

SAFETY FACTS

Over two million working days were lost to British Industry in 1955 because of industrial accidents. The total time lost because of industrial disputes was only a fraction of this.

The Minister of Labour and National Service said this in Birmingham on 12th April, 1956.

**“DON'T BE KICKED
WHEN YOU'RE DOWN
—KEEP UP WITH
SAFETY!”**

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Chance COMMENTS



MAY — JUNE 1956

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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EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed	
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
Process	R. TURTON
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Warehouse	A. SUTTON
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Cost Office	MISS J. HEATH
Export	F. TAYLOR
Flat Glass	
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Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
Laboratory	MRS. W. RUSSELL
Maintenance and Construction	
Boiler Shop	R. TIMMINS
Carpenters	P. FOSTER
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
Garage	H. F. COSNETT
Gas Plant	J. WHEATLEY
Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall	MRS. N. O'RIORDAN
Stores	D. R. KIRKWOOD
Mixing	N. GREEN
Optical	MRS. E. HOLLYHEAD
Pyrometry	N. WALKER
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Wages, Pensions	A. E. CARTWRIGHT

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Glasgow	A. C. THOMSON
London	J. C. PERKINS
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St. Helens	K. W. APPLFTON

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

The Chance blue lorries are well known. This particular one is designed for the delivery of Vello Tubes.

PUNCTURING THE POPULATION

—AND THE MALVERN WORKS MAKES THE SYRINGES



"What's going on here?" The startled patient is taken quite by surprise as he gets a shot of penicillin.

"How are you liking your new job Daisy?"

"Hard work Gert; I am not well either. I do not think factory cleaning suits me. And now the works Doc. wants to vaccinate me; you know, give me a "shot" I mean."

"Where will you have it Daisy? In your arm?"

"What! In my arm! With all this scrubbing to do?"

"Well in your leg?"

"Not likely Gert. Too much running up and down on my job. But I have been thinking—I don't have much time to sit down."

As Gert and Daisy are still amusing us, no doubt the Works Doc. used a "Chance" Syringe for the job.

If all Works Docs. could see them made at our Malvern Works, all Docs. would use them. A lot of hospital nurses do now. I will tell you why later.

VOL. 9, No. 2

MAY—JUNE, 1956

PUNCTURING THE POPULATION—(continued).

PIONEERS

Chance Brothers were the pioneers in making glass syringes with strictly interchangeable parts. We were the first in the world to make them for mass sale, and the fact that we now have competitors shows they are good. We produced our first batch of interchangeable syringes in November 1948, and it is roughly estimated—very roughly of course—that our syringes have, since then, made more holes in humans than Mr. Gorman makes “seeds” in a week’s production and that, I am told, is a lot. We do not know how many germs have thereby been discouraged, but may find out when Mr. Platt, our chief accountant, gets his electronic Digital Computer.

I was amongst the first to be interested in Malvern Works, having carried out the initial negotiations with the Ministry of Supply, the Malvern Council and the Morgan Motor Company, for its acquisition. The premises we now occupy were built for and used by Sir Alan Cobham for his flight refuelling projects.

Although our product is a very dissimilar one to his, the two have some points in common, in that they are both precision engineering products of a high order, and both transfer liquid from a container to a user. One of course transfers petrol from an aerial tanker to an aircraft in flight; and the other a serum from a bottle to a beneficiary.

ALL ALIKE

It is the precision and almost unbelievable accuracy of our syringes which distinguish them from the older types, and is why nurses like them. All the parts are exactly alike, and the parts of one will fit the parts of all others of the same size. This is a point appreciated by a busy nurse in a big hospital, who may have scores of syringes to sterilize at one time. To do the job of sterilizing she has to separate the barrel and the plunger. With our syringes she can just bundle them into the sterilizer and reassemble them after the operation with the utmost ease, as any plunger will fit any barrel. Whereas, with the older type of syringe whose plunger fitted its own barrel only, the nurse has to tie the plunger to its barrel before putting into the sterilizer, or use a cumbersome numbering system to reassemble.

HOW SYRINGES ARE MADE

All our syringes start off as a piece of glass tube and many operations on this tube are required to produce the finished article. Amongst the operations are cutting the tube to exact length; grinding the plungers to really exact size; and the very interesting job of making the barrels, not only of the right size but of the same size, which is one of the requirements of interchangeability. The heart of this job is a piece of stainless steel tube ground to the highest precision, or to what the glass engineer prosaically calls to very close limits.

The glass tubes are softened by heat and persuaded, by pumping out the air, to collapse themselves on to the outside of this stainless steel tube. Thus the bore of the glass tube takes on the accurate size of the outside of this steel tube.

All these jobs, except the grinding, are done by Malvern girls, and on another page you can see some of them at work. The grinding of the plungers is done by men. It is a wet but very interesting job, and it is probably the most important. It is another operation which is so necessary to interchangeability, and where perfection was most difficult to achieve. So from the dream of the Laboratory, who developed this syringe, through the nightmare of early production pitfalls and troubles, the Malvern team now produce in thousands per week, the precision tool called the Chance Interchangeable Hypodermic Syringe.

The work done at Malvern is undoubtedly an important and useful industry and there must be few of us who have not experienced its usefulness at one time or another. Hypodermic syringes, however, have their grimmer aspects also. In actual fact and perhaps even more in fiction, they have taken their share as agents for crime, and drug addiction. Even detectors of crime have fallen victims to the latter; in fiction at their head, of course, the greatest of them all, Sherlock Holmes.

