

# *Chance*

## COMMENTS



NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 1957

3<sup>D</sup>

# 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.

### Contents

EDITOR A. OGDEN

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#### THIS MONTH'S COVER

David Nellist of the Laboratory submitted this picture of Westminster Bridge in the Photographic Competition. It was not a prize winner but the judges declared it the second best photograph in the competition.

VOL. 10, No. 5

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1957

## A FISHY STORY?



by J. R. Cheetham

FOR many years, I had promised myself a trip to Ireland to spend a week in the sun fishing to my heart's content. Having read several books on angling in Ireland I felt confident that with the tackle I had, and all the know-how I had swotted up, I would soon be catching the trout of my dreams. So on September 6th, I travelled across the Irish Sea.

After the roughest crossing which had been known for this time of year, I was more than glad to get back on dry land. I arranged to hire a car to take me to my piscatorial venues and the map will show the route which was taken.

Travelling down to Waterford, I was greatly impressed by the beauty of the countryside, with the greenest of greens and the great variety in the colours of the fields. I had seen picture postcards of the spot which I had now reached (Glendalough) but as I could not believe that the colours could be the same in reality, I stopped and stood where the photographer must have taken the view and to my utter amazement, I found that every bit of the scenery and the colours were as shown.

Having heard stories of the roads being little more than cart tracks, I was a little apprehensive as I journeyed on, but to my relief I found that even the class B roads were very good for driving and so clearly marked that a road map was hardly necessary.

My first port of call was a fishing tackle shop in Waterford, where I enquired about licences and the sort of fly necessary for this time of year. Although I made no purchases at the

time, the shopkeeper was most helpful and went out of his way to explain where the best spots were for fishing, and one or two customers also joined in giving advice particularly on the flies to use.

Leaving Waterford behind, I decided to stay at Tramore, a little seaside place, and although it was late in the year, there were still quite a number of people about and much activity going on in the fun fairs and people playing Pongo which is Housey-Housey on a grand scale, until the early hours of the morning.

The first trout stream I tried was a tributary of the River Suir. According to one of the locals it was "just two miles from Tramore," but after journeying for 11½ miles, I found a fisherman's paradise. There, for all to see, were the biggest brown and white trout I had ever seen in my life. I tried spinning with minnows, spoons and flyspoons and casting with a variety of flies, but those trout were too wily for me; they just moved towards the fly and then back behind the rocks or under the bank.

This then was my first day in Ireland, and with the light failing, but full of confidence for the rest of the week, I decided that Sunday would be a day of rest.

After attending church I enquired of the locals for more venues. Taking their advice I travelled to Fermoy where I was told that I could catch even bigger trout, along the Blackwater River.

This river is a wet fly river but dry fly is also used. The first fish I caught was not as I had hoped a lovely big trout but

a dace. Back home it would have caused comment in the angling press for its weight was 1½ pounds, and for our rivers it was some dace. The fly I used was a red spinner.

I was so surprised to find dace in such abundance that I questioned the fishing tackle dealer at Fermoy about this and he told me that several years ago an Englishman took over to Ireland some dace as live bait for pike fishing in the Blackwater. They were kept in a pool near the river and one night there was a very heavy storm and the pool was flooded and the fish escaped into the river. They have now multiplied so much that in parts the bottom of the river is black with shoals of them. Steps are being taken by the authorities to remove them because of the nuisance to game fishing.

Incidentally, this is not an Irishman's tale as it was corroborated by several people at other places on the river and by an article I read in the "Cork Examiner."

After fishing for quite a time with little success, the friends with whom I was travelling decided they would like to try their hand at catching trout as, to use their words, "it did not make sense to put your line in the water and pull nothing out." To keep the peace and let them find out for themselves how hard fishing could be, I rigged up two rods for ledgering. They dug up some worms and after showing them what to do I went spinning up stream.

Before getting very far a loud yell went up and to my utter surprise, they had both caught trout after only minutes of fishing so regardless of piscatorial etiquette, I had a go with a ledger and worm and caught a nice brown trout. I was told later by the locals that the trout had gone down to bottom feeding very early this year.

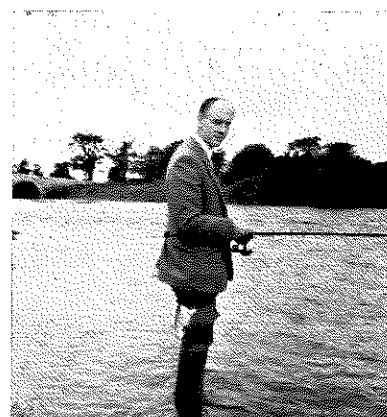
For the rest of the week river conditions were very bad with gale force winds and heavy rain storms and despite

three really good soakings I was still determined to carry on after "the" big trout. One could spend a lifetime travelling the Blackwater from Mallow to Lismore without learning all the wiles of the fighting trout and salmon.

