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SILVER JUBILEE BALL

This year marks the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of the Recreation Club and a Ball will be held at Dudley Town Hall on Friday, March 28th, to celebrate it.

There will be dancing from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. to Hedley Ward and his Band.

TICKETS will cost 5/- each and are obtainable from Group Representatives.

★

LATE BUSES will be arranged for those who need them, and will serve the following routes providing seats are booked through Group Representatives not later than March 12th.

1. Smethwick (Council House) via Oldbury;
2. Handsworth (the Hawthorns) via Great Bridge;
3. Wednesbury via Tantany and Friar Park;
4. Bearwood via Langley.

A WONDERFUL END TO THE DANCE SEASON

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

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1952

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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.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office — J. ALLEN

Blown and Pressed
- Decorating — A. CHAMBERS
- Inspection — F. O'CONNOR, R. TURTON
- Making Process — B. PATRICK, S. STOCKIN, F. TATTON
- Sales — MISS L. RATLIDGE
- Warehouse — MRS. A. KEYS

Buying & Stationery — MRS. CANTY

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- Drawing Office — J. FISHER
- Electrical — J. THOMPSON
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- Commercial Staff — F. W. G. BEAUMONT
- Sumo Office — S. BROWN
- Sumo Works — J. T. HALL
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- Toolroom and Mould Shop — W. B. COX
- Welding and Blacksmiths — D. EDWARDS
- Works Staff — A. SLEIGH

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Flat Glass
- Making and Warehouse — R. E. EVANS
- Sales — S. RAY
- Seven Storey — A. FARDELL

Laboratory — MRS. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction
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- Building — S. BEARDSMORE
- Electricians — E. A. WHITEHOUSE
- Garage — V. COOKSEY
- Millwrights — W. JOHNSON
- Old Hall — E. BREENS
- Stores — D. KIRKWOOD

Mixing — N. GREEN
Optical — MISS E. COTTON
Pyrometry — N. WALKER
Recreation Club — A. FARLEY
Silvering — T. PAGE
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Wages. Pensions — MRS. MOUNTFORD

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS
- Glasgow — J. A. AITCHISON
- London — J. W. CHANCE
- Malvern — MISS D. CLARE, P. ROBINSON
- St. Helens — K. W. APPLETON

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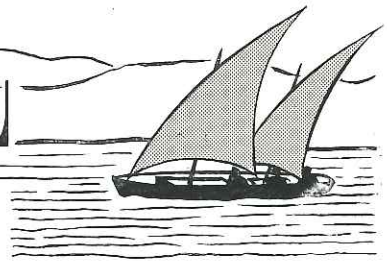
VOL. 4, No. 6

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1952

BRAZIL



By ROGER BARRON

SUMO PUMPS' REPRESENTATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA

IT is impossible in a short article to do justice to a nation of over fifty million people scattered over an area rather larger than the continental United States, and which to-day is undoubtedly the greatest moral and industrial force in South America, namely Brazil. It is a country of great contrasts, opposed to the tropical heat of the Amazonas and the North-East, there is sometimes snow in Rio Grande do Sul.

Against a population density of over ninety to the square mile in the state of São Paulo, there are less than two in the Matto Grosso. To clash with the skyscrapers of São Paulo are the "mattos" of the Serra do Roncador where Xavante Indians still roam and kill and contrary to what so many people think the language and tradition of the country are Portuguese and not Spanish, the rhythm of the "samba" and not the "tango".

A general view of Rio de Janeiro.

The sheer size of the country imposes problems of organisation that are to-day steadily being solved by improvements in the means of transportation and Brazil's greatest achievement in this field has been that of commercial aviation.

Air-traffic in Brazil is, in fact, the second greatest in the world, being only surpassed by that of North America. Its intensity can be gauged from the fact that between Rio and São Paulo alone there are over eighty scheduled daily flights. With all the supernumary services São Paulo airport handles more daily traffic than Northolt and Heath Row put together. Unfortunately, to British minds that is, practically all this equipment and the aircraft, are American.

Transportation by air does not of course solve all the problems involved, there are those of bulk transport and the opening up of undeveloped territories and to this end concrete roads and electrification and extension of railways are under project and construction. Even in this field it is sad to see that apparently British goods are at a disadvantage for high prices and prolonged deliveries have disappointed Brazilians who have turned to their North American neighbours for the majority of the capital equipment of the kind needed.

Probably in most peoples' minds the place most often associated with Brazil is that of Rio de Janeiro. In song and story, Rio's harbour is the bluest, its beaches the finest, its carnival the gayest and its sambas the maddest. Its water system also comes close to the superlative in that it is probably South America's dryest!

Rio is mainly the commercial centre of Brazil and is where the Government of the country has its seat and although situated in the most important part of the country it is in its way as London is to Birmingham in its relation to São Paulo which is also in this most important region of Brazil.

São Paulo is one of the fastest growing cities in the world to-day, being somewhat reminiscent of New York with its numerous fine buildings. So fast is its growth that on average there is a building completed every twenty minutes of a working day! It is also the third largest city in South America, having a population of 2,227,000.

Industries in this area are widely diversified and range from cotton and wool textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, plastics, light and heavy engineering (including electrical equipment like transformers, motors, control gear, cables, wires and wirelesses, refrigerators and elevators) to a hundred and one small articles in everyday use. In fact, apart from really heavy capital goods and, of course, submersible pumps, it is difficult to find an article that is to-day not made in Brazil.

Output is in most cases somewhat limited but even so the existence of national production brings its inevitable protection and makes it difficult for the importer of foreign goods. To combat this more and more foreign manufacturers are opening up their own plant in Brazil, sometimes with the help of Brazilian capital, they providing the plant and technique. Although skilled labour is short the immigration of European labour and local trade schools are helping to fill the gap.

Brazil is also making an intense effort to achieve an increasing degree of economic sovereignty in heavy capital goods, which is best symbolised by the National Steel Works at Volta Redonda. This works is one of the only two integrated ones built anywhere in the world since early this century. In 1949, it turned out some 200,000 tons of rolled mild steel and has been expanding ever since with increasing production and profits. Great strides are also being made in the expansion of Brazil's great hydro-electric system and the exploitation of the large oil deposits.

Meanwhile, coffee and agricultural exports still remain the life-blood of Brazil's foreign economy and although high prices have been obtained for these commodities there is a bad shortage of foreign exchange that has brought in its train the usual attendant evils—a stringent import licensing system, barter deals carried out at a heavy premium, inflation and a steadily mounting cost of living.

