks who has joined the outside Testing Staff. A. W. Russell has returned to the Drawing Office after three and half years on the installation staff. Best wishes are extended to Mick Hitchcox on the occasion of his marriage to Jean MacKinlay on August 8th. We publish a photograph showing our Engineers J. E. Whitehouse and T. Perks tackling difficulties at a Post Office installation in Northern Ireland.

The Sales Department were sorry to lose the services of Vincent Blake who had been with the Company for 17 years and his friends in the Engineering Division wish him every happiness for the future. Vincent has joined Fibreglass as Textile Marketing Manager. The Department welcomes Gladys Thomas.

The Division congratulates Dennis Allen, Albert Sproston, Derek Staines



A Northern Ireland problem for our Engineers.

and Mary Colclough who have recently attained their majority.

LABORATORY

Congratulations are offered to Barry Lingard who married Ann Wells on the 18th August. The personnel in the Laboratory presented Barry with a set of carvers.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Building Department and Boiler Shop are enjoying a slack period at the present time but are looking forward to a busy time in the very near future.

The personnel in the Garage congratulate Howard Cosnett on the birth of a son.

OFFICES

The Flat Glass Sales Office welcomes Bob Palmer and John Shrewsbury who have recently joined the staff. The personnel in the Accounts Department extend best wishes to Irene Franklin who married Fred Smith on the 18th August. The Printing Office offer congratulations to Margaret Jones on her engagement to Donald Jones. The Typing Pool were sorry to lose Katherine DeBono who is moving to London and sincere good wishes are extended to her for her future happiness.

OPTICAL

The Optical Division congratulates the Bowling Team on their recent success.

Heartiest congratulations are offered to Dorothy and Arthur Evans on the birth of a son and to Jack Jones and Phil Dowling, Jim Ward and Dora Colley, Jim Newbold and Gladys Piper, Phil Whieldon and Majorie Brown, and Mary Hollingsworth and Frank Watson on the occasion of their marriage.

PERSONNEL AND WELFARE

Sincere congratulations are offered to Mollie Bee who married Jack Neale on

September 1st. Mollie decided to resign her position with the Company.

E. B. Anderson resigned his position as T.W.I. Instructor and Employment Assistant at the end of September consequent on his appointment with another firm. A welcome is extended to L. W. J. Clay who has recently joined the Personnel Staff.

SILVERING DEPARTMENT

New installations in the Plating Shops are now complete and the Department look forward to a period of increased production to help cope with the defence programme which the Lighthouse Division has in hand.

The personnel in the Department offer best wishes for a speedy recovery to Gladys Jones who has been ill for many weeks.

The wedding of Ronald Jobbins to Nellie Perkins.



News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Rolled Plate department at Glasgow continues to be fully occupied on orders for both Export and the Home markets.

It is now anticipated that warming-up the Tubing furnace will commence on or about 15th September, and that production should start approximately mid-October. News has reached us from Rhode Island—U.S.A. that Nicol, McPherson and Sutherland duly arrived, and have settled down to their work at Corning. Only complaint is that the temperature outside the work, is similar to the conditions round the furnaces.

Recreation. The Bowling pairs tournament was won by H. MacLeod, Wages Office and T. McCusker, Warehouse Office. Runners-up, A. Traynor, Rolled Plate and Miss R. Miller, Wages Office.

The Football season commenced on the 25th August and it is reported that the team is in strict training.

Table Tennis started on the 4th September and a ladies team has entered the West of Scotland league competition.

● LONDON

Our new Teleprinter Operator, Miss Kay Evans, joined us in July, replacing Mrs. R. Pearl.

As Press Officer, we now have Mrs. Rosetta Desbrow in place of Miss Garland. Mrs. Desbrow is a B.Sc. (Econ.) and was for six years on the staff of "The Economist" where she specialised on Consumer Goods. She was assistant Public Relations Officer to The Council of Industrial Design from 1947 to 1949. In her spare time she is a freelance journalist. We wish her and Miss Evans every success in our organisation.

The Firm's products, mainly Optical and Spectacle glass, were shown at the British Instrument Industries Exhibition, Olympia, and at the Ophthalmic Trades Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall. In each case, the appearance of our Stands attracted favourable comments.

