

"IT'S ONLY A

Chance

IN A THOUSAND!"

What is the point of saying "it's only a chance in a thousand of getting an eye injury" when you do the job hundreds of thousands of times? You don't know whether you are on number 999 now—perhaps the next time is number 1,000.

All sensible chaps wear protective spectacles in danger areas, **ALL THE TIME THEY ARE THERE.**

SMWHL 2015271
This is the property of
**Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust**
Tele 0121 429 1223

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



MARCH — APRIL 1957

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Chance

COMMENTS

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

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Loading Rolled Plate Glass at the Glasgow Works. See story on Page 17.

VOL. 9, No. 7

MARCH—APRIL, 1957

The glass industry HITS BACK

ONE of the manufactures for which Chance Brothers were renowned, was that of hand blown sheet glass and this may be called the success story of the Company.

The founder of the Company, Robert Lucas Chance, introduced into this country blowers from France, where the process of making sheet glass from blown cylinders had been developed. This process produced larger, better quality and cheaper panes of glass than those previously made, and culminated in the obtaining of the contract for the glazing of the famous Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The engraving shown was published in the *London Illustrated News*, together with an article to mark the Company's achievements at this time.

Some years later, the process was extended to coloured glass, which was made by gathering a very dense colour on to the gathering pipe and this was covered by ordinary sheet glass. When the cylinder was blown out, the very dense coloured glass was on one side of the sheet about one twentieth of the thickness, but when looked through, the colour appeared to be right through the glass.

These coloured glasses, known as Flashed Sheet glasses, were of great importance; they were used for signals

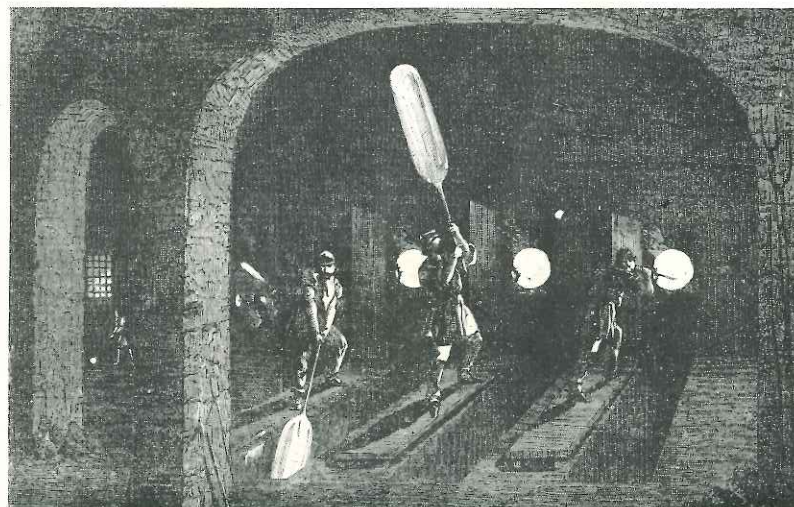
on the railways and on the sea, and opal glass made by this process was used for gas lighting ware, and later for electric lights.

After the first world war, sheet glass was made by a drawing process and gradually hand blown sheet became uneconomic to produce and this trade was lost by the Company, but the production of coloured glasses by hand blown methods continued.

Just before the second world war, it was known that, in Germany, attempts to make Flashed glasses by a drawing process had met with some success and the Company had to watch these developments very closely since glasses made automatically might be cheaper than the hand blown process.

Unfortunately, this was not the only competition that had to be faced. In the post war years, inflation brought higher wages and, in such a process as hand blowing, these higher costs could only be recovered by a serious increase in price.

At the same time, the plastics industry were developing quickly and started to produce clear and coloured plastic in sheet form.



Engraving from "London Illustrated News," 1850

The clear sheets did not offer competition to ordinary window glass, which, because of its manufacture by machine, was now very cheap and the plastic industry could not produce at lower prices. Coloured plastic sheet was, however, much cheaper than the hand blown flashed glasses and, for some purposes, replaced glass. It was, however, in most cases, a substitute and only its cheaper price counted. Plastic can be scratched, it warps with heat and also changes its size after exposure to the atmosphere. Coloured sheet glass is much more durable and lasting and it was obvious that, if it could be produced at a price that compared with plastics, the markets would be regained.

In 1947, the first attempt in this country to try to produce automatically was started here at Spon Lane. Trials continued until 1950 and glass was made and sold, but various production troubles had still to be solved before it could be said to be a commercial success.

In 1956, our Board again decided to try to perfect the process and, this time, they were able to ask for direct assistance from the Group.

Pilkington Brothers had, over many years, accumulated a vast experience of drawing problems in ordinary window glass and it was arranged that the project would be a joint effort of the two Companies. When the project was finally launched, the personnel at Spon Lane was augmented by Mr. C. Preston from St. Helens and four men from Queenborough, Messrs. L. Champ, F. Powell P. Cook, and P. Woodfine, who had experience in sheet glass drawing and, particularly, in the Fourcault process.

The Fourcault process is the one that is used extensively throughout the world to make window glass and the Flashed Drawn process is based on this method.

The project has been an interesting one—I think I can use the past tense since the plant is now running and the early development stage has passed, although we still have some way to go before we can really close the book, if we can ever close the book in industry today.

We often hear when some film, or television star is being showered with praise that in his reply he modestly says that it is the team that should be rewarded.

In a glassmaking project of this kind, this is even more true since so many

people become involved, in fact, some unknowingly since the success might depend on perhaps, a turner on a lathe in the M. & C., who produces a part to a drawing, but his accuracy and diligence might be the key to the problem.

It might be of interest to some of the readers of *Chance Comments* if I were to list how the various trades and professions, departments and crafts, are involved in a project such as this.