This rise in cost of living as it is a recent happening is perhaps one of the most spectacular aspects of Brazil. Official statistics show that there has been a rise of over 400 per cent. from 1939 and the bulk of it occurring in the past four years. In São Paulo for instance although there is no real shortage of houses or apartments of a good-class nature, these cannot be rented for under the equivalent of £1,000 a year. An average car and an average bottle of whisky (of which both are regrettably in short supply) cost respectively the equivalent of £2,000 and £7, while a television set cannot be had for less than £300!

With all the attendant snags that there are to living in a country foreign to one's background, there are perhaps few places to-day better to live in than Brazil. A friendly people and cheerful, numerous modern facilities, endless opportunities for business and a fair amount for pleasure make life here good indeed for anyone who appreciates both the challenge of opportunity and no small amount of craziness in his life.

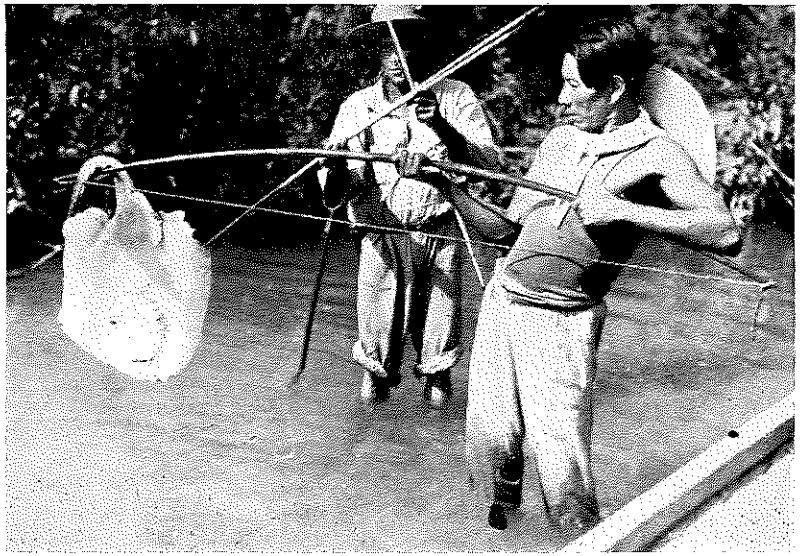
In compiling this article I have been forced to draw on the help of others who have had longer experience of this country than I and in this respect I wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the help of Donald S. Barwell, Director of De La Rue Plasticos do Brazil, S A.

OUR FRONT COVER

Car headlamp lenses are a product of the Blown and Pressed Division.

Our front cover photograph shows the lenses after removal from the mould.

An old Brazilian custom which still survives—catching fish by bow and arrow. In this case the "bite" is a sting ray.



Outward Bound Mountain School

By JOYCE NICKLIN (*Personnel*) **and MARGARET BENNETT** (*Typing Pool*)

WITH much doubt and fear in our hearts we left Birmingham early in October for the Outward Bound Mountain School, to take part in the first Girls' Course to be held at Eskdale, Cumberland. The aims of this Trust are; to help members of the Course to develop initiative, self-reliance and resourcefulness, to broaden their outlook, to learn in a practical way the team spirit called for in any community founded on Christian principles—in short, to become more fully developed individuals and more useful citizens.

During our first week at the School we found it very hard to realise how the Course developed anything but aching bones and blistered feet.

Every girl had three sessions of basic training during the first ten days. These consisted of rock-climbing, canoeing, athletics, mountain rescue, trekking and mapping. We were then allowed to choose one of these subjects, rock-climbing and fell-walking being essentials. These basic sessions were planned to introduce us to subjects which we had to tackle during the Course. What appeared to be a mountain at the beginning of the Course seemed to be a mere pebble at the end of our month's training.

The Course aims to give character training through adventure. The whole Course was actually an adventure, but the highlights were the expeditions. Three two- and three-day expeditions were held, apart from many one-day expeditions. Many girls had never slept under canvas before but, fortunately, conditions were in our favour for the first trip.

The second one started with an eight-mile walk to the camp site. Tents were pitched and we all prepared for a camp similar to the first. When we woke next morning, it was to find ten degrees of frost, with water, tents, milk and even boots frozen.

The greatest test was the final three-day expedition. For this we were divided into groups. Margaret was in the rock-climbing party and Joyce in the fell-walking group. Margaret camped at Wasdale Head at the foot of Great Gable with a party which did several climbs, the main one being Beck Crag which is 120 feet high and a difficult climb. The fell-walking party camped five miles away at the other end of Wast Water. This group walked over fifty miles and climbed Great Gable and Sca Fell Pike—the highest mountain in England.

Indoor activities formed a great part of the Course. Members of the staff gave lectures on their experiences in the Himalayas, Greece and the Alps. All girls took active part in Drama and Music sessions, and a show was put on for staff and friends at the end of the Course.

We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the Chance Education Trust and to the Company for affording us the facilities to attend this Course. In the opening sentence of this report we spoke of the haze and fear with which we entered upon it. On completing it, we have no

(*continued on page* 17

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

The collection in the Works for Poppy Day amounted to £40 0 2. Our Birmingham Mail Christmas Fund Collection amounted to £14 2 8.

On two occasions recently a disabled employee has had his mechanical invalid chair maliciously damaged whilst it was tucked away during working hours. The Company and many employees have had to suffer material damage of some kind or other at various times, but this kind of thing makes decent people boil over with indignation.

To Eric Farley and Walter Johnson, who always respond to the Editor's appeal for cartoons. Readers will agree that their works are first-class. This month's cartoon is by Ken Poole and Ken Perks.

To the many employees, new and old, who have an idea that the Petty Sales Permit forms entitle them to a free gift of glassware from the Works Shop.

Michael Hinds, an Engineering Division apprentice, has been awarded the Accles & Pollock open prize for Engineering Drawing at the Chance Technical School. Ronald Nichols, also an Engineering apprentice, won the School's Jubilee Prize which was founded by Sir Hugh Chance. Kevin O'Connor, again an Engineering apprentice, was awarded the Fisher & Ludlow Prize.

A sales enquiry described how the potential customer was having trouble in getting his fire to ignite, and he wondered if we could sell him a glass blower!

Congratulations to the following apprentices who have attained their majority recently: Bill Matthews, Lighthouse Drawing Office; Geoffrey Riley, Glassworks Drawing Office, and John Hickman, Fuel Economy.

The Junior Committee of Malt House Youth Centre have produced a first-class magazine.

To the many employees who know that "there is always a better way." In 1951, 244 suggestions were submitted under the Suggestion Scheme, and of these, 112 were adopted. The sum of £334 was awarded during the year.

Recreation Club News

The Club has recently received a substantial grant from the Company to remove its immediate financial anxiety and to enable it to continue with its present plans. The Club is most grateful for the Company's generosity and is determined that the money shall be used to the best advantage.