Well, I must now finish this somewhat lighthearted account, but with one regret. We have not found yet a firm in this country willing to make the metal nozzles for our syringes of the right finish and accuracy at the right price, and we still have to get them in Switzerland. This is a pity, so we shall go on trying to find a satisfactory British maker.

Finally, may I congratulate Mr. Sharp and all his team on their achievement so far, and hope they have only made a beginning. It would be splendid to see them produce the syringes so well and so cheaply that they will find themselves “puncturing” the whole world.

F.J.W.

(The photograph on page 1 is by courtesy of the Editor of “Think”).

SYRINGES MADE AT





WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

£31 FOR 15 IDEAS

£8 10s. 0d. for Bill Maybury

As far back as 1950, W. E. Maybury made a suggestion in regard to the Panting carrier, namely that the cast-iron runner wheels be replaced by ball-race bearings. The suggestor himself fitted a race bearing to prove his theory but soon afterwards this equipment was taken down and the Suggestions Committee decided that no award could be made. Last year the conveyor was "resurrected" and Bill's idea was incorporated and proved to result in reduced maintenance charges. £8 10s. 0d. tax free is worth having.

An interim award of £8

H. Edge, Pressed Mould shop, observed that frequent renewals were being made of the poker pins and inserts on the face lapping machines and the cause of excessive wear was that the inserts rotate with the lap whilst the poker pins are fast. The lapping powder

was getting into the insert causing wearing away of the pin and the insert.

He suggested a revolving poker pin and submitted three detailed sketches showing how this could be done. £8 was awarded and the idea will be reviewed in the autumn as it may be that the savings will be greater than were anticipated.

A suggestion for spherical turning

J. E. Downes, Pressed Mould shop, made a suggestion for spherical turning to extend the scope of the bar method. His idea was that the cross slide screw and the sliding traverse be brought into operation instead of the surface traverse operation. This change in method resulted in jobs being performed more quickly and £2 15s. 0d., was the award.

Spraying templates

For recommending that the template for spraying Notex glasses be reversed

and the clamping bridge be discarded J. Tomkins of Blown and Pressed received £1 10s. 0d.

Two awards to Harry Price

H. Price of Vello is a keen supporter of the Suggestions Scheme and in March he had two ideas adopted. £1 5s. 0d., was paid for an idea to avoid having to move the tail stock forward to adjust the cam on the end forming machine and £1 2s. 6d., for his recommendation that the variable speed motor on the trim and glaze machine should be used for driving the end forming machine.

There's always a better way

Here is a summary of other suggestions which have been adopted:—

H. Sedgley, Gatehouse, two awards of 17s. 6d., each for improved lighting at the New Gate and on the weighbridge. J. Low, Rolled Plate, £1 2s. 6d., for an improved weight on Rolled Plate cutting carriages. C. Christianson, Glasgow works, £1 5s. 0d., for finding

a new source of cullet supplies. J. Fenton, Rolled Plate, £1 2s. 6d., for control of automatic doors at Rolled Plate. B. Bagnall, Internal Transport, £1 2s. 6d., for improved method of rubbish disposal at Coloured. P. J. McAtamney, Glasgow works, £1 2s. 6d., for bringing a spare lehr drive motor into use in case of breakdown, and T. Morris, Glasgow and B. Norton, Optical, each received 10s. 0d., for safety ideas.

These suggestions are under consideration

D. Nunn	Millwrights
H. Mann	Rolled Plate
	(two ideas)
F. Parkes	Optical
D. Parry	Boiler Shop
B. Bagnall	Transport (two ideas)
P. J. McAtamney	Glasgow
H. Price	Vello
N. Penn	Traffic (two ideas)
T. H. Smith	Rolled Plate
C. Lowe	Electricians
H. Edge	Pressed Moulds
G. Hadley	Rolled Plate

SWIMMING GALA

The West Bromwich Baths have been reserved for our Recreation Club Swimming Gala on the evening of Friday, 21st September, 1956.

Exporting to Europe

By T. A. S. GREEN (Export Department)

I HAVE been asked to give some impressions gained on business trips abroad of the markets and customers I have visited, particularly in relation to the products we sell in those markets.

I propose to base the remarks I make on the European markets I have visited fairly frequently, and in particular on the last trip I made in February this year, when I visited Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

The main purpose of this trip was particularly in connection with sales of micro cover glasses and slides and Protex welding glass to those markets, and, while one naturally makes calls in connection with other products, my remarks are mainly applicable to the two products mentioned and, I would stress, are of a very general nature.

The products themselves are, of course, used abroad in the same way, and by the same type of people, as use them in England, but the first thing to realise is that the buyers on the Continent have a wide choice of suppliers. Apart from ourselves, they can buy their micro slides from Belgium, Czechoslovakia or Western Germany, their micro cover glasses from Western Germany, Czechoslovakia or Japan, and their welding glasses from France, Western Germany or Eastern

Germany. There are other sources but these are the main competitors for these markets for the products I have mentioned.