The furnace had already been built and was ready for making glass in 1950, but to make sure that any advances made since that date could be incorporated, a committee, called the Melting committee, discussed the requirements and made recommendations. This committee is made up of representatives from:—

1. Furnace Design Department
 2. Laboratory
 3. Technical Development
 4. Pyrometry Department
 5. Refractories and Mixing Department
 6. The Production Department
- and has a Chairman who has the unenviable task of getting all the above to agree.

Following these recommendations, the Furnace Design Department then do the preliminary drawings. It is usual to have to go back to the Melting committee because some recommendations cannot be incorporated exactly as required. Before the drawings are finally agreed from the "Melting" point of view, the other end of the furnace comes under discussion with those responsible for the "glassmaking" side.

At the same time, another committee has been formed to consider the project as a whole, this committee is composed of all the people who are directly responsible for any of the following:—

1. Development of the process
2. Design of the machinery
3. Choosing personnel
4. Laboratory work, mixtures, physical measurements
5. M. & C. Work.

It is usual to have a Director as Chairman. His patience is normally stretched to the limit, since the fruits of the project get dimmer at each succeeding meeting.

Complete agreement between about eight or ten technical people is, of course, an impossibility, but time gets shorter and, eventually, a compromise is

reached and at this stage, the Estimating Department of the M. & C. are involved and justification of the expenditure is prepared for sanction by the Board.

The final drawings are then produced and orders for all the various bits and pieces are issued by the M. & C. to the Buying Department. The Buying Department are soon aware that where deliveries are required in one month, the supplier wants three months, but, somehow or other, the supplies appear, sometimes by the help of the Traffic Department who are asked at 5 p.m. to send a car to Yorkshire to collect something that is wanted for 8 a.m. the next day.

shown going clean through a compressed air receiver that was on another drawing!

In the meantime, it has been necessary to start to train men for the glassmaking and cutting side. The Personnel department have to interview the applicants and the men are settled in similar jobs in other parts of the works to get some pre-training.

The starting up date looms nearer and the pitch increases. The furnace is finally lit off and everyone's attention now flies to the other end—the drawing machine and all its services, the cutting tower and the warehousing of the product.



The control panel on the new plant.

Eventually more direct evidence that the project is under way is visible on the works.

The Storeman starts to receive supplies that are labelled "Flashed Drawn" and drawings headed the same appear in the Machine Shop, the Stonemasons shop, the Electricians department and the Blacksmiths shop.

Work soon begins on the furnace and then, what appeared to be a neglected heap of brickwork, is surrounded by—Bricklayers, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Pipe-Fitters, Welders, Electricians, Stonemasons, Carpenters, men from the Pyrometry department, and with occasional visits from draughtsmen to solve such problems as a steam main that is

The Laboratory issues the mixtures and the Mixing department deliver the raw material to the furnace. The furnace is filled, the glassmaking teams are formed and the "Great Day" is here—Drawing starts.

This day was 1st November 1956 and, since that date, many problems of production have been met and overcome. It has meant long hours of work by many people, from the Production department and from the Laboratory, but a reasonable amount of success in drawing our first flashed glass, opal, has been met and it is now intended to try other colours which, I hope, will be in the Warehouse when this article is published.

N.K.H.

AN IMPROVED PENSION SCHEME

How it works

ANNOUNCEMENTS have recently been made about the alterations which are to take place in pension fund arrangements.

The changes come under two broad headings:—

1. Membership of the Pilkington Brothers Workmen's Pension Fund is open to Chance Brothers employees as from 1st April, 1957.

2. Better pension benefits are obtainable.

With regard to 1, no contributions will be paid into the Chance Brothers Pension Fund after 31st March, 1957, but this fund will continue in existence for the purpose of paying pensions on retirement and other benefits based on the contributions paid into the fund. For the future it is considered that it would be more advantageous for present members of the Chance Brothers Fund to join the Pilkington Brothers Fund and be covered for the improved benefits which are to be provided by that fund.

All Chance Brothers employees who are not at present members of the Chance Brothers Fund will also be eligible to join the Pilkington Brothers Fund as soon as they have completed one year's service or have attained the age of eighteen years whichever is the later.

Details of the main difference in the benefits to be obtained are as follows:—

(a) The minimum contribution is to be increased to 2/-d. per week. Members will, however, be able to increase their contributions in multiples of 1/-d. up to 7/-d. per week, and the Company will match contributions up to 5/-d. per week for male members over 21 and for female members over age 35.

(Examples of pensions are shown in the following table.)

(b) Members will be allowed to surrender part of their new pension rights to provide a widow's pension on death in service or after retirement. The provisions for the payment of cash death benefits are being modified with this in view.

(c) The Chance Brothers Directors will increase the pension of any member aged between 60 and 65 on the 1st April, 1957 provided he contributes at least 5/-d. per week from 1st April, 1957 until he reaches his 65th birthday. The effect of this will be to provide the same pension as if he had been contributing at the rate of 5/-d. per week from his 60th birthday.

(d) An increased pension will be paid to any member who, at the Company's request, continues in the Company's employment at least three months after his 65th birthday.

Exact Age at Entry	Age 65 Pension C.B. Fund	Member Company Joint	Pension per week earned by a weekly contribution to the P.B. Fund from the stated age to age 65 amounting to:—					
	1/2 1/2 4/2		2/0 2/0 4/0	3/0 3/0 6/0	4/0 4/0 8/0	5/0 5/0 10/0	6/0 5/0 11/0	7/0 5/0 12/0
(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
21	34/0		63/0	94/6	126/0	157/6	173/3	189/0
24	28/9		53/4	80/0	106/8	133/4	146/8	160/0
27	24/2		45/0	67/6	90/0	112/6	123/9	135/0
30	20/2		37/4	56/0	74/8	93/4	102/8	112/0
33	16/9		31/4	47/0	62/8	78/4	86/2	94/0
36	13/10		25/8	38/6	51/4	64/2	70/7	77/0
39	11/3		21/0	31/6	42/0	52/6	57/9	63/0
42	9/1		17/0	25/6	34/0	42/6	46/9	51/0
45	7/2		13/4	20/0	26/8	33/4	36/8	40/0
48	5/6		10/0	15/0	20/0	25/0	27/6	30/0
51	4/1		7/8	11/6	15/4	19/2	21/1	23/0
54	2/11		5/8	8/6	11/4	14/2	15/7	17/0
57	1/11		3/8	5/6	7/4	9/2	10/1	11/0
60	1/0		2/0	3/0	4/0	5/0	5/6	6/0
63	4d.		4d.	6d.	8d.	10d.	11d.	1/0

The above table is an abbreviated one, that is to say it gives the pension appropriate to certain ages only. The full table provides a different rate of pension for each year of age.