Incidentally I never once had to get a fishing licence even though I was granted permission to fish in salmon waters, on condition that I did not catch any salmon, which under the circumstances was most unlikely.

One incident must be related to show the friendliness and desire to help of the locals. I had been fly fishing at Ballyduff and not doing too well with the trout. It soon became known in the village that an Englishman was trying his hand at fishing but with not much luck, and when I returned to my car, I found one of them had come along to give his advice. He told me he knew Birmingham quite well and had fished the Avon and the Severn and was in fact quite well known as a fisherman. I learned later that this man had returned from England that day after having had a lung removed and he had walked quite a distance looking for me to see how he could help and insisted on taking me along the river to where I could get pike, dace and trout in plenty, even though his

John Cheetham in action.



doctor had warned him that he must take things quietly.

Where the Blackwater widens to the sea, I was told that Sir Walter Raleigh planted the first potatoes from the New World in the gardens of Myrtle Grove, and smoked his first tobacco.

Travelling from Fermoy through the County of Cork on to Glengarriff, the countryside was a picture post-card come to life. The hedges were vivid green and scarlet and I was pleasantly surprised to find fuchsia in abundance growing wild.

From seeing fields, hedges and mountains in the distance, the scenery changed, for I was now travelling through the mountains, which were rugged and awe inspiring, but there was the knowledge that on the other side, perhaps at last I might be lucky in catching the big fish I so much desired.

To enter Glengarriff one had to cross a weak bridge which to prevent heavy traffic crossing and speeding, had been blocked by barrels arranged zig zag fashion and driving round them reminded me of the dare devil riders of the dirt tracks. It was quite a new experience and full of fun, and an excellent way of testing out one's skill as a driver.

Glengarriff is a beauty spot which should be seen to be believed. The colours were even more beautiful than had already been described. The sea itself was saxe blue and from my bedroom window I could see a bay dotted with small green islands and far out to sea a larger island where in an Italian garden grew tropical plants. There were several boatmen anxious to take you on a trip round the islands but alas before this could be arranged down came the rain. But the beauty of Glengarriff was enhanced rather than spoiled by this.

Travelling on next day through Killarney, it was most disappointing

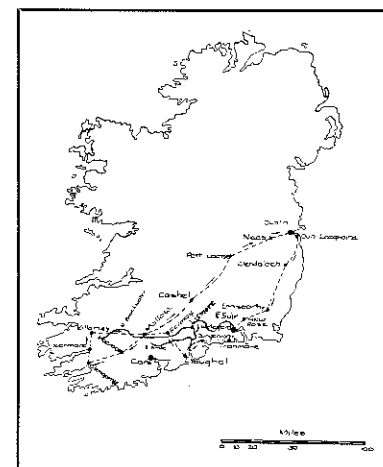
that because of the rain I was not able to take a jaunting cart round the lakes, and with very boisterous winds it was impossible to attempt any fishing; this was more than disappointing as recently a 14 lbs. brown trout had been caught there in the lower lake by a local while spinning with a copper spoon.

From Killarney I once more travelled back to Mallow and on the way fished again in the River Blackwater at Banteer, but with the constant rain, the river was in flood and very dirty. Logs and brushwood made fishing more than difficult resulting in the loss of quite a lot of tackle.

I considered I had had quite a good deal of fishing during the week especially in view of the weather, so I packed away my gear and called it a day and thought of what might have been if perhaps I had made the trip earlier in the season.

Ireland is a picturesque country and can be wonderful for fishing. This, coupled with the sincere and friendly way of life of the people made my holiday the relaxation I desired and has whetted my appetite for another visit to the Emerald Isle. And who knows, perhaps next time . . . .

The route of Mr. Cheetham's travels.







# From all Departments

**MOSTLY PERSONAL**



Mr. C. J. S. Newman presenting a wrist-watch to Beatrice Williams on her retirement.

## Flat Glass

Beatrice Williams of the Seven Storey retired on 6th September, after forty-seven years service. She was presented with a gold wristlet watch by Mr. C. J. S. Newman on behalf of the Company and thus became the first woman employee to receive this form of long service award. We publish a photograph of the presentation ceremony.

On the eve of going to press, we hear that Mr. Bob Evans became a grandfather on 29th October.