We are now busy with preparations for the building Trades Exhibition, Olympia, in November. We have secured an island site for a display of our building glasses. This will be their first appearance at this important exhibition and we are hoping to have something new for Architects and Builders.

● MALVERN (ENGINEERING SECTION)

Welcome to the following newcomers.
Machine Shop. J. Corbett; Margaret Blick; J. Bayley.

Assembly Shop. E. Russell; V. Smith; E. Mitchell; G. Stephenson; A. Lloyd and P. Taylor.

Inspection. V. Greenway; N. Yapp.
Production Control. Dennis Moore.

Jim Grange has now been promoted to Chargehand, of the Machine Shop. Bill Kinchin, has now settled down at Malvern, having been transferred from the Sumo Shop at Smethwick.

The leaving of Mrs. Marks recently owing to family reasons, was acknowledged by the Inspection Staff with deep regret. She was one of the first members, and had been with the firm since October, 1950, and in appreciation a Pyrex Serving Dish, contributed for by her colleagues, was presented to her by the Chief Inspector of Smethwick, Mr. Taylor.

Another well-known character to leave Malvern was Mr. J. Hodgetts, Chargehand of the Machine Shop, who has returned to the Sumo Shop, Smethwick. He had been at Malvern for 3 years, and his departure was felt by all, especially the old hands. His

going was recognised by the presentation of a combined electric alarm clock and bedside lamp. Mr. Robinson made the presentation.

Congratulations are offered to Joan Evans of the Assembly Shop who was married on June 7th, and to June Sexton also of the Assembly Shop who was married on June 30th.

On the 28th July, there was a very pretty wedding at Christchurch, Gt. Malvern, between Margaret Loader of the Assembly Shop, and Frank McCarthy of the Machine Shop.

The strength of personnel keeps growing, and we have now reached the 80 mark.

Our cricket team and a few faithful followers visited Spon Lane on Saturday August 11th, to do battle against the Works 2nd IX. A very good game and enjoyable evening and dancing in the Pavilion was had by all.

● ST. HELENS

Back again after the annual holidays feeling very fit, we are now "hard at it".

From the many holiday reminiscences we choose a topical one. N. Nuttall (Remoulding) visited a Chance Lighthouse dated 1867, on the Isle of Arran, and reports that it has certainly withstood the elements through the years.

Several marriages have taken place since the last issue and we offer our very best wishes to all.

Alace Anders (Cutting) to Ted Lynch (Moulding), 21st July.

Elizabeth Moran (Packing) to E. Smith, 11th August.

Mabel Burt (Secretariat) to W. Owen, 9th August.

Lily Rigby (Packing) to J. Adamson, 18th August.

Congratulations to W. Green (Fitting Shop) and his wife on the birth of a son.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCarthy on their wedding day.

The following have successfully passed their evening school exams.

W. Craine (Second year Mechanical Engineering).

J. Cassons (Second year Mechanical Engineering).

M. Owen (Shorthand and Typing).

T. Williams (Shorthand and Typing).

E. Cunliffe (Shorthand and Typing).

J. Ashton (Shorthand and Typing).

A Welcome to Mr. M. P. Wallace who has recently joined the Wages Staff.

We would like to express our best wishes for the speedy recovery of H. Evans (Flat Grinding) who has had consistent ill health recently.

Mabel Burt (Secretariat) marries W. Owen.



Tottings

OF SHORTER ITEMS
AND EMPLOYEES'
CONTRIBUTIONS

AMBULANCE BRIGADE

The re-formed Ambulance Brigade has made a report on its activities during the past twelve months and there is a clear indication that there is much keenness amongst the members.

In a large works such as ours accidents can and do happen and whilst the Company has a qualified medical staff there can be occasions when the immediate presence of a man or woman trained in first aid can be invaluable. There are now eighteen members of the Brigade and new recruits would be welcomed. Instruction classes are held in the Cinema Room each Wednesday evening at 6.0 p.m.

The Brigade had a most happy outing at the end of July when a coach visit was made to Cheddar for lunch and then on to Weston for tea. Stanley Hinde who is Secretary of the Brigade again proved his organising skill.