Your new pension is the result of adding A and B together and deducting C. To this must be added any pension from additional contributions to the C.B. Fund.

How to calculate your pension

The table may be used to calculate the new pension at age 65 as follows:—

(a) Refer to your age in column (1) at the time you joined the Fund and find your age 65 pension in column (2).

(b) Refer to your present age in column (1) and the contribution you wish to pay to the P.B. Fund, i.e. from 2/-d. to 7/-d. a week shown in columns (3) to (8), and note the pension to be earned in the P.B. Fund from your present age.

(c) Refer to your present age in column (1) and note the age 65 pension in column (2).

Examples:—

	(1)	(2)	(3)
A member joined the Fund at age	21	27	36
He is now aged	30	45	60
His new contribution will be	5/0	4/0	2/0
A	34/0	24/2	13/10
B	93/4	26/8	2/0
	127/4	50/10	15/10
C	20/2	7/2	1/0

New age 65 pension	107/2	43/8	14/10
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CHANCE-PILKINGTON OPTICAL WORKS

FROM the 1st April, 1957, a new organisation comes into operation, namely, Chance-Pilkington Optical Works (Pilkington Brothers Limited). The new St. Asaph plant and the St. Helens plant (Umbroc) will be controlled by the Chance-Pilkington Optical Works management committee. This committee will be Dr. L. H. A. Pilkington, Dr. W. M. Hampton, Mr. H. Slade-Jones and Mr. S. T. Pickering. Mr. S. T. Pickering will be General Manager.

The St. Asaph plant will be the headquarters of the new organisation having its own production, sales, accounts, and control laboratories.

The Optical department at Spon Lane will continue to be responsible to the Chance Brothers Limited Board with Dr. R. E. Bastick taking the position of Production Manager. Orders for manufacturers at Spon Lane will be supplied from St. Asaph.

The Optical Sales office will be transferred from Spon Lane to St. Asaph about September of this year.

The Malvern plant will continue to be operated by Chance Brothers Limited, and as and from the 1st April, Mr. H.

Fulton will take over from Mr. W. N. Wheat the responsibility of the sale of syringes and other products.

Following these general changes the following staff reorganisation will operate from the 1st April, 1957:—

Mr. J. Buckley	Production Manager, C.P.O.W.
Mr. H. Cooper	Technical Control Manager, C.P.O.W.
Mr. W. N. Wheat	Sales Manager, C.P.O.W.
Mr. E. A. Jones	Accountant, C.P.O.W.
St. Asaph factory	
Mr. R. E. Andrew	Production Superintendent
Mr. B. Love	Personnel Officer
Mr. R. Gartside	Plant Engineer
Mr. A. Scrivener	Technical Control Lab.
Mr. G. Glover	Works Analyst
Mr. S. Cutler	Foreman
Mr. J. Firth	Technical Assistant
Mr. B. Chew	Instrument Engineer
Mr. I. Williams	Foreman
Mr. K. Kettle	Shift foreman
Mr. H. Goodwill	Shift foreman
Mr. H. Twamley	Shift foreman
Mr. A. Edwards	Shift foreman
Mr. W. King	Assistant Manager, Sales Office
Mr. F. Sass	Assistant Manager, Export Sales
Mr. G. Gordon	Export department
Mr. K. W. Appleton	Assistant Manager, Home Sales
Mr. A. Naylor	Home Sales Office
St. Helens factory	
Mr. T. P. Whieldon	Works Superintendent
Mr. J. Bennett	Technical Control
Mr. W. Garrett	Quality Control
Spon Lane factory	
Dr. R. E. Bastick	Production Manager
Mr. F. Rollason	Production Superintendent

The new factory takes shape.



THE QUESTION BOX

Readers are invited to submit to the editor any questions that may be worrying them. Practically any subject concerning a works situation may be raised except wages and working conditions.

Convalescence facilities

Would you please explain what facilities exist for employees to obtain convalescence. Is there any scheme to help the employee's family?

R. TURLEY,
Electricians.

All workpeople at Spon Lane and the majority at Malvern are members of the Smethwick Glassworks Provident Society. In addition to paying sick grants, this society bears the cost of admitting a member to a convalescent home, including payment of the railway fare. The procedure for anybody who is recommended to have convalescent treatment is for them to see the Personnel Manager.

Unfortunately, the scheme is applicable to employees only and not to members of their families.

Legal Problems

I was recently engaged on some business negotiations and as a result of signing a form I now find that I have lost the deposit which I put down. I realise now that I ought to have asked for advice before I signed the form and I am wondering if there is any way in which the Company could help employees when they require advice of this nature.

ANON.

Generally speaking the best advice one can give in cases like this is to consult a solicitor. Employees may sometimes wonder, however, whether the case is sufficiently important to justify this course, and the Secretary of the Company will always be pleased to advise employees what they should do. He is anxious to point out however, that he cannot act as their legal adviser and carry transactions through.

Garage Services

Are car-service facilities available for employees in the work's Transport Repair shops?