A Financial Sub-Committee has been formed to advise on all matters of revenue and expenditure, and membership of the General Committee has been increased by the addition of W. G. Redley as a Second Board Representative and J. C. Edwards who becomes Joint Secretary.

The Company has stated that although it has no wish to interfere with the routine administration of the Club, it hopes that all the Club's activities will, by their excellence, enhance the reputation of the firm. It also wishes to encourage a more active membership, and in particular wants all members—which of course means all employees of the Company—to be better informed of the day to day functions which take place.

VARIETY

WANTED—Producers, Actors, Singers and Dancers (no matter how shy).

The Variety Section is partially dormant at present, not because of any lack of talent, enthusiasm or ideas, but simply because it lacks the membership to provide all the performers and technicians which it would need to stage most of the productions which it has in mind.

It has—and always has had—a strong core of keen performing members, but this is not enough. What it needs is a sufficiently large number of members to enable it to put on a big production when it wants to, or to have two or more shows in rehearsal at the same time.

Therefore, W. Kent (Telephone 410) waits in the Lighthouse (Sumo) Department to welcome anyone who wishes to join, and particularly hopes to find producers of some experience, singers who can hold a solo part in opera, and actors and actresses both tragic and comic.

If you haven't walked the boards before, don't let that fact deter you; the Variety Section is keen to give you your big chance.

NETBALL

We are hoping to get two teams together for next season, and anyone who is interested, either as a playing or a non-playing member will be very welcome. Those wishing to join should contact the Captain, Jean Taylor in the Ledger Office, or the Secretary, Beatrice Crimes, in the Glassworks Buying Office.

Our team now holds the Shield presented by the West Midland Association and we look forward to retaining it next year.

ANGLING

On Sunday, 4th November, a scramble contest was held at Arley, and a grand day's sport was had by all members and friends.

The section was very pleased at the number of new members that came along, and would welcome any others who would like to join.

The first round of the "Sports Argus" Trophy was fished on Sunday, 18th November at Willenhall against the "Lockheed Leamington Working Club" and was won by our opponents.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The twenty-fifth annual Prize Distribution and Smoking Concert was held on the 14th December and was attended by the President, Mr. J. W. Chance, and Mrs. Chance, and Mr. C. J. S. Newman, Vice-President, and Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Chance presented the prizes and was herself presented with a bouquet by Janet Yates.

ARCHERY

Although the section is small, it has an enthusiastic membership, and has had a very successful season.

We have been greatly helped by the Archery Section of Accles & Pollock's Recreation Club who have sent people to coach us, and have allowed us to use their ground and their equipment.

They organised a beginners' tournament at Nash Court near Ludlow on the 23rd September at which four of our members competed and in each case exceeded the average score.

Encouraged by last season's success, we are determined to raise the money to buy more equipment and we hope to have enough to keep three targets going next season, and shall then welcome new members.

Anyone who wishes to join should get in touch with M. E. Culley (Accounts), or T. Whieldon (Optical).

Sumo Shop XI Winners "Hugh Chance Cup" 1951.

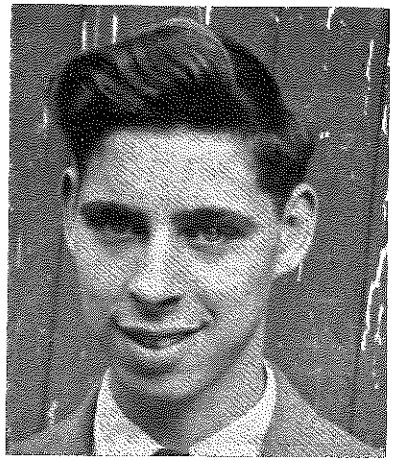
MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

ROBERT SUHR

ROBERT was educated at Yardley Grammar School, leaving there at the age of eighteen, having obtained a Northern Universities 'Matric' and an Advanced Certificate of Education in the subjects of Maths., Physics and Theory of Mechanics, for which he was granted exemption from Inter. B.Sc. London University.

Commencing in the Physics Laboratory in September, 1951, Robert is now studying for an External B.Sc. (General) Degree of the University of London.

His ambition is to become a Research Physicist. He is a keen sportsman with a particular interest in tennis. A lover of classical music and keen on reading fiction, his favourite authors are H. G. Wells and Dennis Wheatley. He is a member of St. Mary's Youth Club and is very keen on camping.



Robert Suhr.

When asked what he liked best in life, he replied: "getting away from town life into the countryside."

★

GEORGE DEAKIN

GEORGE joined the Company in August of last year and took part in the Pre-Entry Training Course which was held in September, after completing a two-year course at the Oldbury Technical College.

At the present time George is employed in the Lighthouse Production Control Office, with the ambition of becoming a Mechanical Engineer.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week where he is studying for an Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

George is a member of the Birmingham Locomotive Club and St. Michael's Youth Club. He is very interested in aero-modelling and music.

His reply when asked what he disliked most was "cruelty to animals". The thing he likes most in life is holidays.

★

DOUGLAS TAYLOR

DOUG., known to many as "Spud", joined the Company as a Probationary Apprentice in August, 1946, after leaving the Oldbury Junior Technical School. Starting off in the Lighthouse Drawing Office he has since undergone training in the Lighthouse Electrical and Machine Shops and also the Toolroom. He is now in the Lighthouse Drawing Office.

Spud attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week and is studying for a Higher National Certificate in Production Engineering. He was awarded his Ordinary National Certificate in July of last year.

He is a very keen athlete, being a member of the Oldbury A. and C.C.C., and specialises in middle distances, and is also a keen member of the Malt House Youth Centre.

When asked what he liked best in life he replied: "Athletics". The thing he dislikes most is getting up in the morning.

His ambition is to progress as far as he can in the Engineering and athletic worlds.

★

EDWIN THOMAS

TED joined the Company in August, 1945, after leaving Oldhill Masefield Senior School.

He has received training in the Glassworks Drawing Office, Millwrights and Boiler Shops. He was sent to a local foundry for training and is now in the Laboratory Fitting Shop with the ambition of becoming an Instrument Maker.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week where he is studying for a City and Guilds of London Institute Certificate in Workshop Engineering.

Ted has many hobbies and interests, photography, dancing, gardening and speedway being a few he mentioned.