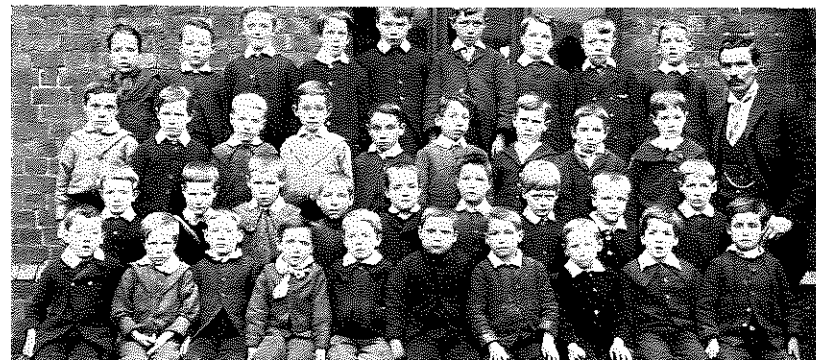
The Ambulance Brigade outing.



SIMPSON VERSUS TICKLE

Tickle was under review in our last issue and does not desire further introduction. Jack Simpson was the charge-hand in the Lighthouse Optic Building Gang. He was tall, lank, dour, thin and with a Lancashire accent. He, however, stuttered, say a 75% stutter, and when excited it rose rapidly to 150%. Simpson and Tickle were as different in appearance as the poles apart. Tickle—little in stature, tubby, chubby and with a merry twinkle in his eye. Simpson as described above.

A feud existed between them. It was difficult to ascertain the reason, but it is believed that Simpson looked with contempt on Tickle because he stuttered. Tickle on the other hand did not like Simpson because he was a formidable rival stutterer. The storm clouds gathered one afternoon, and the storm broke between the two. For 5 minutes Simpson tried to accuse Tickle of being a ——— (it was a word of 6 letters beginning with Bu———) Tickle in the



Chance Scholars half a century ago.

53 YEARS AGO.

Bill Withers contributes this vintage photograph of a class at the Chance Schools taken 53 years ago. The Schools then occupied the buildings which are now the works Canteens.

Many of our older employees will recognise some of the boys including Bill Withers, Steve Foy, Bill Whitley and Frank Whitehouse.

meantime was accusing Simpson of being a (it was a word of 6 letters beginning with Bl———). At this point their mates put down their tools and gathered around much in the same manner as spectators gather round at a cock fight. For 15 minutes the fun raged fast and furious and was only brought to an end by the appearance of the foreman. Neither combatant succeeded in calling his foe what they intended i.e. Bu——— and Bl———.

H. J. HIPKINS.

THE WORKS SHOP

There are probably many employees who have joined the Company recently who are not aware of the many employee services. One popular scheme is that which enables an employee to purchase certain of the Company's products at very favourable prices. A works shop is situated in the Old Gate Thoroughfare and this is open during the lunch period and early evening. Most products are in stock but certain goods such as flat glass need to be ordered.

It is necessary to restrict the sales of Domestic glass but even so the "ration" is generous as each person can purchase 5s. worth each month. For Domestic glass purchases a buying permit must

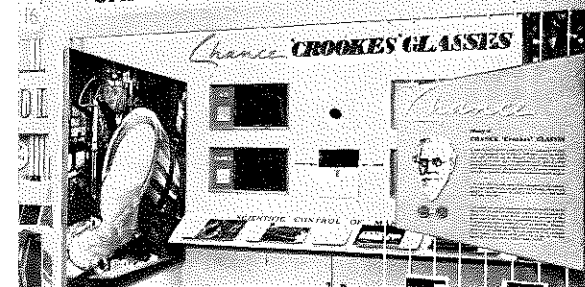
★
Top: Our stand at the British Instrument Industries Exhibition held at Olympia last July.

★
Bottom: The Optical Division's display at the Ophthalmic Exhibition also held in July.

be obtained from the shop foreman or office section leader and this must be presented at the shop at the time of purchase. It is stressed that a condition of all sales from the shop is that the articles are intended for employees' personal use.