R. G. BRAGGER,
Drawing Office.

Yes—car service facilities in the Transport Repair shop are available to all employees. There is a normal procedure by which the foreman of the repair shop is approached and he puts all the necessary paper work into action once he has agreed that the repair shall be carried out. However, it must be pointed out quite clearly and concisely that all works transport in any shape or form and cars essential to the continuance of production in the works must of necessity take priority over any other repair work.

Ladies' rest room

Could we not have a ladies' rest room where people feeling off colour could sit or lie down without having to get over to the First Aid post?

It is considered that when rest is required it is better for it to be in conjunction with medical supervision.

Housing

I am told that the Company owns some houses. What rules apply for a workman to be granted tenancy?

ANON.

The Company owns a few dwelling houses situated near to the works and these are mainly the cottage type, i.e. two living rooms and two bedrooms. The Personnel department keeps a waiting list and there is, of course, a great demand for tenancy. In general priority is given to:

- A member of the works fire brigade, and
 - A key worker employed on the shift system.
- Length of service is taken into consideration.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

OUR TENTH YEAR

With this issue, *Chance Comments* enters into its tenth year.

It is interesting to turn the pages of the first year's volume which commenced in March 1948. In those days we had the lighthouse works and there were several interesting articles on installations in various parts of the world. The year marked the centenary of the introduction of Optical glass manufacture into Great Britain and Mr. Wheat wrote on the achievements not only in the technique of production, but also in the position which Britain holds as a potential supplier of optical glass to the world. Other technical features concerned the manufacture of Rolled Plate glasses and cathode ray tubes. In 1948 the Recreation Club came of age and Harold Martin, who is now retired and living in Eastbourne, reviewed the history of the club. Another interesting feature was a competition to determine the best designs for pressed tableware.

Personal news in 1948 included the announcements that Mr. S. T. Pickering (St. Helens) and Mr. J. C. Perkins (London) had become fathers to sons. Tom Whieldon gained B.Sc. degree. Edna Hickman of the Seven Storey was elected Glass Queen at the Recreation Club Ball, Arthur Piper was elected to represent the Coloured and Seven Storey on the Works Consultative Committee, Bert Tandy (now retired) was appointed supervisor to Rolled Plate Making, Bert Bagnall was married, Andy Nicoll and Bob Evans passed the examinations for the certificate course of the Institute of Industrial Administration.

Ken Hadley left the Blown and Pressed to take a position in Trinidad (he returned in 1950) and Joan Beer left Personnel department to live in Penang. Dr. R. E. Bastick participated in a radio programme and answered the question "What is glass made from."

The 1957 issues of *Chance Comments* must, and will, keep up the standard that has been set since 1948 but remember that this is your journal and your help is needed.

INCREASED SICK GRANTS

At the February meeting of the Provident Society committee it was decided that the funds were sufficiently good to justify an increase of 2/0 per week to the scale for sick benefits. The revised rates are 10/0 per week for the first four weeks, 9/0 per week for the second four weeks and 8/0 per week for the third four weeks. The benefit for death remains unchanged at £10 and the Society will continue to pay for admission to convalescent homes and the cost of railway fares.

SAFETY COMPETITION

The position of the Safety Competition "league table" at the end of January, 1957 was as follows:—

Building, Carpenters, etc.
78% better than last year
Electricians, Fitters, etc.
32% better than last year
Coloured, Seven Storey, Fiesta
22% better than last year
Rolled Plate
21% better than last year
Pressed Process and Cathodes
20% better than last year
Pot and Clay, etc.
10% better than last year
Optical and Ma vern
7% worse than last
Vello, Pressed Making, etc.
390% worse than last year

In fairness to Vello and Pressed Making it must be realised that last year they had one accident only. They have only had one accident in the first quarter of the competition year and this automatically makes their figures four times worse than last year.



The Blown and Pressed Division's Children's Party

The party was held in the . . .



. . . Recreation Club Pavilion.





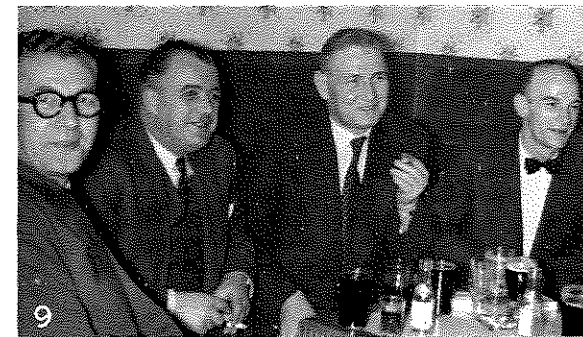
* PARTY * TIME * SNAPSHOTS



1, 2, 3 and 4—The Laboratory, Pyrometry and Personnel Departments had their annual party in the Pavilion.

5, 6, 7 and 8—The Recreation Club's Gala Ball.

9 and 10—The Blown and Pressed party at the Spon Croft.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

The Blown and Pressed division congratulates June Baker of No. 8 office on her marriage on 2nd February to Mr. G. Lavell.

The inspection section welcomes James Taylor who has joined the Company recently.

The Pressed Process are delighted to have David Chrimes and John Knight back on their jobs after their long illnesses.

At the time of going to press Albert Garner is absent from work and we hope he will soon be well and fit again.

The division never tires of organising parties and on 1st March, the Vello section held a dinner and social in the recreation club pavilion. This was a huge success.

Flat Glass

On 16th March, S. McCalla of the Rolled Plate Making was married to Miss C. J. Henry at Christ Church, Edgbaston, and the department offers their best wishes for their future happiness.

It is good to have Andy Nicoll back in harness after his recent operation.

Ernest Parish has retired from the Seven Storey after fifty-six and a half years service, Ernest Ashcroft has retired from the Coloured department after fifty-five years service and Mrs. Bowser has retired from the Rolled Plate Warehouse.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of Arnold Richards of the Coloured Making section on 21st February. Arnold was aged forty-eight, and his passing came after a brief but severe illness. It will be remembered that he came to Spon Lane in the early 1940's from the glassworks of W. E. Chance which were then in Oldbury. Deep sympathy is expressed to his widow and his brother Ted.