It is with profound regret we record that William Mann, a flattener, died whilst at work on 12th September. William was aged fifty-four and first joined Chance Brothers as far back at 1919. Deep sympathy is extended to his family.

## Glasgow

Mr. A. C. Thomson, Assistant Works Manager at the Glasgow works, left Chance Brothers on 19th October to take up an appointment in the Work Study department at Pilkington Brothers St. Helens. We take this opportunity of wishing him every success and also to congratulate him on his recent

marriage which should, of course, have been reported in the last issue of *Chance Comments*.

Mr. Thomson's successor at Glasgow is Mr. A. H. Harris who is congratulated on his appointment. We feel sure there are many at Spon Lane who will also wish Mr. Harris success as he was at Spon Lane before transferring to Glasgow in 1954.

Consequent on her recent marriage Sister McCaig left us at the end of October and we wish her and her husband every happiness. A welcome is extended to Sister Watt who has been appointed nurse/welfare supervisor. A welcome is also extended to Williamina Duff and Anne Peat who joined the staff recently.

Congratulations are extended to Nessie Raeside on the announcement of her engagement.

On the recreation side, we pat the backs of Alex Traynor and Joseph Crawford on winning the bowls tournament, and John Strachan and Mrs. Gallacher who were runners-up.

Anne Munro and Frank McDonald have been on the sick list for some time and we wish them both speedy recoveries and look forward to seeing them back with us soon.

It is with regret we record the deaths of Andrew Barclay and William Maloney and deep sympathy is expressed to their relatives.

## Laboratory

The laboratory welcomes back John Gillespie and Ken Price on the completion of their National Service.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Ronald Winspear who married Pauline Moore at Chester on 12th October.

Herbert Buckingham and David Wilson have joined the development department.

## London

Readers may like to know that London office now has an additional name on the indicator board—that of Chance-Pilkington Optical Works, and we are pleased and proud to be the London office of the new company.

The Telex now links us to Smethwick, St. Asaph and St. Helens and we are thus able to give service to the export and architectural departments of Pilkingtons.

We are pleased to welcome our new junior Josephine Palmer.

During a recent holiday, Mr. J. C. Perkins called on Mr. H. S. Martin, now in retirement near Eastbourne. His old friends at Spon Lane will be glad to hear that he is possibly more active and vigorous than ever and not a blade of grass out of place in his delightfully laid out garden!

## Malvern

The Malvern works always make special efforts for their annual social function and this year the event will be on Friday, 20th December, at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern. The organising committee hope to welcome more employees this year and commands the girls at Malvern to get their pretty party dresses ready!

The works congratulates Joan Clay on attaining her majority. Joan is one of four we welcomed recently to the Malvern works. The other three newcomers being Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Malsom and Ann Buckler.

## Maintenance and Construction

The Maintenance and Construction staff congratulates Valerie Francis, Buying office on her marriage on 5th October, and Reg Flavell, Drawing office, on his marriage on 23rd September. We wish them every happiness.

Congratulations are also offered to Phil Burrows and his wife on the birth of a son on 3rd October, and to Ron Palmer and his wife on the birth of a son on 21st October.

We welcome to the Drawing office Colin Goucher and Geoffrey Daw.

It is with regret we record the death of William Barnard on 11th October. William was a pensioner and retired from the Blacksmiths shop in September 1949.

In last month's notes from the General Stores it was reported that Charles Griffiths had been absent for several months due to illness. Because

of ill health, Charlie has had to retire and all our thoughts are with him.

## Offices

Mrs. E. Lane has had to terminate her employment in the Export Sales office due to ill health. Mrs. Lane had been employed here for nine years and we extend to her our best wishes.

Newcomers in the office building are Joyce Fenton and Rose Evans to the Typing department and Eileen Britt to the Work Study.

It was with regret that we learned of the death of George Crathorn on 9th September. Prior to his retirement Mr. Crathorn was a member of the sales staff.

John Price has had to resign from the general office consequent on him having become a blind person and all our sympathy and best wishes are offered to him.

## Optical

The division congratulates David Forsyth on his marriage to Miss I. Peters.

We are all glad to have Mrs. Lee back at work after her recent illness and we wish a speedy recovery to Len Lancaster who at the time of going to press is away due to illness. We hope to have him back again soon.