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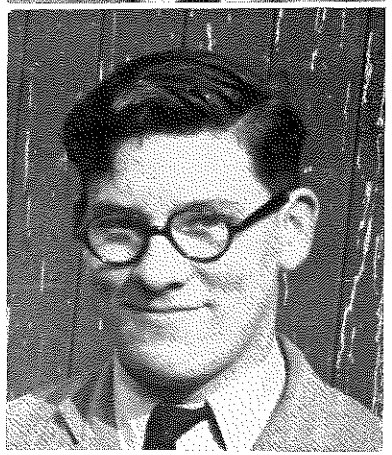

Above right: George Deaking. Centre: Douglas Taylor. Below: Edwin Thomas.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

AT the November meeting of the Works Consultative Committee, the Flat Glass Production Sub-Committees reported that they had discussed such matters as stocks of wire netting, breakage of glass and heating. It was noted that it had been found necessary to delay starting up No. 25 furnace for the time being.

Samples of five new rolled patterns which had been displayed at the recent Building Exhibition were tabled and created considerable interest.

At a meeting of the Optical Production Sub-Committee the general sales and production position was reviewed.

A large number of domestic matters were discussed at the Maintenance and Construction Sub-Committee, including the provision of cycle racks, supplies of electric motors, ventilation at various points, the condition of the mechanical saw in the Boiler Shop and sawdust burning stoves.

The Engineering Production Sub-Committee had reviewed the general production position in some detail. This Sub-Committee also considered such items as motor-cycle and cycle storage, the new layout of the Electrical Shop and Grinding Room, and repairs to roofs.

The Canteen Advisory Sub-Committee reported that at their meeting the Canteen Management had again to complain about the disappearing of crockery and cutlery, mainly due to pilfering.

In his review of the production position, the Chairman, Mr. John Raymond, stated that the Tubing Plant at Glasgow had started up on the 19th November, and there was every indication that it would be a technical success. In the Flat Glass Division, orders continue to be received at a higher rate than was expected. The Blown and Pressed Division had suffered some setback, as orders for domestic glass for the Christmas trade had been disappointing and it had been found necessary to reduce the automatic machine production. The Optical Division and the Engineering Division continue to be very busy. In the Engineering Division a special drive was being made to reduce stocks in which considerable sums of money were tied up. Reporting on the Board's immediate policy, Mr. Raymond said that he felt the Company had reason to be proud of its development over recent years, and our efforts must now be directed towards making the most of what we had while conserving our financial resources to meet future requirements.

CORRECTION

In our last issue we reported that the statement was made that "the price at which we sell rolled glass had increased by less than 10 per cent. since 1948." The year should have read 1936.

SUGGESTIONS SCHEME

IN the months of November and December last, twenty-five employees' suggestions were adopted and £48 9 6 was distributed as awards.

Charlie Kirkham of the D.R.M. Shop received £14 for an excellent idea for saving fuel by using a device which makes use of old oil for workshop heating.

C. Bough and L. Cooper of the Pressed Mould Shop combined their ideas for an oil and water separator unit and they shared a prize of £7.

At an earlier meeting, G. W. Walters, of the St. Helen's Optical Works, received an award of £8 for ideas concerning Tweel doors. His idea has now been extended to the Smethwick Works and a further £5 was allocated.

Another successful St. Helen's employee was J. Sharples, who received £2 7 6 for a suggestion for bending glass domes.

An idea concerning the design of insulating pieces under the Glowbars on Nos. 2 and 3 platinum furnaces earned R. Turley, of the Electricians, £2 15 0.

£2 10 0 was awarded to E. Taylor, of Sumo Test for a 100 amp. moving iron ammeter to be fitted into the circuit used for K.L. Motors.

£2 10 0 went to G. Lowe of the Rolled Plate for a suggestion to cut one sheet down when it is necessary to work wide sheets with narrow sheets of different lengths.

A Malvern Works employee appears in this month's awards list, namely E. Bishop, who received £1 5 0 for an idea for a jig for burner heads.

There were two awards of £1 each. S. Matthews of the Millwrights suggested that the top shaft in the rolled plate machine gear boxes be fitted with ball-bearings in place of the existing gunmetal bearings, and F. A. Clifton, also of the Millwrights, submitted ideas concerning the blocks at No. 3 Dog Arch.

H. White, from the Suction Plant received 17*s.* 6*d.* for an idea for a modification to the plate on the water tank of the Suction Plant.

G. F. Beresford, of the Tool Room also received 17*s.* 6*d.* for a suggestion concerning the fixing and unfixing of the Flamemaster hand torch.

A suggested method of machining special screws for 75 amp. series regulator, submitted by E. D. Bishop, of Malvern, earned him 17*s.* 6*d.*

Other awards were as follows:—

	s.	*d.*
S. Timbrell, Machine Shop	17	6
L. K. Cadby, Millwrights	17	6
W. Kinchin, Malvern	10	0
G. Walters, Electrical	10	0
J. Colgrave, Lighthouse Packing	12	6
Mrs. F. Perkins, Optical	7	6
J. Goodhand, Tool Room	5	0
A. G. R. Talbot, Mould Shop	5	0
J. K. Aston, Lighthouse Planning	5	0
V. H. Elliott, Millwrights	5	0

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

DECEMBER 1951

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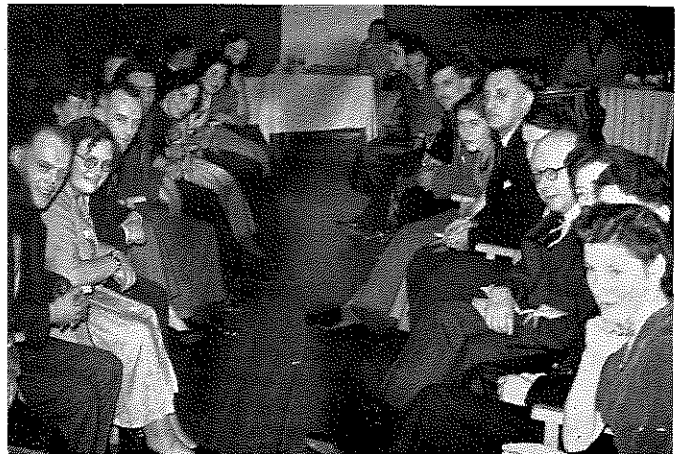

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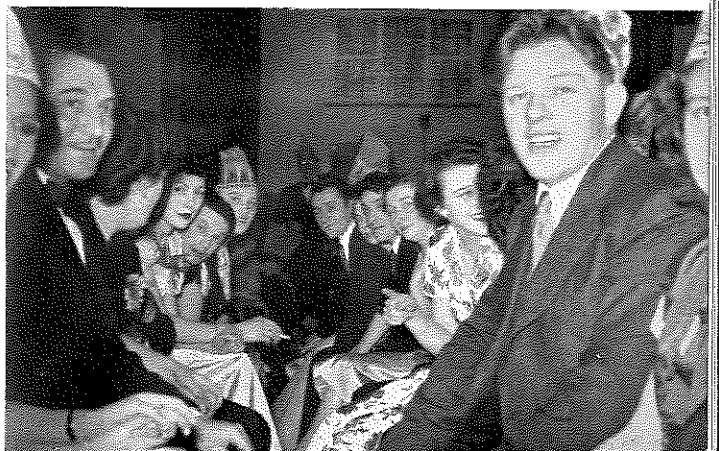