Laboratory

Sincere good wishes are extended to John Davies who married recently, and to Mary Hoole who has announced her engagement to Arthur James of Bristol.

Bob Suhr has left the Physics laboratory to take up a position in nuclear physics and we wish him every success.

Maintenance and Construction

The Maintenance and Construction department, which is now well settled in its new headquarters, bade goodbye to Pauline Bloxham who is expecting a happy event very shortly. We welcome in her place Valerie Francis.

Bill Bedford of the drawing office was married on 12th January, and he is now undergoing National Service.

Newcomers welcomed to the drawing office are R. Dashper and Mrs. Telling.

Margaret Beckett has also left us in order that she can take care of her mother.

On 1st February, the works, and the Maintenance and Construction division

in particular, lost a very dear friend by the death of Sam Beardsmore who joined the Company in 1946 as foreman of the Building department. Sam had had poor health for the past two years and he died at the age of fifty-nine. We express deep sympathy to his family.

Offices

The accounts department had an enjoyable coach and supper outing to Stourport on 22nd February.

The typing department congratulates Joan Shakespeare on the occasion of her engagement to John Rogers.

Congratulations are also offered to J. Foster of the traffic office and his wife on the birth of a daughter on 2nd January.

A newcomer to the home sales staff is Don Morris; to the export sales office, Bryan Vaughan; to the accounts section, W. Jackson and to the wages office, Mrs. D. A. White.

We are however, sorry to record that Tom West has left the pensions office to take up an attractive post elsewhere and we wish him every success.

Miss Rene Davies has left the typing department to return to her home in Wales. Mrs. Jeavons has left the cost office for health reasons and Mrs. Pat Richards of the wages office and Mrs. Beryl Boulter of the comptometer section have left us to take up positions elsewhere.

Old Hall

The work study department welcomes George Smith who joined the staff recently.

On the 24th January, Cyril Marsh of the pyrometry department died. Prior to his going to the pyrometry, Cyril was in the general stores. For some years he had suffered ill health and we express condolences to his family.

Optical

By the time these notes appear, Ernest Andrew, Ken Kettle and Abe Edwards will be in America to learn something of the new techniques that will be used at the new optical factory at St. Asaph. These three, together with Alan Scrivener of the laboratory, and Brian Chew of pyrometry, will, as from next month, belong to the St. Asaph factory and in expressing our regrets that we are losing them from Spon Lane, we sincerely hope they will be happy in their new spheres.

The department expresses sorrow to the family of Mrs. A. Cliff, who passed away in January after a long illness, and to Mr. A. R. Reynolds on the death of his father.

Jack Stanley has become the father of a son and we congratulate him and his wife.

On the occasion of the St. Helens branch works dance held at St. Helens town hall in January, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomer and Mr. and Mrs. Stack attended to represent Spon Lane and they record their appreciation for the invitation.

Transport

On Saturday, 2nd March, Tom Flook of the internal transport department married Mrs. Canty who is in charge of the stationery office. They are both well known in all sections of the works and offices and everybody at Spon Lane and indeed the branch works, offer their sincere congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness.

Bouquets

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

Margaret Wood	Personnel
Alan Davies	Carpenters
David Foster	Cost Office
Kenneth Tarr	Laboratory



WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

Recent Suggestion Scheme Awards

Tom Lloyd is awarded £4 10s. 0d.

Tom Lloyd of the Millwrights department was doing a job on the cork disc grinding machines in the cathode section of the Blown and Pressed division and he learned that it was proposed to revert to the V belt pulley drive in place of the Duplex chain drive. He pointed out that in the event of a belt needing to be replaced, this would mean the complete dismantling of the machine with subsequent loss of production plus high labour costs and he submitted to the Suggestions Scheme committee two neat sketches detailing his idea for modifications that could be made. The result of these modifications would mean that only the split coupling and the four set pins on the pedestal bearing would need to be taken out to enable the bottom shaft to be removed sufficiently to replace the belt and to renew the thrust bearing. The idea was immediately adopted and eventually it will be incorporated in five machines. This excellent idea resulted in an award of £4 10s. 0d.

Incidentally, this was the first award under the increased scale which became operable on 1st January.

An appeal succeeds

In June 1956, J. W. Critchley of the Optical works at St. Helens made a

suggestion for the modification of one of the grinding tables by fitting a larger motor table and guards with one section hinged so that large blocks of glass can be loaded on to the table with the aid of a lifting truck. At that time the suggestion was rejected on the grounds that it would involve the provision of a completely new grinding machine and the works were endeavouring to obtain a new type of saw to eliminate the grinding of large blocks of glass.

Ultimately, however, the idea was put into operation and the suggestor claimed recognition. His claim succeeded and he was awarded £4 0s. 0d.

The coal tipping base at Spon Lane

Cyril Salisbury, the telpher driver, draw attention to the fact that in many cases lorries delivering coal are too large to tip at the coloured tipping base in Spon Lane and accordingly loads have to be delivered to stock which necessitates double handling. It was suggested that the arch over the doorway be removed to enable any type of vehicle to tip direct into the base. Arrangements have been made to alter the doorway as suggested and the adoption of the simple idea will result in a fair amount of time being saved and general annoyance avoided. The award for this suggestion was £2 5s. 0d.

Damage by steam

Frederick Bodley of No. 1 Rolled Plate drew attention to the fact that the steam trap outside No. 1 tank is brick built with a steel cover and its function is to catch the excess steam from the smaller traps inside the department. The suggestor pointed that whilst the trap achieved its objective, it did not dispose of the steam quickly enough and as a result there was considerable wear and corrosion to the outlet pipes within the trap. He recommended that a vent should be fitted to the cover to enable the steam to get away. It was thought this would not only save the fittings against corrosion, but it would also avoid damage to the outside walls. The idea qualified for an award of £2 0s. 0d.