All these countries are pro British in sentiment—overwhelmingly so in Denmark—but sentiment is firmly subordinate to business interests. No matter how much a customer might prefer to buy from England he will not do so unless it is to his benefit—either because he gets a cheaper article or he gets a better article at very little extra. While quality is important, price weighs even more heavily and there is a very close limit to the extra the customer will pay for a better quality article. A customer in Denmark remarked in connection with some samples we had sent (not micro or Protex) that, “the quality was in a class of its own—so were the prices!”

The quality of our micro glasses and welding glasses is second to none and it is this that enables us to sell to these markets at all, since, with the exception of cover glasses, our prices are higher than competitive glasses. That is why you will always get a strongly worded complaint if any glass should go out from Chance Brothers that is not well up to standard. Even things like small scratches on Protex plates, are sufficient to send a customer's

blood pressure up several points and his inevitable remark is a threat to revert to a Continental supplier, who is nearly always cheaper. It should never be forgotten that most of the business we do on the Continent has been taken from the Germans or Czechs at some time or another and it is a constant fight to retain it.

This question of quality, vis a vis price, reflects the mentality of the market as a whole. Holland is by far our best market of the three for micro covers and Protex, implying that the Dutch are the most quality conscious. More than half the cover glasses used in Denmark also come from Chance Brothers and yet our sales of cover glasses to Belgium are extremely small because the large Belgian customers are interested only in price and buy inferior Czechoslovakian covers at very low prices. Neither Denmark nor

Holland buy Czech. covers to any extent because of the quality. You might infer from these remarks that it is a waste of time visiting Belgium to try to sell cover glasses, but this is not so. There exist quite a number of small firms buying German covers, because they want a quality product, and my visits are spent seeking out these small customers and persuading them that our product is even better.

Apart from this question of price and quality, however, another important factor is delivery. All glasses can be obtained from Continental suppliers within a fortnight. Even where we can offer the same delivery time ex works, the Continental supplier has the advantage that he can put his goods on the train and know they will be in his customers warehouse within a day or two from date of despatch. We have to arrange shipment—we may have

The Cathedral of Notre Dame, Antwerp.

(Photo by courtesy of Picture Post).



EXPORTING TO EUROPE—(continued).

to wait several days for a boat—the journey and customs formalities take longer—so that we need to add at least a week to our delivery time, where, say, the Germans add one or two days. Despite the competition mentioned, and the limit to which one can go in an endeavour to meet prices, there are other factors which affect sales and which we can do something about if we will take the trouble. For example, the introduction of plastic box packing for our cover glasses has made a tremendous difference to our sales to the Continent. Willingness and ability to meet specific requests by certain customers also helps. For example, we have recently arranged to have labels specially printed for one cover glass customer in Denmark, bearing his own name and address. These are stuck inside the lid of each box of covers for this customer. We supply special envelopes for Protex for certain Dutch customers. These things are a nuisance, but they are worth doing—in some cases they are absolutely essential if we are to get business.

It should, I think, be obvious from the circumstances outlined above that fairly regular visits by a representative of Chance Brothers are essential if we are to maintain or increase the business we do in Europe, and we reckon to visit the more important customers and our agents in each market at least once—if not twice—a year. Our agents of course

our goods throughout the year as we do ourselves on these trips; the agents themselves also benefit from these visits since they help them to keep closely in touch with the factory and stimulate renewed interest in our products; the agent can never know as much about a product as the manufacturer and visiting customers with agents helps the latter to build up his knowledge of the product. Customers always like to see someone from the factory and apart from seeing existing customers I always make a point of visiting new potential customers from whom we may have had enquiries since my last visit, and this often leads to new business. As a representative of Chance Brothers one can often obtain an entree to a difficult potential customer who may even refuse to see the agent. This actually happened during my last trip to Holland and we now expect to obtain business from an account that was considered hopeless.

I hope these very general remarks will be of some interest, particularly to the production departments and warehouses who must often wonder why they have to go to all the trouble of special finishing, packing, labelling or marking for export orders. I often hear, "We've never had to do it before." Our sales to European markets have been increasing each year for the last two or three years—in some cases substantially—and if we want to keep them that way, we



New Works Consultative Committee Elections SIX CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR

THE annual election for workpeople's representatives on the Works Consultative Committee has been held and the new committee met on the 25th April. There were six changes from the previous year and the newcomers are marked with an asterisk in the following list:—