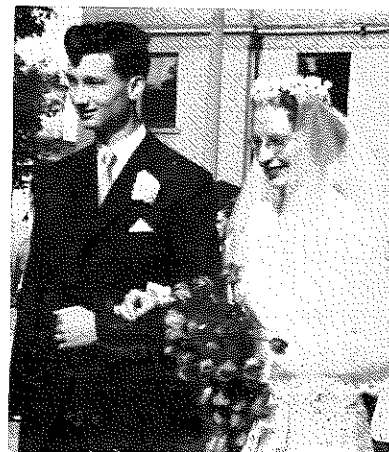
It is with regret that we report the death of Miss Rosa Weiss on 25th October, at the age of 67.

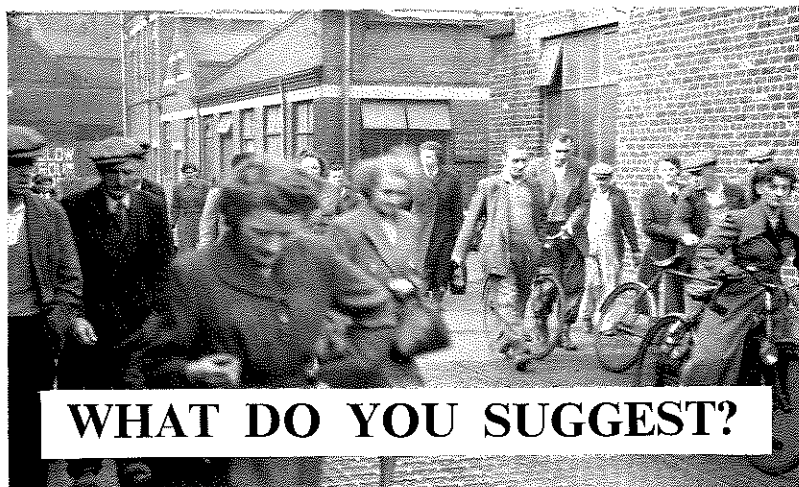
## Personnel

Margaret Wood of the Personnel department married David Westwood on 5th October. Margaret has left the department as she and her husband have gone to live in Sheffield. We wish them every happiness.

A newcomer who is welcomed to the department is Margaret Bailey.

Margaret Wood becomes Mrs. Westwood.





## WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

### SUGGESTIONS COMPETITION SUCCESS

In the two months competition period ended 31st October, a total of 92 ideas were submitted. This number is considerably greater than for previous competitions and it would seem that the prizes of a Christmas hamper, turkeys and bottles of wine and spirits made a particular appeal. Every effort will be made to complete the judging before Christmas.

During the past two months seventeen awards have been made amounting to £27 10s. 0d., and the following is a summary:—

#### A £6 prize

M. Matulewicz of the Mixing department received an award of £6 for an idea concerning simple alterations to the cullet washer with the object of saving cullet and cleaning-out time.

#### Three awards to Bert Bagnall

Bert Bagnall of the Internal Transport department submitted 22 suggestions

in the competition and so far three have been adopted. One which earned him £5 was to equip the bunkers on the Plain with water sprays in order to reduce contamination between the various materials, namely sand, cullet and coal.

His other two adopted suggestions concerned safety and he received £1 for each. One was that at the sheet tank a longer poker should be supplied to the ash hopper. He forcibly stated his case by stating that "from experience" he had found that existing pokers were three feet too short and when a person leans over the hopper whilst poking at the ash the mass of ash can give way and the unfortunate operator could well find himself at the bottom!

Bert's other safety suggestion was that some form of catch should be fitted to the iron gates at the New Gatehouse to keep them from swinging in a high wind.

#### An apprentice receives £4 10s. 0d.

Bob Tandy, an apprentice in the Maintenance and Construction department, submitted a very detailed suggestion concerning the sand blasting machine in the Seven Storey. He pointed out that this machine was constantly under repair due to break

downs to the seal of the centre cylinder and after describing the existing method of making a seal he recommended an improved system which apart from saving in maintenance costs would ensure better seals thereby increasing the efficiency of the machine. The award was £4 but an addition of 10s. 0d., was made as a merit award in recognition of the excellent presentation and detailed sketch.

#### Two awards of £1 15s. 0d.

R. J. Allmark received £1 15s. 0d., for recommending that the bucket at No. 1 Rolled Plate should be converted to automatic action.

C. A. Caine, employed on the works by a firm of electrical contractors was awarded £1 15s. 0d., for suggesting a device to be fitted into the circuit of the power failure valves on the Fibreglass themotank to ensure a constant supply of water to the bushings. This is an opportunity to mention that any contracting firm's employees are eligible to participate in the Suggestions Scheme.