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1. *The President of the Recreation Club, Mr. Jack Chance, and his wife, welcome Mrs. John Raymond.*
2. *The Recreation Club Gala Ball.*
3. *Waiting for the "Passing the Baby" at the Malvern (Optical and Special Glass) Dinner Dance.*
4. *Len Scrivener and Nellie Duggan, British Ballroom Champions, give an Exhibition at the Gala Ball.*
5. *Lined up for the games at the Malvern (Engineering) Dinner Dance.*
6. *A group at the Malvern (Engineering) Party.*
7. *A group at the Gala Ball.*

★

NEWS From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

The Globe Process Shop welcomes Cliff Whitehouse back after his short spell with another employer. We publish a belated photograph of the wedding of Margaret Bird of the Chemical Warehouse to Bill Stokes, who served his apprenticeship in the Maintenance and Construction Division. Best wishes are extended to Bert Davies, who retired at the end of December after 36 years' service as a fitter in the Mould Shop.

★

ENGINEERING

The Fitting and Machine Shops are pleased to have Bert Taylor back after more than a year's absence due to a serious illness. Bill Holden has also returned after his recent hospital operation.

Douglas Lightwood, who served his apprenticeship in the Division, had the urge to seek pastures new and we wish him every success.

The Sumo Shop welcomes as newcomers P. Payne, F. Westwood, R. Evans, W. Keeling, M. Donaldson, M. O'Connell, J. R. Ingram, J. Gray, C. Grice, G. Harris, D. Howell, G. Baynes, A. Poole, and F. Waldron.

The Shop congratulates Albert Shaw and his wife on the birth of a daughter. It is good to have Walter Smith back after his long illness. At the time of going to press, George Keeling is making good progress after his operation. A welcome is extended to Barbara Chadney and Margaret Bowden, Production Control.

The Drawing Office held a successful Dinner and Smoking Concert at the Crown Inn, Birmingham, on 17th December, and the Tracing staff organised a Dinner and Theatre Party on the same evening. The Grinding Room organised a successful Dinner and Concert on the 9th November.

Our old friend George Nicol sends New Year greetings from South Africa.

★

The wedding of Margaret Bird to Bill Stokes.

FLAT GLASS

Full production has been maintained at the three Rolled Plate Tanks, and our correspondent claims that increased production is steadily but surely rising.

Representative parties of staff and workpeople from the Rolled Plate departments visited the Building Exhibition in London, and they were all impressed with the high standard of the firm's stand. Those who made this visit wish to express appreciation to the London Office staff who so kindly acted as hosts.

Congratulations are offered to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coates and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harper, who have had recent additions to their families.

Spon Lane personnel extends very deep sympathy to Alan Trainer at Glasgow, who has suffered the sad loss of his wife.

Charles Field has retired from the Seven Storey after 48 years' service and we all wish him every happiness.

★

LABORATORY

The Laboratory welcomes as new members of the staff Dorothy Godwin, Brian Boorman and Richard Andrews.

★

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Drawing Office staff congratulates Harry Haller's parents, who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently, and the in-laws of Tom Davies, who also celebrated their Golden Wedding.

It is with profound regret that we report the death of John Moffat on January 10th. John had been ill for some months.

Albert Sproston is doing his National Service training in the R.A.F., and he paid us a visit recently. The D.O. staff congratulates Barry Howell on winning the Business House Cricket League Bowling prize; this prize was a cigarette case.

★

OFFICES

The Export Department extends a cordial welcome to R. L. Reading, who recently joined the Department as Assistant Sales Manager, with responsibilities appertaining to Commonwealth markets. He takes over part of the duties dealt with by W. E. Skilbeck, who will in future act as deputy to Mr. Fulton. M. Van Beak is congratulated on his promotion to Assistant Sales Manager for the areas of U.S.A., Canada and South America.

Chance Brothers now have a factory representative in India in J. H. Parker-Jervis, who arrived in Calcutta at the beginning of November. He will be touring India and neighbouring countries for the next eight months, and will be calling on agents and customers for all products, both glass and engineering. Mr. Parker-Jervis was originally trained as a Sumo engineer and has been to India for Sumo once before. This time he has a much bigger job, and we wish him all success.

The Export Department also extends a welcome to Olga Quinn and Iris Cotterell.

There have been several newcomers to various offices, including Mary Williamson, Costs; Janette Kendrick, B. & P. Sales; Barbara Fox and Marjorie Teasdale, Typing Pool; Albert Cartwright, Wages; Douglas Callear, Accounts; June Holmes and Don Moore, Flat Glass Sales.

★

TRANSPORT

A welcome is extended to three new members of the Transport Department, namely, Andrew Beauchamp, John Gill and Horace Bagnall. All three have in fact, worked previously in other parts of the Works. We are pleased to have Len Harris back after a lengthy absence.

News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● *GLASGOW*

Rolled Plate, No. 50 furnace, continues to be fully occupied with orders for Home and Export.

Tubing, No. 60 furnace, has been started up and is in the process of development to produce fluorescent tubing of the highest quality.

The Football Club held a Dance on 5th December in the Springburn Burgh Hall, with an attendance of 300 members and friends.

On Saturday, 22nd December, a Christmas party was arranged for 300 children, and was held in the Fibreglass Canteen at Possilpark.

The date of the Annual Dance of the Chance's and Fibres' Recreation Club is 12th February, 1952, in the Ca'doro, Glasgow, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets can be had from members of the Committee.

● *LONDON*

Our stand at the Building Trades' Exhibition, Olympia, attracted much attention and earned the general approval of visitors. Our architects, Boissevain & Osmond, did a good job in devising a display which was pleasant to look at and which showed such a variety of glasses to their best advantage. Chief source of interest was the group of the six new prototype patterns designed for us by several well-known designers. In particular, Sadie Speight's pimple pattern achieved favourable comment. The number of press notices we received as a result of our stand was most gratifying. We were particularly pleased to see so many friends from the Rolled Plate Department on our stand.

We are very busy with preparations for next year's Ideal Home Exhibition where we have a glass shop in the Ideal Village.

Several overseas agents of the Company have been to see us—Mr. Jack Brooks of Henry Brooks, Flat Glass, Australia; Mr. Wallis, Flat and Domestic Glass, Peru; and Mr. Van Coevorden, Hysil, Belgium.