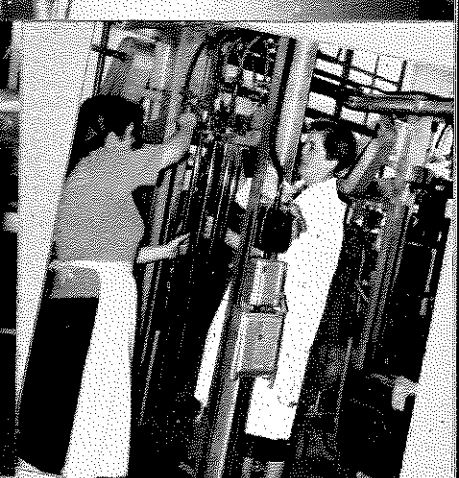
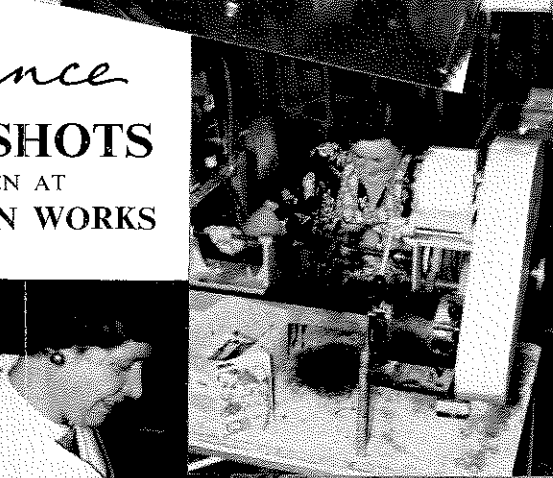
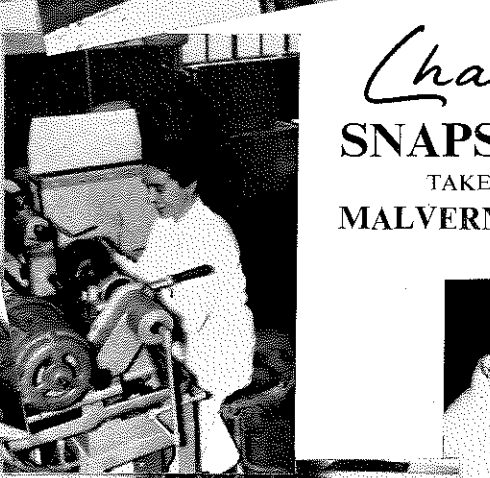
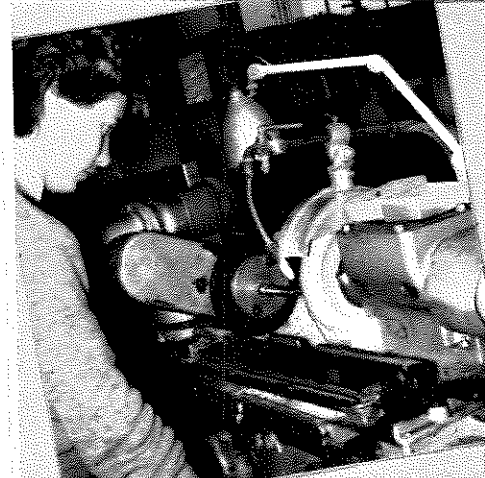
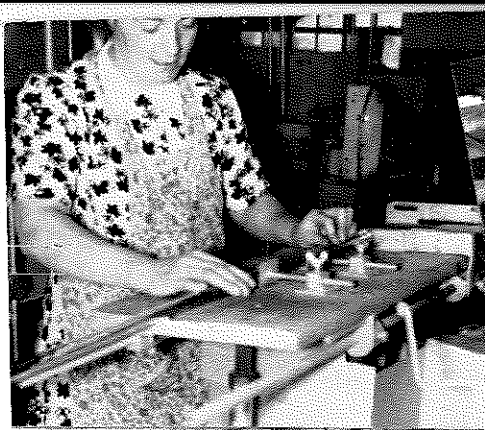
Group	Representative
1. Coloured, Seven Storey, Fiesta	J. Saul
2. Rolled Plate	*L. Collett
3. Optical and Special Glass	B. J. Hill
4. B. & P. Making, Furnaces, Moulds	H. Care
5. B. & P. Process and Inspection	*F. W. Davies
6. B. & P. Warehouse	S. A. Clive
7. Millwrights, Electricians, Boiler Shop, Gas Plant and Boilers	*J. Hill
8. Building, Carpenters, Crate Yard, Garage	*F. H. Cosnett
9. Mixing, Pot and Clay, Transport, Traffic, Cleaners, Security	*H. Sedgley
A. Females	
Rolled Plate, Fiesta, Seven Storey, Cleaners	*Mrs. N. Kennett
B. Females	
Blown and Pressed, Optical	Miss E. Cotton

Two changes have also been made in the Management representatives and this year the following will serve:—

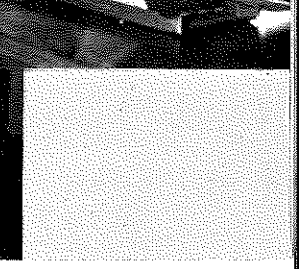
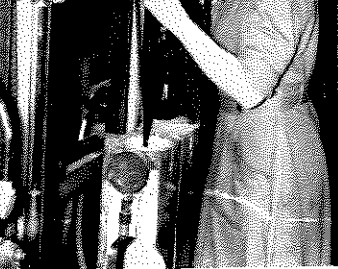
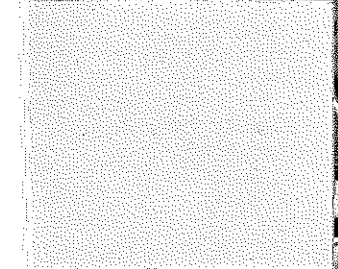
Mr. C. J. S. Newman (*Chairman*), *Mr. R. E. Andrew, Mr. W. E. Barrett, Dr. R. E. Bastick, *Mr. E. R. Flook, Mr. H. Fulton, Mr. L. Gorman, Sister M. Jones, Mr. W. H. L. Nixon, Mr. S. W. Shaw, Mr. W. A. Standley.

Here are the workpeople's representatives on the Works Consultative Committee for 1956/57.





Chance
SNAPSHOTS
TAKEN AT
MALVERN WORKS





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

The Blown and Pressed division has made an early start in raising funds for the 1956 Christmas party for employees' children and towards this end a successful dance was held in the Recreation Club pavilion at the end of April.