#### Five safety idea awards

W. Hollyhead of the Maintenance and Construction department received £1 for an idea concerning safety on the ladder to the Vello lift control house. Similar awards were made to F. A. Clifton of the Maintenance and Construction department in regard to the storage of steel telfer track rails, and to R. Acton, Maintenance and Construction, for urging that more stable steps should be fitted for the Optical polishing tables.

H. J. Evans of the Blown and Pressed division was granted 10s. 0d., for an idea concerning a traffic mirror at the Cork Disc section and F. Gould, Maintenance and Construction, received 10s. 0d., for a safety reminder concerning the trap door leading to the Vello roof.

#### Minor awards

The committee frequently grants merit awards for ideas which are not

adopted but where time, thought and trouble have been given. Awards are also made for suggestions which are not original but have served as reminders. Under these two headings the following received 10s. 0d., each:—

W. Sharratt	Maintenance and Construction
H. Stockin	Blown and Pressed
N. Andrews	Maintenance and Construction
F. Gould	Maintenance and Construction
F. T. Chawner	Cleaners
H. Price	Blown and Pressed

The following suggestions received by 9th October, were deferred for further consideration:—

53591	W. Chrimes	Clay Mill
53592	B. Jones	RolledPlate
53708	L. E. Nicoll	RolledPlate
53719	W. Lowe	Electricians
53732	R. Shaw	RolledPlate Making
53737	P. Conachy	RolledPlate
53738	L. Woodyatt	RolledPlate
53739	A. Burford	RolledPlate
C53746	B. Bagnall	Internal Transport
C53748	B. Bagnall	Internal Transport
C53755	C. Southall	RolledPlate
C53756	R. Allmark	RolledPlate
C53758	A. Hanson	Blown and Pressed
C53759	T. Piddock	Gas Plant
C53761	T. Piddock	Gas Plant
C53765	B. Bagnall	Internal Transport
C53766	B. Bagnall	Internal Transport
C53767	B. Bagnall	Internal Transport
C53768	J. E. Law	Blown and Pressed
C53770	T. H. Collier	Transport
C53772	F. Bodley	No. 1 RolledPlate
C53773	R. Tandy	Millwrights

# MY HOBBY IS . . .

by Ken Hill—Boiler Shop

MY hobby is the obedience training of dogs and in particular my own nineteen months old alsatian. I belong to the British Alsatian Association which deals solely with the training of alsatians. There are, incidentally, numerous other training clubs which cater for any breed of dog regardless of whether they have pedigrees. I have entered obedience competitions with my pedigree bitch and have been beaten by a mongrel!

Obedience training of dogs requires a lot of patience and continual practice to keep your dog up to scratch, but there is a great deal of satisfaction when you enter the competitive world and start to win prizes. Since I started showing in July, I have won twelve prizes with my alsatian, the best win being at Willesden, London, when we were first out of twenty-four dogs entered from all over the country; we gained a mark of 99½ out of a possible 100. In the next test we got exactly the same mark and finished third, so you can see competition is really hot.

When a dog is first taken to be trained it is taught to walk at heel and

to stay close by your side no matter what distractions there may be. If your dog lags behind you, or walks wide, then the judge will knock marks off.

Next it is taught to retrieve a dumbbell. You don't just throw the dumbbell and let the dog fetch it how it likes. The animal must sit by your side while you throw the dumbbell and must not fetch it until you give the command. It must bring the dumbbell back and sit in front of you, still holding the dumbbell in it's mouth, until you take it.

The next step is to train your dog to sit and stay while you walk away and leave it. Similarly it is taught to stay down and not move while you go out of sight. To see a line of dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes lying down and not bothering with each other is a sight worth seeing, especially when you realize that you are allowed only one command in these tests and any extra commands are penalised.

It is possible to train your dog up to a standard where it becomes an Obedience Champion after winning three Challenge Certificates awarded by the Kennel Club.

Dog training also has its lighter moments as my dog is known as the only one walking about with it's kennel (the Boiler shop boys have worked this out) on the end of the lead.

If everybody taught obedience to their dogs, there would be less accidents on the roads to-day.



*The Alsatian with some of her trophies.*

# ★ PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ★

THIS year was the best ever in the *Chance Comments* photographic competition in that a total of sixty eight prints were submitted. Not all the prints had a holiday flavour but as a number were worthy of consideration the two judges, with the Editor's agreement, decided to ignore the holiday aspect. The judges sorted the prints into the three classes, landscape, personal and general and then, independently of one another made a selection of prints for final judging. They were unanimous in their rejections. The selection of the final prints was carried out by the judges together and again there was complete agreement on the winning photographs. In making the final selection, attention was given to technical quality, composition and the suitability of the print for halftone reproduction in *Chance Comments*.