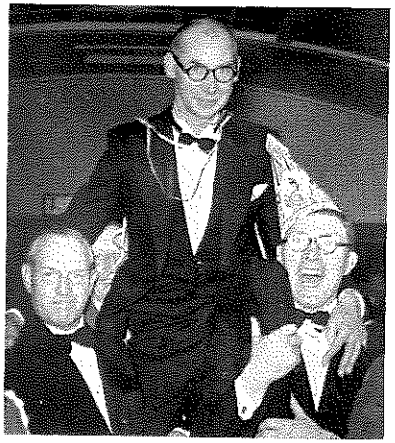
● *MALVERN (Engineering)*

The Engineering Division at Malvern welcomes Ivor Farley, Valerie Gittens, Joan Tomkins, Olive Freeman, Joan Jenkins, Marian Jenkins and Mrs. Cole.

Congratulations are extended to Margaret Sandy of the Assembly Shop on her recent marriage.

On the recreation side the Darts Club is flourishing in the Malvern Darts League.

Phil Robinson is chaired at the Malvern (Engineering) Party.



The Dinner and Dance held on the 7th December at the Abbey Hotel, was a very happy function, and we were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barman and other management representatives from Head Office.

● *MALVERN (Optical)*

The fourth Annual Dinner took place at the Park Hotel, Colwall, on December 18th. It was attended by about 80 employees, friends and visitors from Spon Lane including Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond, Dr. and Mrs. Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. Wheat, Mr. R. E. Andrews, and Mr. Pickering from St. Helens.

An excellent dinner was followed by speeches from Mr. Sharpe, Works Manager, Mr. Raymond and Dr. Hampton, and then on with the dance and social evening. Mr. Brian Austin made a first-rate M.C. and a jolly evening was had by all. The Social Committee would like to thank all prize donors and employees for their co-operation.

Congratulations to Amy and Ivor Clee on their Silver Wedding on December 24th. They have two daughters, aged 15 and 12. Also congratulations to Beryl Malson and Private Harry Cooper, whose marriage took place on November 17th.

We extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Masters, Mrs. Fildes and Myrtle Pembridge. We were sorry to lose Betty Jaggard.

● *ST. HELENS*

We have still a very full order book, although the period is generally a time when incoming orders ease off. Generally speaking, however, we have maintained the promises given to our customers. There are just the odd few cases of orders being given priority, "jumping the queue" and by so doing, setting everything else back a little.

OUTWARD BOUND—*(contd.)*

doubt whatsoever that the Course has proved to us by achievement, self-reliance and self-assurance that we are very different people from what we thought we were. Perhaps this is the redeeming feature of the British race.

We recently had the pleasure of meeting representatives of two of our customers, namely Ross Limited, and Barnet Ensign, and feel that these meetings will prove very useful in enabling us to understand each other's problems.

By the time this number of the magazine goes to print, we shall have had our annual dance. The Mayor and Mayoress of St. Helens graciously accepted our invitation to the function, and we were also pleased to have Dr. and Mrs. Hampton with us.

Our best wishes to Mrs. Cullum, who came out of hospital on the 8th December. We hope it won't be long before we see her back at work.

Congratulations to Jack Kenny and Harry Milligan of the Furnace Hall, both of whose wives have recently presented them with children—a daughter for Jack, and a son for Harry. Congratulations also to Mrs. Champion, our ex Progress clerk on the birth of a son.

Numerous marriages were scheduled for the Christmas Holiday, and we hope to be able to report on all of these in our next issue. Finally, may we take this opportunity of wishing all at Spon Lane, Malvern, Glasgow, or wherever they may be employed by the firm, best wishes for the New Year.

Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN

Industrial safety is the responsibility of every person employed. In each future issue attention will be called to unusual accidents which just should not have happened.

At an engineering works in Manchester a boy was working at a vice when another apprentice approached him from behind, placed a compressed air line near his rectum and signalled to a third apprentice to turn on the compressed air. The result was that the boy working at the vice suffered a rupture of the colon and severe shock. At a timber yard in Wolverhampton a boy was using a compressed air line to remove sawdust from his clothing. The compressed air line came into line with his rectum and the force of the air inflated the youth's bowels. The injury was serious and could have proved fatal.

Compressed air is too dangerous for skylarking and other misuse.

★

A PHILOSOPHY AT WORK

Here is the reflection of a firm's foreman who recently retired:

Have I learnt anything? Have I any advice to offer? Well then, for what it's worth—Try not to be bumptious: it's silly and indicates a partial vacuum. Climb if you can, but not by treading on somebody's face, and never stoop to get on by crawling. Again, keep a close watch upon any indication that your hat is getting a bit tight. Possibly some insidious disease is at work.—("*K*," *in Waterlow & Sons' Journal*).

★

'OLD BERT'

Bert Winton was born in a little village called Angmering in Sussex, a long time ago. In fact he celebrated his 70th birthday on December 7th. He started off learning the watch trade from his father, and he also did musical instrument making and repair.

The wanderlust had hold of Bert however, and he packed up his bags

Bert Winton.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Smethwick (Councillor Hugh Pinner and Mrs. Pinner), together with the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor, visited our Works in December. This photograph was taken in the Rolled Plate Department and shows, left to right, Sir Hugh Chance, Lady Chance, the Mayoress and the Mayor.

★

and set out on "foot". He walked and walked, until he arrived at Epsom where he took a job on a farm. After a while the urge to move on came upon him again, so off he walked, this time going on till he arrived in Kent, where hop-picking occupied his time. But Kent didn't suit Bert, so those tireless legs of his carried him on up to Leicester where farming once again provided him with an occupation. When he had had enough of Leicester, he moved once more, till Nottingham eventually came his way. Whilst here he reverted to watch making. He stayed until the open road called again, and Bert set off once more until this time he came to Wakefield.

At Wakefield, Bert got a job on a rhubarb farm. He stayed at this for a while and then he just roamed the countryside for six months, until he eventually came to St. Helens.

After a short spell as a grave digger in Eccleston Cemetery, he joined Pilkington Brothers. That was 40 years ago. He started as a horse driver and stayed at this for 20 years, except for a break of 4 years in the 1914-18 war, where he was twice wounded and then captured.

Then came the day which found Pilkington's horses being sold. Old Bert was then transferred to the Rolled Plate, and stayed there until Chance Brothers and Pilkington Brothers joined forces during the war to build and run the Umbroc Factory.