The division is very glad to have Jim Neenan back at work after his serious accident. It is also good to have David Chrimes back after his long illness.

Doug Curry has joined the division from the laboratory as assistant to Mr. Patrick.

Sincere congratulations and best wishes are extended to the following who married recently, Joyce Bates (Mrs. Z. Klaput), Florrie Hughes (Mrs. J. Moore) and Margaret Bagnall (Mrs. T. Ford).

Florrie Hughes becomes Mrs. J. Moore.



David Taylor retired from the Mould Shop at the end of April.

FLAT GLASS

A party from the Rolled Plate Making and Warehouse sections organised an enjoyable evening outing to the Old Anchor, Stourport, on 10th April, for a chicken supper followed by a dance. For the first time the ladies of the Despatch office joined the party and as there were no adverse reports, one can assume they behaved themselves on this occasion.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of William Lloyd on 12th April, at the age of sixty-four. William had been with the Company for fifty-two years and was a member of the Lloyd family which played quite an important part in the history of Chance Brothers. He leaves two sons still employed here; Bill in the building department and Harold in the electricians.

The Seven Storey welcomes Derek Clarke on taking up the position as assistant foreman. He was previously employed in the Blown and Pressed division.

Mrs. Wilde has retired from the Fiesta department on attaining the age of sixty.

LABORATORY

The Chemistry Laboratory has lost Brian Billing who has decided to make his future career in the Royal Navy.

Roy Emmett is welcomed back to the Physics laboratory on completion of his National Service.

Evan Evans has returned to the laboratory staff.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Old Hall congratulates Pauline Smallwood of the Buying office who was married on Easter Saturday, and Ron Palmer of the Drawing office who was married on Easter Monday. We wish these happy people every joy.

Ron Fellows and Jim Overton have joined the Drawing office staff.

We were sorry that Geoff Riley left us recently and we wish him success in his new position.

It is good to have Sam Beardsmore and John Cheetham back on their jobs after their recent illnesses.

Bill Tupper has left the Pyrometry to start his National Service.



Emily Harris and Ray Price.

OPTICAL

Fred Rollason and his wife are congratulated on the birth of a daughter and Norman Stanley and his wife also on the birth of a daughter. Congratulations are also offered to Beryl Forsyth on her marriage to Mr. B. Poole on 21st April.

May Forsyth has left the department to return with her father Bill (ex Gatehouse) to their home town of Sunderland.

PERSONNEL AND WELFARE

The staff of the Personnel and Welfare departments have been dogged by ill fortune recently as Sister Jones was absent for several weeks consequent on a serious operation. At the same time, Nurse Morris was absent for a long period due to her slipping on ice when reporting for duty one evening. Margaret Wood also underwent a serious operation. We are glad they are now well and back again.

Sister Jones has asked the editor if he will express through the medium of *Chance Comments*, her sincere thanks to the many persons who wrote to her or sent gifts during her absence and there were over fifty such kind people.

Before resuming her duties following her injury, Nurse Morris married and she is now Nurse Marshall.

TRAFFIC

The department congratulates driver Tom Allard on the occasion of his marriage on 24th March to Miss V. Jones.

We record a brickbat to the member of the Traffic office staff who reprimanded another member of the staff for not sounding his h's by saying, "I wish you would sound your aspirations."



Pauline Smallwood's wedding.

OFFICES

At the end of May, Mr. A. J. Platt, our chief accountant, will be returning to Pilkington Brothers at St. Helens to carry out special accounting investigations into the possible use of electronic computers. We are sorry that he will be leaving Spon Lane but wish him success in his new appointment. Mr. Platt has been succeeded by Mr. J. C. Richards who comes to Smethwick from St. Helens. We feel sure he will be as happy here as Mr. Platt was.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Emily Harris of the Flat Glass Sales office on her marriage to Ray Price of the Cost office, and to Doreen Pedley of Purchase Accounts on her marriage to Mr. W. Bloxam.

A welcome is extended to Joyce Nicholls and Joan Parkes who have joined the Typing department.

Jim Watson has retired from the Export department.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Glasgow works Recreation Club organised a successful evening outing to the Dutch House at Monkton on 20th April.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Bob Stubbins of the Rolled Plate Warehouse and to Peter Fey, a maintenance painter, on their recent marriages.

Elizabeth Whyte has joined the staff as a Sumlock operator and we hope she will be happy with us.

Joe Sutherland of the Warehouse has resumed work after his long illness.

● LONDON

On 31st March, Mr. J. W. Chance took his leave of the Company after twenty-five years of service (including the War period).

In 1934 he joined the London office and became the firm's Architectural representative. Early in 1939 the taste for adventure came to the fore and he volunteered for special service in the Arctic Circle and joined the 5th Bn. of Scots Guards, a ski-ing unit founded to operate in Finland and Norway. The Battalion was disbanded on conclusion of the Russian-Finnish war.

During the 1939/45 War he was a Fighter Operations Controller and served with distinction in India and Burma. In 1945 he took over the responsibilities of London Manager and

Mr. J. W. Chance (left) receives a presentation from Mr. J. C. Perkins.



Publicity Manager for Chance Brothers and in that capacity built up a fund of good will towards the firm.

This sounds almost like an obituary, but is in fact a dry statement of the work Mr. Jack has done.