The pictures submitted were a mixture of direct prints from the negative and enlargements and it was perhaps inevitable that the prints ranking for final judging were practically all enlargements. This does not mean that the direct prints were rejected out of hand but rather that in enlarging a better picture can be produced because there is scope for composing the picture and for correcting contrasts in the negative. Nevertheless, in many of the enlargements the possibility of improving the picture by making a judicious selection of part of the negative had been ignored. For this reason, a number of pictures which were good technically, had to be rejected.

Having made these general comments, we can now discuss the individual classes.

## Landscape

In general, composition was at fault, but two prints, one by G. Radley (Optical) and the other by D. Howes (Laboratory) were judged to be of equal merit, although differing in the type of subject. An award of a prize to each was therefore decided. The use of the wall and the overhanging branches of the tree in Mr. Radley's picture should be noted as combining to give a pleasing composition. The strong rendering in Mr. Howes' picture was well suited to the subject.

## Personal

The entries in this section were poor and only two, from the same author ranked for the final selection. The winning picture by R. C. Andrews (Laboratory) was chosen because it was a pleasing group but it would have been improved by sharper focussing in enlargement. The second picture, also a group, although better technically suffered from the fact that too much was included, and a "fussy" background distracted from the main subject. This of course was a general criticism of most of the work submitted.

## General

The greatest number of entries were in this class and included a wide variety of subjects. The award goes to A. Ansell (Carpenters) for *The Cloisters, Salisbury Cathedral*. This worker submitted a number of pictures of architectural subjects and the judges felt that some could have been improved by using a softer printing paper or by "shading" in enlargement. The rendering of the light and shade in the winning picture is quite pleasing and the quiet calm of the cloister is emphasized by the solitary figure in the background.

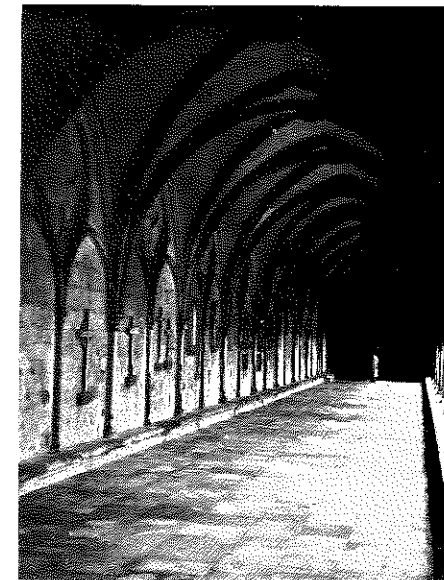
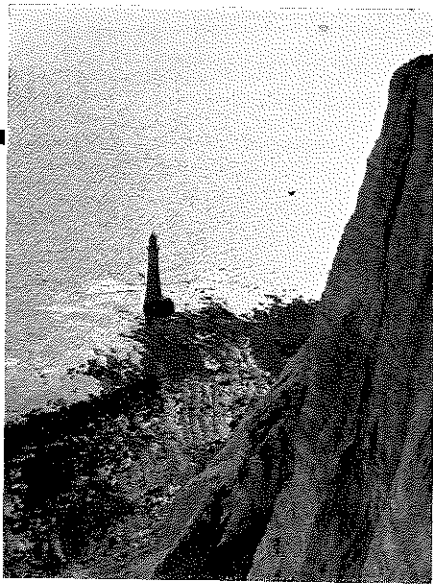
## The Best Photograph in the Competition

Two photographs by the same worker, D. R. Nellist (Laboratory) stood out from the rest but the judges had some difficulty in making their final choice. Both pictures had considerable merit but the picture "Thames Tug" was judged to be the better of the two. It is a pleasing composition and the author has captured successfully the atmosphere of London River. His Westminster Bridge was perhaps a little too dark in the shadows which contrasted too much with a flat sky. Nevertheless it was a very good effort and was worthy of being selected as a cover photograph for the magazine.