He became one of the very first employees at this factory and stayed

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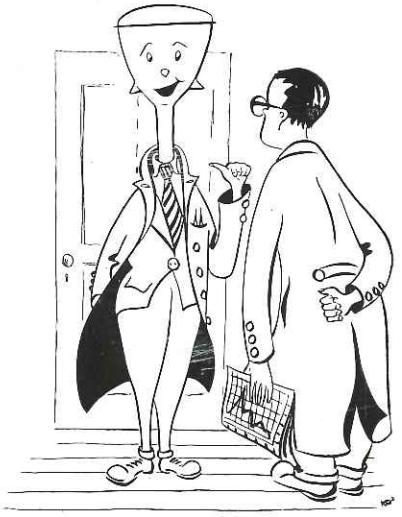
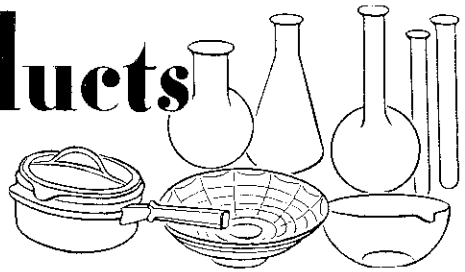


HOW DID YOU GUESS I'M THE NEW TELEVISION ENGINEER?

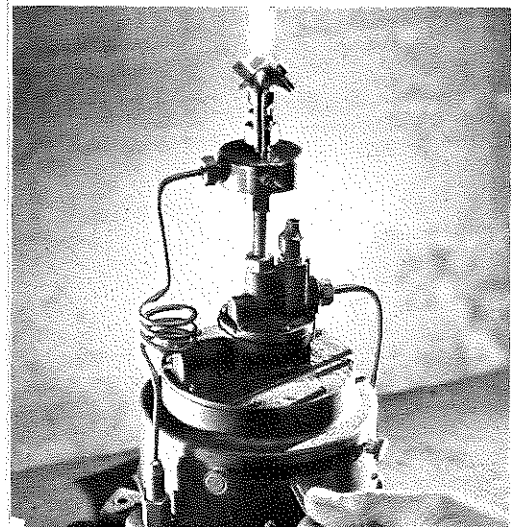
Chance Products on Parade



ACETYLENE FLASHERS

THE first recorded experiment in gas-lighted buoys occurred in 1853. An iron pipe was laid from a near-by gasworks down to the shore and connected to a gutta percha tube 50 fathoms long, leading along the sea-bed to the buoy and up to the burner. Copper wires passed through the tube and over the burner where they were jointed by a platinum filament, the shoreward end being connected to a galvanic battery, which heated the platinum to red heat. When the gas was turned on by a tap on shore "a most brilliant light was instantly produced". The experiment terminated when "a rascally barge drifted foul of the equipment and tore it to pieces!"

The modern acetylene gas buoy carries its own gas supply in dissolved acetylene cylinders (as used for welding) sufficient gas being stored to maintain the buoy in service for periods of up to 12 months without attention. The light characteristic is produced by an acetylene "flasher" comprising a pressure regulator (which reduces the pressure of gas from 250 p.s.i. to approximately 0.5 p.s.i.) and a flashing mechanism operated by the gas on its passage to the burner.



Basically the flasher consists of a cup-shaped chamber closed by a flexible leather diaphragm which is distended under the action of the gas pressure, and depressed on the return stroke by an external spring. The movement of the diaphragm is employed to open and close a magnetic valve which periodically admits gas into the flasher and out to the burner, where it is ignited by a non-luminous pilot flame, thus exhibiting a single flashing light. By varying the degree of the free movement of the diaphragm before the gas valve is tripped, the length of the flash period may be altered at will.

Group flashing characters are achieved by causing the movement of the diaphragm to rotate a character cam which periodically opens an auxiliary valve and admits gas into the flasher simultaneously with the main valve. Thus the flasher chamber fills with gas more quickly than when the main valve only is open and hence the dark interval between flashes is reduced, resulting in a group of light flashes being exhibited at regular intervals.

The very highest standard of workmanship is demanded in the manufacture of acetylene flashers to ensure trouble-free operation under the arduous conditions encountered by a buoy at sea.

H. GOUGH.

★ **Woman's Feature**

EVENING ELEGANCE

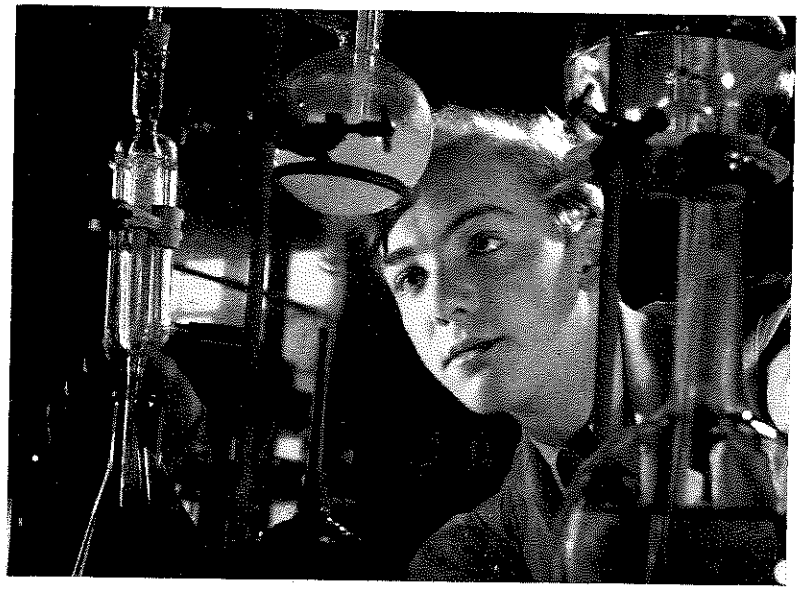
From ribbon, in two colours, you can sew this really sophisticated bag. It is made to hang over your arm and is designed to hold all your belongings—something that evening bags seldom do. Apply to the Personnel Department for the free Penny Wise sewing directions and run up a new bag for those Winter parties.

RESEARCH

SCIENTIFIC research is an essential of modern industry. Many manufacturing companies run their own independent research units, and some of these have a usefulness and authority which go beyond the demands of a particular business or even industry. Chance research fits such a picture naturally enough . . .

In that hardworking, turbulent, hit-or-miss period of industrial growth the nineteenth century, industrial research was, however, not usually organized in specialist teams such as we hear about today. Men of wide independent genius flourished, like Faraday and Davy and Fresnel, but only the exceptional business knew how to co-operate with them. Chance Brothers was one.

When James Timmins Chance first met Michael Faraday, in 1845, the latter was an international figure. By contrast, Dr. John Hopkinson, though Senior Wrangler in 1871, may be said to have started his world reputation with Chance Brothers when he took over the management of the Lighthouse Works a year later. Like Faraday, Sir William Crookes came upon the scene an already celebrated authority. Like Hopkinson, Sir William Siemens and Sir Henry Bessemer (as they were later to become) were young men, comparatively unknown, when their respective inventions were the subject of investigation at Spon Lane. There were many others, with names only less well known today.