CHANCE BROTHERS LIMITED



Chance Products on Parade



FIESTA GLASS

WE in W. E. Chance & Co., Limited have fondly imagined that Fiesta Glass, with all the publicity it has received in the daily papers, magazines, etc., and by the fact that it has been admired and purchased by Royalty, was more or less a household word amongst all Divisions at Spon Lane.

This however is not apparently the case as some members of the public (well informed) visited an exhibition at which one of the Chance Brothers' products was on show, and asked if they could see some of the new Fiesta Table Glass and the reply they got was "Never heard of it" or at least words to that effect.

Therefore, especially for those who are not aware of our Fiesta Glass a few words about it may not be without interest.

The basic principal of the process is that it allows even the most intricate and fine patterns to be produced in glass, be it a true photographic reproduction or an artist's impression. Other methods of putting a pattern on glass have of course reached a fine stage of perfection but our new "Fiesta" process goes far beyond anything that has previously been achieved.

For example your own photograph could be

reproduced in a tray or plaque (providing it didn't crack the glass).

The words "in glass" are purposely used as the pattern is in the glass and not as with other methods merely applied to the surface.

With the Fiesta process one cannot by running the finger over an article feel where the pattern begins and where it ends.

Such a process does of course open up vast new possibilities regarding the decoration of glass.

At present we have only touched the fringe of these possibilities by producing a few designs, the most outstanding of which are an artist's impression of three of our most famous national buildings (St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge and the Houses of Parliament) and a "Lace" design which is a true reproduction of an old piece of real lace, the origin of which is in the Brussels museum.

This design was greatly admired by members of the Royal School of Needlework during an exhibition in London this year and they were deeply impressed by the way in which each tiny stitch could be traced.

"Fiesta" Glass like all fine work bears close scrutiny.

Shortly Ruby and Blue glass will be used in conjunction with a design in gold (pure gold) and other patterns will be seen.

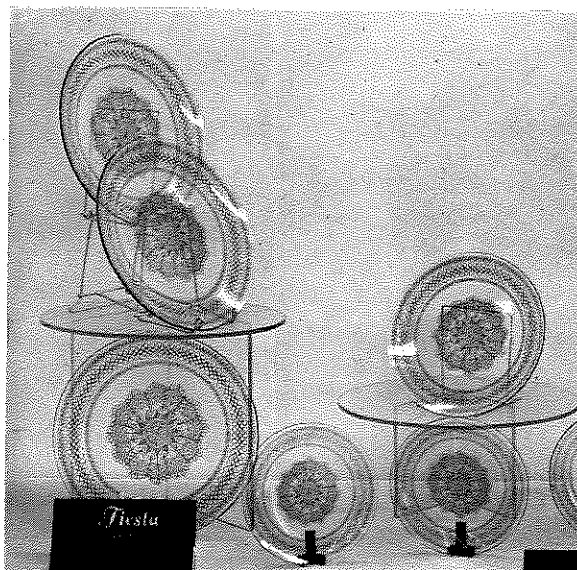
By next year souvenirs of your holiday will have made their appearance and it is hoped that permission will be given to reproduce the photographs of the King and Queen during their tour of Australia next year.

Details of this process are not for publication but like most things the Fiesta process is simple enough when you know how it is done but, and it is a big "but", it is not exactly what is done, but how it is done wherein the secret of the process lies.

Like baking a cake it is not only knowing what to put in it, but how to mix and bake it that counts.

It is hoped that you will shortly be able to get more intimately acquainted with Fiesta Glass when it is on sale in the "shop".

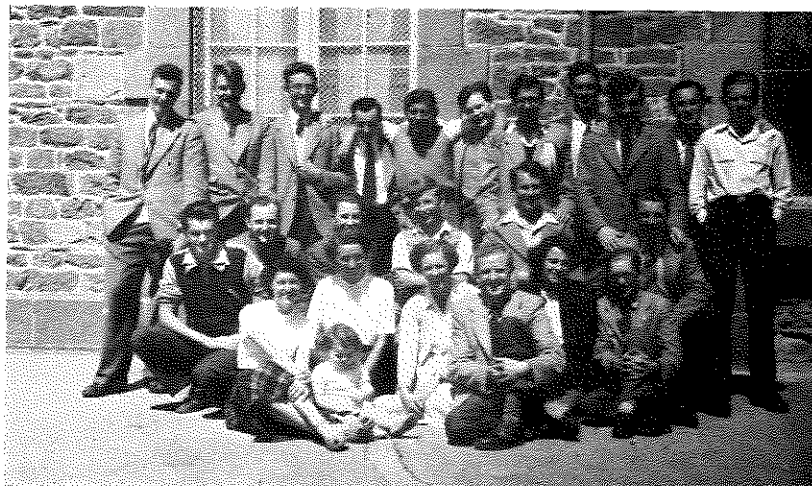
R. B.