## Editor's note

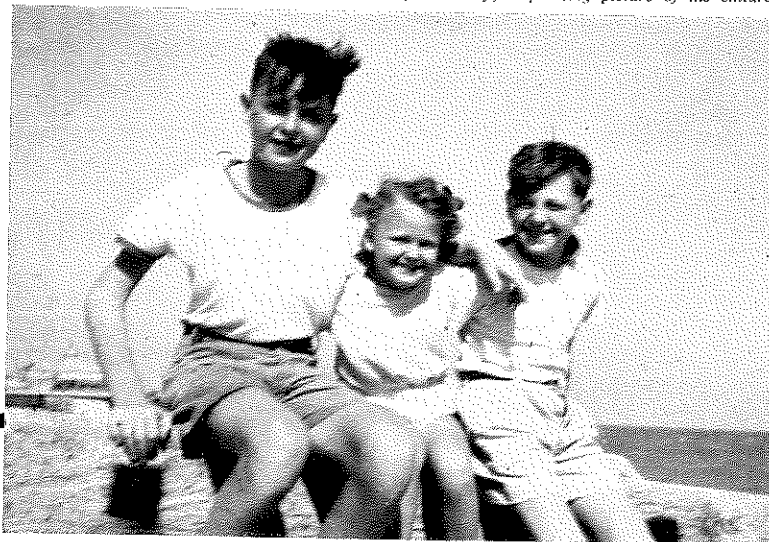
Appreciation is expressed to Dr. R. E. Bastick and Mr. Sam Mallett who consented to act as judges to the competition and for their interesting and constructive report.

# \* PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION \*



Above:—Joint winners of the landscape section were: (left) D. Howes (Laboratory) and (centre) G. Radley (Optical).

Below:—Personal section, R. C. Andrews (Laboratory) A pleasing picture of his children.



Below:—The "Best of the Lot" prize was won by D. R. Nellist (Laboratory) with his picture, Thames Tug.



Above:—A. Ansell (Carpenters) entered several pictures in the general section and this excellent one of the Cloisters, Salisbury Cathedral won the section prize.

# Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

Mr. A. Moore of the Ledger office is secretary to the works National Savings Group. He reports that during the year ended 31st August, 1957, a total of 12,840 savings certificates plus £1,972 in savings stamps were purchased by our employees through the firm. The savings under the employees Personal Holiday Fund amounted to £11,341 and the total thus set aside for savings by our employees was £22,943. This total is an increase of £6,620 on the previous twelve months and is due mainly to the intensive drive made by Horace Newey some months ago.

There still remain many employees who do not take advantage of the Company's schemes for saving by deductions from wages and the savings committees will soon be after them in a drive to recruit new members.

## A PARTY HAS BEEN ARRANGED

The Directors have again decided to encourage divisional and departmental annual social functions by making grant aid and the following parties have so far been planned:—

Thursday, 5th December — Optical division—Dinner at The Blue Gates followed by Birmingham Hippodrome

Saturday, 7th December—Maintenance and Construction department's—Children's party in the canteen.

Friday, 20th December—Seven Storey department—Dinner and dance in pavilion.

Malvern Works dinner and social at Abbey Hotel.



Bill Hartshorne's grandson "brings him to work" every afternoon.

Friday, 3rd January—Maintenance and Construction department—Dinner at Blue Gates.

Saturday, 4th January—Blown and Pressed division's Children's party in the canteen.

## ON DROPPING BRICKS

We reprint the following letter received from a native bricklayer in Barbados, with acknowledgments to the Weekly Bulletin of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

"Respected Sir,

When I got to the building I found that the hurricane had knocked some bricks off the top. So I rigged up a beam with

a pulley at the top and hoisted up a couple of barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the building there was a lot of bricks left over. I hoisted the barrel back again and secured the line at the bottom, and then went up and filled the barrel with extra bricks. Then I went to the bottom and cast off the line.

Unfortunately, the barrel of bricks was heavier than I was and before I knew what was happening, the barrel started down, jerking me off the ground. I decided to hang on and halfway up I met the barrel coming down and received a severe blow on the shoulder. I then continued to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground it busted its bottom, allowing all the bricks to spill out. I was heavier than the barrel and so started down again at high speed. Halfway down I met the barrel coming up and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground I landed on the bricks, getting several painful cuts from sharp edges.

At this point I must have lost my presence of mind because I let go the line. The barrel then came down giving me another heavy blow on the head and putting me in hospital.

I respectfully request sick leave."

## LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

The Editor is always pleased to receive letters from readers. If you have an unusual hobby, an opinion to express, an idea to put forward, an interesting reminiscence of days gone by, or an amusing story, why not send it along? The Editor's office is the Personnel department.