Marking loose loads

A suggestion that would help when unloading loose loads of rolled plate glasses at customers' premises was made by S. Carwithen of the traffic department who pointed out that loose loads of wired cast often contained several different sizes and this meant that practically every sheet had to be measured before being taken off the lorry for delivery to the customer. It was recommended that the sizes should be chalked on the last loaded sheet of each size. This was a simple suggestion but it is an example of the truism that "there's always a better way." The idea resulted in an award of £1 15s. 0d.

A Queenborough man receives an award

P. Woodfine, who is on loan to us from Pilkington Brothers Queenborough works, submitted a sketch and a scheme which he considered would reduce the risk of pieces of cullet dropping down the tower on the flashed drawn process. This was considered to be a good suggestion and it will be put into operation as quickly as possible. The award was £1 15s. 0d.

Two further awards for St. Helens

H. Stewell and A. Mercer of the Optical works at St. Helens received £1 2s. 6d., each.

Mr. Stewell submitted an idea concerning the use of a spare roller on the

Cobelcomex kilns and Mr. Mercer caused the Suggestions Scheme committee some amusement by the simplicity of his idea which was submitted on a scrap of paper and read, "Use Daz for washing flints." The works tried Daz and it was found to be effective in the removal of carborundum from the glass after barrelling.

F. A. Clifton receives two awards

F. A. Clifton of the Millwrights department had two ideas adopted at the January meeting for which he received two awards of £1 2s. 6d., each. One recommended that Graphite Pipe joint compound be ordered and stocked in 2 lb. tins rather than in the 5 lbs. tins as at present. He considered that the large tins contained too much compound for normal jobs and as a result wastage occurred in that the material quickly dried up when exposed to the air. The second idea was that a steel toolbox be made and attached to the Skata Skala for the purpose of storing the wheel cutters to avoid the possibilities of them being lost.

Jack Reeves also receives two awards

The same form of idea but with two applications was submitted by Jack Reeves of the gatehouse. The first was that an extension to the internal telephone at No. 1 Rolled Plate office be placed near the glassmakers at No. 1 as, in his experience, it was difficult to contact the Rolled Plate department by telephone at night time. The other improved telephone arrangement was that a "swing out" arrangement should be made at the foreman's office in the Fiesta department in order that personnel working in that area at night time could have an internal telephone available to them.

Each of these ideas resulted in an award of 17s. 6d.

Merit award

C. E. Burford of the Blown and Pressed received a merit award of 10s. 0d., for submitting a good idea concerning a hinge on the dioptric moulds. His idea was not carried out as the shift foreman worked out a better idea still.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Glasgow works welcome Sister McCaig who joined us as Nurse/Welfare Supervisor on 25th February, W. Y. Vint who has started in the Wages Office and Ann Munro and Mrs. Moncrieff who have joined the Order Office. We hope they will be happy in their new jobs.

Congratulations are extended to Stan Shields and his wife on the birth of a daughter and to Mr. and Mrs. McCusker, also on the birth of a daughter.

● LONDON

We are beginning to think that our Receptionists are doomed to matrimony once they take up a situation here! Miss Christina Wilson had no intention of getting married when she joined us; now she has been offered a flat in Paris on condition she married immediately and took up residence with her husband who is serving with the Army in France. Needless to say we have said goodbye to Miss Wilson, who took with her a memento of her stay with us in the form of a table cigarette lighter.

The new Fiesta pattern "Night Sky" has been launched successfully in London. Selfridges had a window display in an Oxford Street window, and the public appear to like this new design.

● MALVERN

Congratulations to Yvonne Hill and Gavin Henderson on their recent marriage. We wish them every happiness in their future home in Scotland.

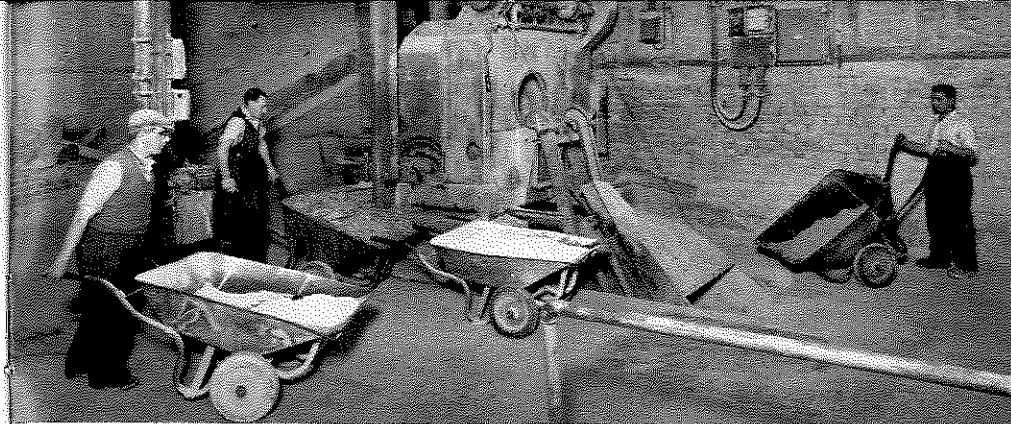
We were sorry to hear that our long association with the Optical Division is to be broken off and everyone at Malvern would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Pickering, and other member's of the Optical staff, for the keen interest in the Syringe plant during the past nine years. We wish them good luck and success at St. Asaph.

● ST. HELENS

As the Optical Division is now leaving the fold so as to speak to become a separate part of Pilkington Brothers Limited under the new title of Chance-Pilkington Optical Works this will be our last article in the *Comments*.