★ Womans' Feature

LACE JABOT

Crochet jabots are extremely useful and always look dainty and fresh. This one is made very simply in one piece gathered at the top and fastened with two flower-like motifs. These attractive accessories are expensive to buy but extremely easy and inexpensive to make at home. Apply to the Personnel Department for the free Penny Wise sewing directions.



FROM SPON LANE TO BRITTANY

ON Friday, 27th July, a party of our Apprentices and Trainees left Smethwick for a fourteen days' holiday in the North of France. We sailed from Southampton on the British Railways steamer "Falaise" (3,710 tons). This ship was first launched in 1946 and is named after the ancient Normandy town which figured so prominently in the Liberation of Europe. We docked at St. Malo at 7.30 on the morning of Saturday 28th July, after a very pleasant and smooth crossing, much to the pleasure of members of the party.

After the usual formalities at the French customs we were met by our host, Monsieur Jacquin who accompanied us to the Institution de St. Malo (a Roman Catholic College) which was to be our headquarters for the next twelve days. Our journey to the Institution was made through the old city of St. Malo. This seaport suffered heavily during the liberation of Europe in 1944, but everywhere there are signs of build-

ing activity, and work proceeds as quickly as in a Walt Disney film and the results are remarkable.

St. Malo was originally the site of a Monastery founded by Saint Malo who came from Wales in the 6th century. It was around this monastery that the town sprang up which was later surrounded by ramparts and strong walls. These ramparts were not damaged during the liberation and a walk around them is by far the most enjoyable feature of the port.

The main beach has firm white sand and is one of the finest in Brittany, being quite safe and ideal for bathing. Our accommodation was most satisfactory and the food was excellent in every way.

Our first excursion was to the fairy-tale castle of Mont St. Michel. Built on a rock of granite, it is the centre-piece of the bay which bears its name. The island has always been a Norman possession and was formerly a pagan sanctuary. A collegiate church was built on it in 710

but in 966 Benedictine monks took their place and founded the Abbey proper. The Church steeple was only added as late as the end of the last century and is surmounted by the bronze statue of Saint Michel. Stretching away as far as the eye can see is a vast expanse of sand over 10 miles in length, which quickly disappears as the rising tide rushes at dangerous speed across its surface faster than a horse can gallop. The sea surrounds the mount itself in an amazingly short time, transforming it into an islet connected only with the mainland by the 9,120 metres long causeway built at the end of the last century. The sea rises for six hours and remains stationary only for an instant. At low tide the sea recedes about eleven miles and covers an expanse of 250 square miles.

Our host took us over this famous building where we saw the Abbey, the Cloisters, the Guardroom, the Church, the upper windows and the Triforium of the Choir, the Refectory and the Monks' Ambulatory and the Guest Hall. We were told that way back over the years the Monks assembled in the Guest Hall in the evening and planned their raids on Brittany and Normandy, confiscating food, wines and sometimes kidnapping young ladies. During this particular explanation, one apprentice remarked, "These monks confiscated food, wine and kidnapped young ladies, hence the phrase 'monkey tricks'."