Siemen's regenerative furnace of 1861 succeeded, in spite of its inventor's doubts. Bessemer's plate-glass process of 1846, for all its inventor's confidence, did not . . . yet it foreran modern methods. Chance Crookes glass gave a lead in industrial sight-protection which the Company still hold. It was through the help and encouragement of Faraday and others that Chance Brothers were able to take on the manufacture of complete coastal lights, instead of confining themselves to the glass components with which they started.

The present-day Research Laboratory at Spon Lane has its origins in the First World War, and in the demand which then suddenly confronted Chance for optical and heat-resisting glasses most of which had previously come from abroad. Its organization today exemplifies the double function which scientific research performs for industry. Two of its three sections, the Chemical and Physical Laboratories, are first and foremost Control Laboratories—they see to the maintenance of standards. The third, the Research and Development Laboratory, as its name implies, is chiefly concerned with new glasses and new processes: it is this, with its experimental meltings and pilot plants, which stands for research as the layman knows the term.

From it have come, in recent years, many valuable developments. As a result, for instance, of its investigations, the present platinum melting section of the Optical and Special Glass Division came into being, and with it glass of such optical properties as has gladdened the hearts of the makers of photographic lenses. (And here present-day research takes over, in a sense, from Faraday, who, a hundred and twenty years ago made a similar attempt, but could not carry it beyond the laboratory stage.)

Of a quite different nature was the evolution, recently, of a formula which at last makes possible a true comparison of the thermal efficiencies of all glass tank melting furnaces, most useful to the industry in this country. As different again was the enquiry which, beginning as a piece of fundamental research into the action of burner nozzles and injectors, culminated in the present Flamemaster hand-torch.

Complex and various as it may appear, Chance Research moves steadily, aware of its direction. Its job is to increase efficiency. Its client is the customer.

(*From Mirror for Chance*).

OLD BERT—*contd.*

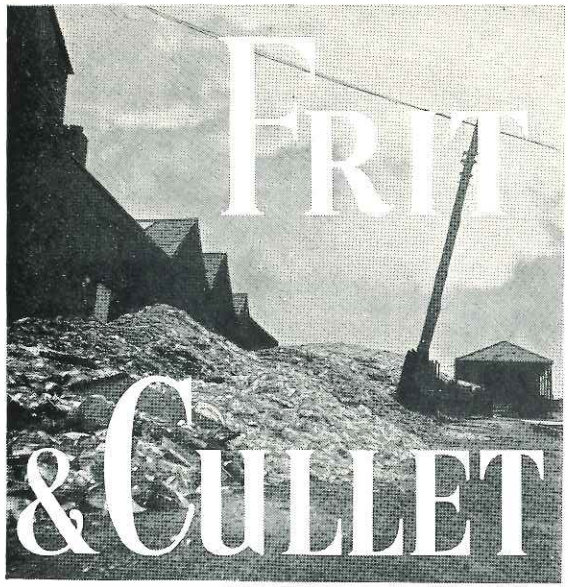
there when Chance Brothers took over the factory for the Optical Division. He is still working in the very same job he got when Umbroc opened.

We say Congratulations Bert on your:—

70th Birthday;
40 years' service with P.B's and C.B's; and
40 years married.

We all admire you, respect you, and hope to see you with us for many years to come.

K. W. A.



Clarification: filling in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

Conference: device whereby conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labour and the loneliness of thought.

Survey: We are making a survey—we need more time to think of an answer.

Note and Initial: Let's spread the responsibility for this.

Please discuss: Come down to my office, I'm lonesome.

Consultant: any ordinary fellow who happens to be fifty miles away.

★

DO YOU KNOW?

1. How many days are there from the tomorrow of the day before yesterday to the yesterday of the day after tomorrow?
2. Why does a soap bubble first rise and then fall?
3. Who was the Flying Dutchman?
4. Standing on any floor, how can you drop an egg three feet without even cracking the shell?
5. In the table of precedence does the Prime Minister come before or after the Archbishop of York?
6. If a fish gets thirsty does it drink?

★

GOBBLEDEGOOK

Here are some Canadian examples of management jargon, adapted from the *Crown Journal*:

Programme: anything that can't be dealt with in one telephone call.

To expedite: to confound confusion with commotion.

Co-ordinator: the man who has a desk between two expediters.

HEARD THIS ONE?

In a military hospital a visitor saw a badly wounded soldier from one of the Midlands regiments.

"When are you going to send the man home?" He asked.

"He ain't going home," said the orderly. "He's going back to Korea."

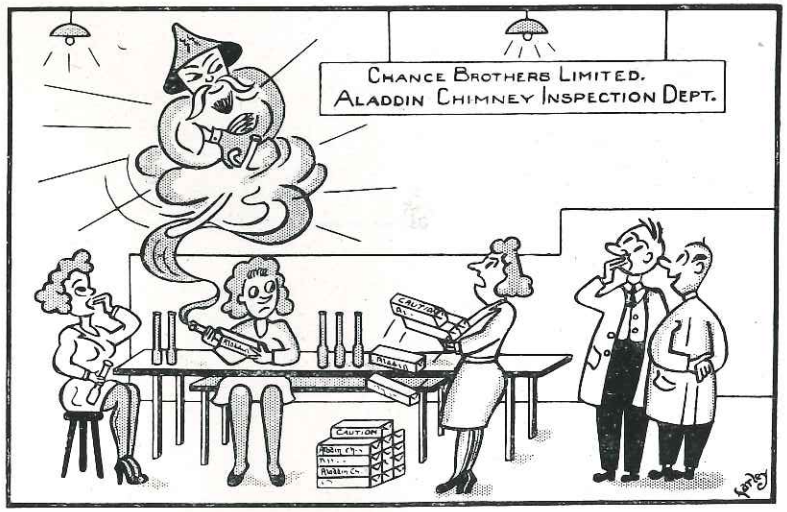
"Back to Korea!" Exclaimed the visitor. "But he's in awful shape!"

"Yes," replied the orderly, "and he thinks he knows who done it."

ANSWERS

1. *Two days.*
2. *At first the air in the bubble is warm. When it cools, the bubble falls.*
3. *No one. It was a ship.*
4. *Drop it from four feet: it will drop three feet without breaking: but after four — what a mess!*
5. *After.*
6. *Yes, and sea-fish drink sea-water.*

LAUGH WITH FARLEY



"This happens every Pantomime Season."

"Don't know who it belongs to—it's been here since Christmas."