Although, and this is only natural with the developments now taking place in Optical glass manufacture, we feel there is a certain amount of excitement and expectancy about this new turn of events, there is also a feeling of sadness. We here at St. Helens have, quite naturally, always been very closely connected with Pilkington Brothers; after all we live in their works, but we have always been proud to remind our P.B.'s friends that we are "Chance men" as we are called by them.

This article is not intended to be one of farewells and goodbyes, because we all are remaining in the same large family but as some connections must obviously be severed we felt that the occasion should not be allowed to pass without comment. We do want to record our appreciation and thanks to all of Chance Brothers for the help and co-operation we have always received from other departments.



Mixing the raw materials.

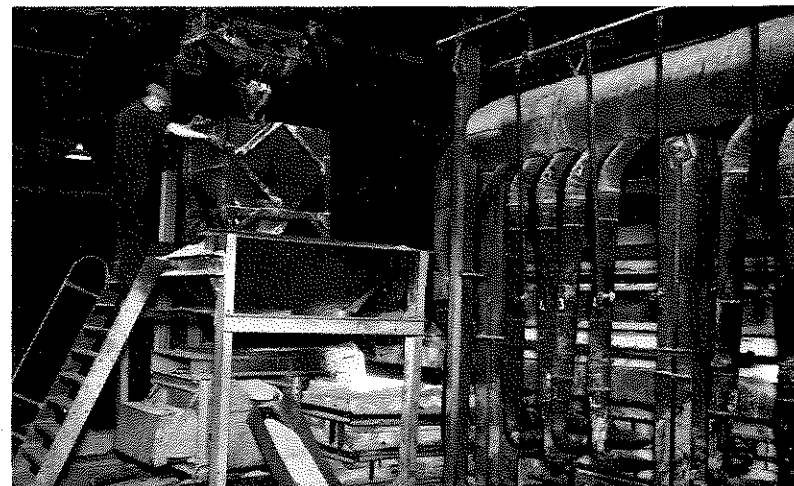
A child's lesson in glassmaking is broadcast

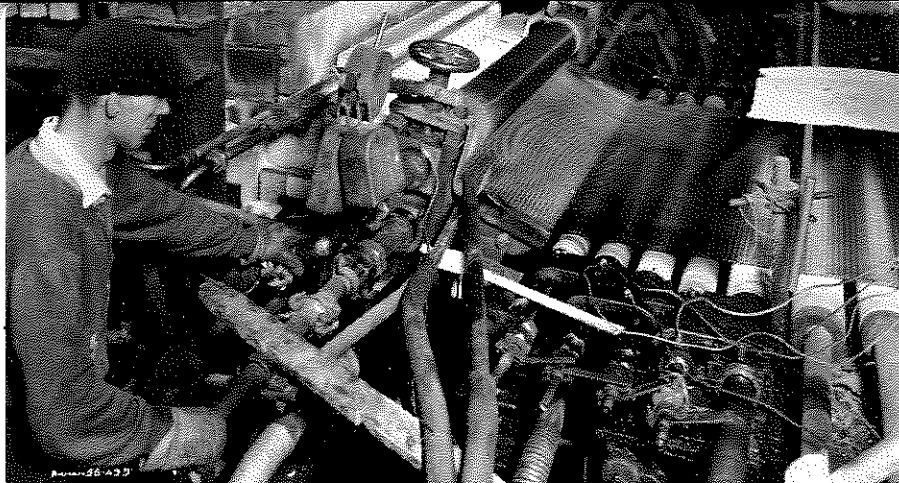
SOME of our readers, glancing at the pictures on this and the next page, may find a certain naive simplicity in the captions. "Feeding the raw material into the furnace—what the heck do they think we're doing, planting potatoes?"

The explanation is that these are four illustrations used in connection with a

recent B.B.C. Scottish Region programme for children. Under the title "Alec McIntyre builds a House," a series of broadcasts has been showing how this character Alec builds his house from raw materials and fittings all of Scottish origin. In order to bring out the fact that glass has been made in Scotland for nearly 100 years, Alec McIntyre visits our Glasgow works, is

Feeding the raw material into the furnace.





The molten glass passes through water-cooled rollers.

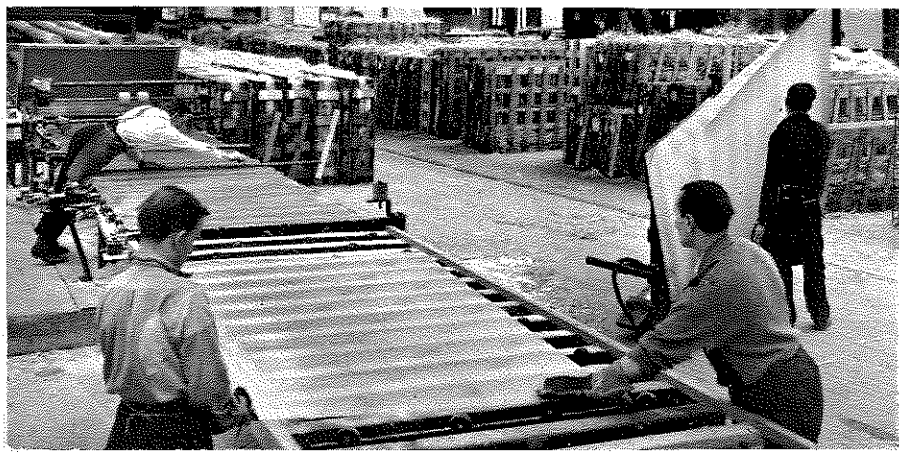
shown round by the works manager, and the script proceeds to give a much simplified but very effective summary of the processes involved in modern glassmaking. All this is done in the form of dialogue between Alec McIntyre and the manager, with a suitable accompaniment of recorded background noises in the factory. We have seen the original script of the programme, and we rather like the producer's instructions with regard to these off-stage noises. "Fade in furnace in background," "Sound of cut being made," "Breaking of glass." There seems to be a touch of finality about that last one.