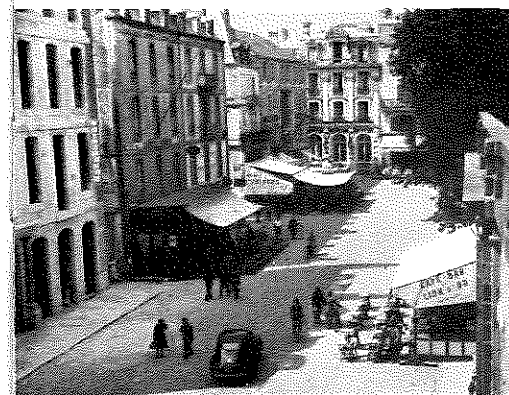
Excursions were also made to Dinard and Dinan. Dinard is reached from St. Malo by a frequent vedette service and is a favourite with English tourists. In addition to the colour of the sea

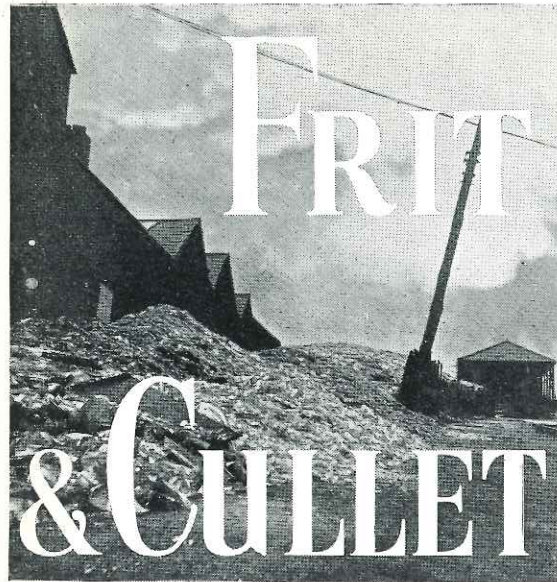
(blue green) it has magnificent coastal scenery with first class hotel accommodation. These amenities have earned it the title "Nice of the North".

Our visit to Dinan, an ancient town in grey stone some fifteen miles down river was made in a rain storm. We were on a small motor launch for four hours during which time it did not stop raining.

All too soon the time came to return to England. We crossed from St. Malo to Southampton once again on the "Falaise". We carried with us memories of a wonderful time. Our thanks are due to the Chance Education Trust for a generous grant which made this holiday possible, to the staff of the Institution de St. Malo, Monsieur Jacquin, our host, and Mr. Lawson and Mr. Mort of the London Travel Agency who made all arrangements for us.

D. A. C.





DO YOU KNOW ?

1. Is ocelot (a) the name of an airship, (b) a cat-like animal, (c) an eye on the tail of a peacock.
2. Give five nicknames for policemen.
3. Which of the following articles were known to the Romans? Razor, scissors, needle, pen-nib, glass, sugar, soap, paper, concrete, linen.
4. What are the five languages in the world which are spoken by the most people?
5. Which of the following were survived by children? Shakespeare, Milton, Queen Anne, Lord Asquith, Darwin, Huxley.
6. Name three towns in Britain where the medieval walls are still in a state of good preservation.

PUZZLE CORNER

- (a) **The Lily.** A South American water lily planted in the middle of a circular pond 7 yards in diameter, grew at such a rate that it exactly doubled its area each day. If at the end of the thirtieth day it completely filled the pond, on which day did it cover half the pond's surface.
- (b) **The Photograph.** A man, looking at a photograph, said "Brothers and sisters have I none, but this man's

father is my father's son." What relation was the man in the photograph to the speaker?

SO WHAT?

Every year there are between 300 and 400 earthquakes in Turkey. Between 1938-1949 there were 13 which cost 50,000 lives and 100,000 buildings . . . Hunting is not the chief cause of the death of foxes. Five times as many are caught and killed in wire gins alone . . . Of 1,200 tons of bus tickets issued yearly in London, only 37 tons are recovered for repulping . . . There are

800,000 Smiths in the United Kingdom and a million and half in America. Every day 28 Smiths die in Britain, 40 in America.

ANSWERS

- (a) On the twenty-ninth day its area would be half what it was on the thirtieth day i.e. it would half fill the pond.
(b) The photograph is that of the speaker's son.

PUZZLE CORNER

1. A cat-like animal.
2. Flattie, rozzler, peeler, copper, bobbie, blue-bottle.
3. Razor, scissors, needle, glass, sugar, soap, concrete, linen.
4. Chinese, English, Russian, German, Spanish.
5. All except Queen Anne.
6. York, Chester, Berrwick.

LAUGH WITH FARLEY



"Six stages in the life of a Filing System"