He would blush to read what people really think about him, sufficient to say we are most sorry he has left us, and all readers will, we are sure, wish him luck and success in his new capacity of Publicity Consultant.

● MALVERN

The annual social held in the New Year at the Star Hotel, Upton-on-Severn, was so enjoyable that it encouraged us to organise a supper and dance at the same place last month. Keeping up the social spirit, we have planned a trip to London to attend a theatre on 12th May.

For the second year running, a girl from the Malvern works was successful in being selected to attend an Outward Bound course and at the time of going to press Dorothy Evans is on her course at Capel Curig in North Wales.

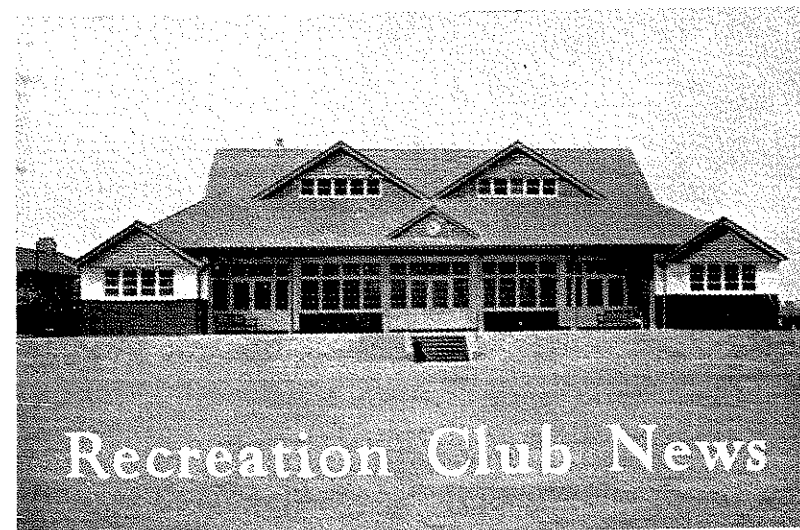
It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of Reg. Tipping. Reg. looked after our little garden at the front of the works, attended to the heating apparatus and made himself generally useful in all sections of the works. He will be remembered always for his delightful character and his willingness to help others.

● ST. HELENS

Congratulations to Ben Smith (Remoulding) and his wife, and Jimmy Firth and his wife, both of whom have been visited by the stork recently.

Once again this year it is proposed to enter a team for the inter-departmental bowling competition. Will all who are interested please hand their names to Harry Yates.

We were glad to see Dick Barnes back in the works after three years in the R.A.F., of which he spent two and a half years in Egypt.



Football team win Palethorpe Trophy

Chance's football teams have always been good and this year the first team won the Palethorpe trophy for the second year in succession—the first time this has been achieved in the long history of this well-known competition.

Bill Maybury, chairman of the section, reports that the teams had a disappointing year in their leagues as the first team finished in second place and the second team in third position—we consider this to be outstandingly good.

Cricket has started

There will be more cricket played on our recreation grounds this year than in any previous season as not only have we entered two leagues but the inter-departmental knock-out competition has been developed into an inter-departmental league. In addition to league fixtures, a full programme of Sunday games has been arranged. Due mainly to these developments, the two squares will be fully occupied throughout the whole season and playing space will not be rented to other clubs as in previous years. The full programme calls for the support of all C.B. cricketers.

It will be remembered that we finished joint runners up in Division I of the Birmingham Works and Business Houses League last year and we are determined to go one better this year. The new concrete practice wicket which the

players laid down themselves will be an improved addition to the facilities. The secretary to the section is Kevin O'Leary of the Personnel department and he will take action to introduce any new members to the team captains.

Angling

The Angling section is well on the way towards making this coming season a very successful one. Last season we made several new members, and these, we are happy to state, took a very fair share of the prizes in the three contests.

The dates and places for the three contests this season are:—

15th July—Bodenham on the River Lugg.

9th September—Lechdale on the River Thames.

14th October—Mythe Farm on the River Avon at Tewkesbury.

Anyone interested in joining this section should contact H. L. Newey in the General offices. We promise them sport among sportsmen.

Table-tennis

The table tennis season is now over and our team finished fifth place in the Smethwick league but this modest showing was compensated by the team's success in winning the Donald Hope knock-out trophy—an achievement

continued on page 19



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Jim Burgess takes an A.T.C. Instruction Class.

IN Sovereignty of Ethics, Emerson wrote:—

Serve and thou shalt be served. If you love and serve men, you cannot, by any hiding or stratagem, escape the remuneration.

There is ample evidence that many people employed at Chance Brothers devote a considerable amount of their leisure time in community service. Such tasks are undertaken with humility but we have been able to persuade a few to tell us a little about their interests.

The Scout Movement

Arthur East of the Maintenance and Construction department first joined the Scout Movement in 1945, and he is now a Rover Scout in the St. Paul's Rover Crew, West Smethwick, which meets once a week all the year round,



Arthur East

and in the summer months weekend hikes, camping and general sports are arranged.

During the winter months, when outdoor activities are curtailed, discussion groups grapple with problems on world affairs and organise indoor sports, including Judo and gymnastics. Musical evenings, film shows and dances all help the winter to pass quickly.

This particular Rover Crew also arranged help for the old folk and last Christmas they paid a visit to "The Towers" and arranged a party for the children who were there. A summer outing is under consideration for the children who are able to go out.