At the beginning of the programme, the manager explains the forms of rolled plate glass, patterned and wired, in which the Glasgow factory specialises, and considerable time is given to an explanation of how vital cullet is to the chemical

processes by which sand, limestone and soda ash, all materials in the form of dry powder, are converted by furnace heat into a clear liquid which becomes hard and brittle when it cools down. From the furnace the visitor is taken past the lehr, and the annealing explained to him, and so on to the cutting, where he is given an opportunity to try his hand at the job. Finally, he is told about the many uses to which rolled plate glass can be put.

To anyone connected with the glass industry, the outstanding feature of this programme was the skill with which the script writers had succeeded in explaining everything in the simplest possible terms without "talking down" to their audience. Such a programme can be of considerable educational value to the children, but at the same time provides excellent entertainment.

Cutting at the end of the lehr.

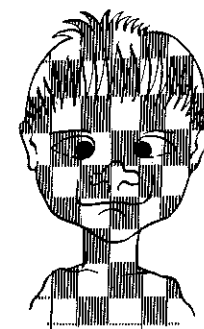


Eli and Enoch at School

COLLECTING schoolboy howlers has been a popular sport with schoolmasters and others for at least a hundred years. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of them have become old friends, respected for their antiquity in much the same way that the B.B.C. comedian can be sure that the loudest laughter will welcome his oldest jokes.

The funniness of schoolboy howlers has much the same origin as the funniness of a man slipping on a banana skin; one takes a physical tumble, the other has fallen over verbally. Since the best of nearly all laughter is found in the troubles of others, either situation is a sure winner.

Among schoolboy howlers we find not only the good old ones, but also a surprising number of good new ones; for genuine mistakes are being made somewhere everyday and schoolboys—and schoolgirls—sometimes have a remarkable imagination when the sound of a word is vaguely familiar to them, but its meaning not quite certain. When one boy wrote that Louis XIV of France was gelatined, he was so nearly right, but oh such worlds away. It was possibly the same child who wrote that a conservative is a kind of greenhouse full of tomatoes; and on another occasion said that Cleopatra ended a remarkable life when she was fatally bitten by an aspidistra. These historical howlers are



A child of black and white parents

a little wide of the mark, but the boy who when asked to name two sports of ancient Rome, replied Antony and Cleopatra, may have been wise beyond his years.

Shall we give the girls a chance? It is pleasant to recall the one who reported in an essay that every morning, her mother did exercises for her abominable muscles; and the other one who informed her schoolmistress that a mosquito is the child of black and white parents.

"Sinister means a women who hasn't married," wrote one girl, and, not to be outdone, another said, "A bachelor is a man who has done without marriage."

Forgive the lad who said, "The Decalogue is a very low-necked frock," for the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, must be mightily confusing to the young mind.

Slovenly explanation, was I suspect the reason for "Tarzan is the short name for the United States' flag. The full name is Tarzan Stripes."

It's so easy for a teacher to think that what's simple to him or her is equally transparent to the pupil. But not always, as is clear in the answer: "Queen Elizabeth was a good queen. Her character, however, was not so good—but what can you expect of a woman who had six mothers?"

But the answer I delight in came after a lesson on various games and sports and the particular value they had in developing the body and the mind.

A listener was asked: "Why is fencing good for the body?" He replied, "Because it keeps the draughts out of the garden!"



Two sports of Ancient Rome



An Abbess on his knee

Of course the enterprising child often guesses from association—I remember doing it myself.

C.I.D. means Copper in Disguise.

Faux pas: Bad feet.

A cypher is a bottle that squirts.

Who said "Kiss me Hardy?"

Laurel.

Quinine is the bark of a tree; canine is the bark of a dog.

Mis-spelling is always a fertile field—and there is no lack of grown-up labourers:—

Livingstone went to Africa to be a misery to the natives.

They gave Wellington a glorious funeral; it took six men to carry the beer.

Now Henry VIII had an abbess on his knee, which made walking difficult.

St. Paul's Cathedral has a bigger knave in it than our church at home.

In some buses they have smoking aloud.

On the wall was a lady framed in guilt. Magnesium is the food for babies; it will cure almost anything.

The mixing of separate incidents or different personalities is very easy—especially if you have your mind on the football field. I have a sneaking sympathy with the lad who wrote: "Elijah was the man who raised the widow's mite," and the lass who claimed that "Abraham had two wives. He kept one at home and the other he turned into the desert, where she became a pillar of salt by day and a pillar of fire by night."

Lots of truth, probably, in another's claim that "We went to the School concert. They charged us nothing to go in, and it was well worth it."

Indeed, the most delightful howlers of all are those where the intention is clear—and often right—but the howlers come through quaint expression of inadequate vocabulary:—

Some flowers fold up at night, like umbrellas in bud.

The Scots do not go to the Church of England; they go to the Free Church.

Once convicts were assigned their own wives; but now the system is more humane.

White is the colour for hope. Brides wear it at weddings; the men wear black.

As well as in church, you can now get married in an off-licence.

It takes several generations to be a gentleman, but you can be a councillor right away.

Oh yes, some wonderful wisdom shines through many of the richest howlers; our schoolboy is a great philosopher, even if unconsciously.

Chivalry is the attitude towards a strange woman.

Income is a yearly tax.

A pessimist is a man who is not happy unless he is miserable, and even then he is not pleased.

Some people lose their consciences when they are ill.

Sometimes, too, will come in an answer the perfect description. A boy was asked: "What is a spiv?" He replied: "A spiv is a man who works in ways the Government hasn't thought of!"

And if you can think of a snappier definition than that, you're a better glassmaker than I am!



A councillor right away

Fiesta....



**Our Stand
at the
Gifts and Fancy Goods Fair,
Blackpool, 1957**