1957 brings fame to Sutton Park, for it is here that the World Jamboree will be held. This is where the Rover Crews around Birmingham will be able to show their worth, for they will be responsible for preparing the site, the running of the camp, and for the tidying up after it is all over.

Swimming

A keen swimmer all his life, Jack Jordan, Cost office, took up water polo



Jack Jordan

For ten years he has been the general secretary to the Birmingham and District Water Polo League, which has over one thousand registered players.

He is the secretary of the Midland District Water Polo committee.

He is the Championship secretary for the Warwickshire Amateur Swimming Association.

He is listed as an International Water Polo Referee.

Jack is a member of the Kings Heath Men's Swimming Club, and his wife is the swimming instructress to both Kings Heath ladies' and men's clubs.

The men's club has a membership of about three hundred and sixty, some of them being boys of about nine years of age, and when Mrs. Jordan is satisfied they have reached a certain standard of proficiency, and they have expressed a desire to learn to play water polo, then Jack takes them in hand and teaches them all he can about the game.

Boys' Brigade

John Price, Flat Glass sales office, joined the 11th Birmingham Boys' Brigade Company which is attached to St. Hilda's Church, Warley Woods, at the age of twelve, and has almost continuous service with them for six years. His present rank is Staff Sergeant.



John Price

The Company meet two nights a week, and every Sunday morning

about twenty-five years ago, and in that time he cannot give a conservative estimate of how many boys and young men he has taught to play.

Here is a record of which he may be justly proud:—

for Bible class, and one Sunday in every four there is a parade.

The 11th Birmingham Company has twenty-one boys on its membership roll, and all of them, together with their officers, are looking forward to ten days camp at Tettington during the summer.

From this it will be seen that John devotes a fair share of his spare time to the activities of the Birmingham Boys' Brigade.

Air Training Corps

Jim Burgess of the Flat Glass sales, and Joe Hill of the Traffic office, have been members of the Air Training Corps for a long time.

Both were Aircrew Signallers during the last war, Joe with Bomber Command, completing forty-five sorties, and Jim, who holds the D.F.M., two tours of ops with the Pathfinders, followed by further service in the Far East.

Each chose the A.T.C. as a job of service as it enables them to use part of their leisure time usefully and also to keep in touch with developments in the R.A.F.



Joe Hill

They hold their wartime rank of Warrant Officer, Joe instructing in engines and armaments and Jim in signals and various other subjects as the syllabus requires.

They belong to 481 West Bromwich Squadron and parades are held on Tuesday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, making approximately six hours per week.

The Squadron is one of the most efficient in the Wing, the results of various Proficiency and Home Command examinations fully justifying the efforts of the instructors.

They are very proud of their band which has played in various civic processions and at the Battle of Britain Open Day held at R.A.F. Lichfield last year, and is in great demand locally.

H.L.N.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

Congratulations are offered to the following who have attained their majority:—

John Paice Laboratory
Colin Rigg Laboratory, and
now at Sheffield University.

* * *

The following will be recorded as having completed twenty-five years unbroken service at Chance Brothers during 1956:—

G. Harris	Buying office
W. F. Rollason	Optical
J. Bodley	Rolled Plate Making
W. Durham	Optical
J. T. Keys	Mixing
S. Morrall	Pressed
L. Lancaster	Optical
S. Watson	Coloured
F. Whale	Rolled Plate Making
Mrs. F. Moore	Cathode Process

* * *

Mr. S. T. Pickering was appointed to the position of General Manager, Optical and Special Glass Division, on 1st April, 1956.

WOW!

In our last issue we included Renee Davies, supervisor of the typing department, in the list of new comers and this brought forth the following:—

Mr. Ogden, I think I should shoot you For what you have done to me!

In the last issue of *Chance Comments* You printed for all to see—

"We welcome the following people Newcomers to the staff . . ."

Then followed a list with my name in,

And at first I could only laugh.

But then when I'd thought it over,

I wondered just who was mad,

You or me, Mr. Ogden?

It's really dreadfully sad.

I'd been labouring under the impression

That I'd been here nine and a half years,

But if you insist that I've only just come,

For my sanity I have grave fears.

Perhaps sir, I was mistaken,
Perhaps you didn't mean me!
And I can say once more I've worked
Nine and a half years for C.B.

The editor quotes Julius Caesar Act 5,
3, as an apology

O hateful error, melancholy's child!

Why dost thou show to the apt

thoughts of men,

The things that are not?

BEWARE OF THAT BROOM

Works tidiness is an ideal and towards this end a certain foreman was spotted in the act of sweeping up his own office recently.

This reminds us of the many superstitions there are in existence connected with that simple household article, the broom and the following are a few:—

Never take your broom along with you when you move.

Never step over a broom lying on the floor if you are single.

If you do there is no hope of getting married.

Never burn a broom.

Never lean a broom against a bed.

When you move into a new house, send on a loaf of bread and a new broom for good luck.

It is bad luck to give away a used broom.

Dropping a broom signifies that company is coming.

Years ago the broom, it was believed, was the vehicle of witches, and many of the superstitions about brooms are related to the alleged activities of these evil-doers. The reason that a miniature broom is very rarely used to remove crumbs from the tablecloth has its origin in an old Hebrew superstition. To do so meant bringing poverty to the home.

There are as many superstitions regarding sweeping as there are about brooms. Some people believe that

sweeping dust out of the front door sweeps out good fortune. There are beliefs, too, that the penalty for being touched by a broom wielded by someone sweeping means that the days of good work from that day on are limited, and the greatest insult to the fairies and to the spirits of dead persons is to sweep the house at night. The first use of a new broom should be to sweep something into the house before it sweeps anything out, otherwise good fortune goes with it, and sweepings-up must be put into the fire or else you will not retain your blessings.

CHANCE COMMENTS CORRESPONDENTS

The correspondents job is vitally important to this magazine as it is impossible for one individual to circulate sufficiently in a large works to keep himself informed of all that is going on.

The names of the departmental correspondents are given on the inside of the front cover and readers should help them in their work by letting them know of any item of news that may be suitable for inclusion in the magazine. From time to time the correspondents meet the editor to discuss the magazine generally and the photograph on this page was taken at such a meeting and shows a few looking through the



"Chance Comments" correspondents consider magazine layouts.

magazines of other firms. Incidentally at the last meeting it was agreed that the aims of *Chance Comments* are "to publish information concerning the Company's operations, problems and policies; to establish even closer contact between the employees and the Company; to foster the feeling among employees at each of the works that they are all members of one and the same organisation, and help them to understand one another. To endeavour to heighten interest in the Company; to encourage legitimate pride in a job well done; to emphasise the importance of safety at work; and finally, to help form among all personnel those ties which should always exist between the members of one community."

Recreation Club News—(continued from page 15)

which encouraged the Recreation Club committee to promise the section a new table for next season.

Netball for ladies

Beatrice Crimes, secretary to the ladies' netball section reports that league games have started and the section plays on the Recreation ground on Tuesday evenings.

Ladies' darts team

The darts league has not yet commenced its new season—as we are still in the midst of individual knock out competitions. We have two only left in this competition (the third round) Miss V. Gorton and Miss W. Davies. We finished runners-up in the Alfred Cox Cup and Mrs. Bowden and partner were runners-up in the pairs knock-out.

We are still desirous to sign new players. Any interested, please contact Mrs. Bowden (Ledger office).

Bowls and tennis

The Recreation Club has an excellent crown bowling green—the woods are available, the turf is close cut and all that employees (or pensioners) of Chance Brothers have to do is to get on the green and play any lunch hour or evening or week-end. The groundsman will look after their needs.

The two tennis courts are of the all-weather type but something has gone wrong and water pools persist after a shower of rain. The wire netting surrounds are also in a bad state of repair but by the time these notes appear they will probably be made sound. Despite these admitted shortcomings one can get a jolly good game and again all that employees have to do is to go along and play. Joyce Nicklin of Personnel department will be fixing up some competitive games during the season.



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



MAY Roberts, a supervisor in the PROTEX section of the Seven Storey Warehouse, has been with Chance Brothers since 1934 and she is well known in all sections of the works by her maiden name of May Williams.

One of her particular attributes is her enthusiasm and willingness to tackle any job no matter how difficult it may appear.

HOW IT STARTED

Local Churches

THE following is an interesting extract from the History of Chance Brothers written in 1919.

"The Chances have always been active in promotion of religious observance in the neighbourhood of their works. Lucas Chance from a very early time, and his son Robert after him, conducted regular Sunday meetings, firstly at the Glass Works, and afterwards at the Chapel which is now St. Andrew's Mission Room. William and James Chance and others of the family furthered zealously the work of the Church of England. As a principal result of this, three churches have owed their existence wholly or in great measure to the liberality shown in providing the necessary funds or land; those of St. Paul at West Smethwick, of St. John the Evangelist at Tat Bank, and of the Good Shepherd in West Bromwich.

Up to the year 1858 there was no church in the immediate vicinity of the Works. In 1857, in view of the needs of the fast-growing population of West Smethwick, the firm decided to build that of St. Paul.

In 1897 a Parish Room was built on a site adjoining the Church, affording accommodation (in the words of an appeal of January 1898 for subscriptions to make up the sum of £1,551 16s. 8d. expended) "for Sunday School purposes, Bible Class, Mission Services, Ambulance Classes, Young Men's

Club, Gymnasium, Mothers' Sewing, Girls' Friendly Society and other meetings." The firm and members of the Chance family enabled the St. Andrew's Mission Room, above mentioned, to be opened, by purchasing the building for £1,200 from the trustees of Robert Chance, deceased.

In 1908 was built a new Parochial Hall, at a cost of about £1,100. It was opened by George Chance on November 14th. Of this money, £250 was provided from the Bishop of Birmingham's Fund, £300 by the trustees of Alfred Roberts, and £100 by Chance Brothers.

There remains for mention the Vicarage, in Park Road, completed in 1905 at a cost of £2,860. To this sum George Chance contributed £760 and his two brothers £100 each.

At Oldbury, Alexander Chance was earnest in promotion of Church work in the neighbourhood, and in 1897 foundation stones for the Church of St. John were laid. The sum of £1,400, which the building cost, was raised by public subscription, but the site was given by the firm.

Achievement of the Church of the Good Shepherd was largely due to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. W. A. Roberts, of West Bromwich, in raising funds. Of the £3,500 collected, Chance Brothers contributed £300 and George Chance £900. The foundation stone was laid on October 28th, 1908."