## ONE-WAY GLASS

What is one-way glass? . . . How does it work? . . . Can anyone buy it? These are the questions that hundreds of puzzled viewers have written to the Independent Television studios since the popular quiz show "The 64,000 Question" first appeared on home screens. Every Saturday evening an

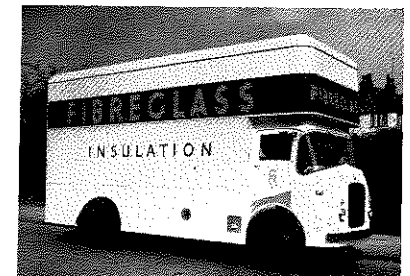
audience estimated at around five million people hears the quiz-master announce: "The contestant is now in a booth which is sound-proof and so can hear only the sound of my voice. The glass is one-way so it is impossible for the contestant to get any information, either audible or visible, from anyone here or in the studio audience."

One-way glass is not just a fascinating television gimmick, however; it has many functional uses in everyday life. Familiar examples are the smoky tinted windows of ambulances, through which, during daylight, the occupants can see out, but the public cannot see in. Other important uses are in child psychology clinics, where the glass permits free observation at all times; in large stores for the benefit of store detectives; and for the supervision of personnel handling cash in mail order and football pool offices.

The mystery of one-way vision glass is not difficult to understand when the physical conditions that must be observed are appreciated. The governing factor with most types is the relative intensity of the lighting on the two sides of the glass; the direction of vision is always from the darker to the lighter side, and therefore illumination must be less on the viewer's side.

An illustration of the vital part that lighting plays is provided by an ambulance window at night. With darkness outside and an electric light switched on inside, the normal direction of one-way vision is completely reversed.

Two vehicles of this type have joined the Spon Lane fleet.





# THE END OF THE FIRST SAFETY COMPETITION

AND THE BEGINNING OF

## \* THE SECOND \*

WINNING GROUP COMPRISES  
BUILDING, CARPENTERS, BOILERS, STORES  
AND VEHICLE REPAIRS

EVERY reader, irrespective of his department, will be glad to congratulate the winning group on the excellent achievement of reducing the number of their accidents from twelve in the year ended 30th September, 1956, to four in the year ended 30th September, 1957. In the more complicated terms of the competition this meant a reduction in frequency rate from 3.95 to 1.18 which was a seventy per cent improvement.

The complete final "league table" was as follows:—

Group of Departments	Year ended 30.9.56			Year ended 30.9.57			Final Position
	Hours Worked	Lost Time Accs.	Freq. Rate	Hours Worked	Lost Time Accs.	Freq. Rate	
Building, Carpenters, Boilers, Stores and Vehicle Repairs ...	304,020	12	3.95	339,309	4	1.18	First
Pot and Clay, Mixing, Security, Cleaners, Traffic, Transport, Laboratory ...	370,673	3	0.81	401,643	2	0.49	Second
Coloured, Seven Storey, Fiesta ...	375,103	6	1.60	407,084	4	0.98	Third
Electricians, Fitting, Machine, Moulds and Boiler shops...	456,030	8	1.75	477,598	6	1.26	Fourth
Smethwick Optical and Malvern ...	378,776	3	0.79	298,629	2	0.66	Fifth
Pressed Process and Cathodes ...	311,227	3	0.96	441,964	5	1.13	Sixth
Rolled Plate, Smethwick ...	422,362	7	1.66	434,262	9	2.07	Seventh
Vello, Pressed Making Teazers and Inspection (B. & P.)	466,468	1	0.21	397,988	3	0.75	Eighth

Taken all together the Company's lost time accidents were reduced from forty-three in year ended 30th September, 1956, to thirty-five in year ended 30th September, 1957 — eight fewer accidents bringing the frequency rate down from 1.39 to 1.09, a reduction of twenty-two per cent. This is a very happy trend.

Everyone is aware that the Directors have given the competition full backing and awarded a prize of £50 to the winning group. You will be pleased to hear that the group has decided to spend the money on Christmas gifts for the old folk who have retired from the winning departments.

In addition to congratulating the winners, we must not forget the other groups who through diligence, care and forethought reduced their previous rates.

We must also commiserate with the group that came eighth—they started off the year having to compete with their own previous record of one lost time accident only in the whole year which meant a frequency rate of 0.21. It was obvious from the outset that they would have to put in a tremendous effort to try even to maintain their record never mind improve it. It says much for their patience and general "esprit de corps" that they have seen their names at the bottom of the list month after month whilst knowing at the same time that their actual

accident frequency was still among the lowest in the Company.

Whilst it cannot be claimed with any certainty that the general reduction in accident frequency resulted from the competition, it can be said to have had an indirect bearing on the rate. In view of this, the Board has decided to hold the competition for a second year with additional prizes as follows:—

1. £50 prize as in the first competition.
2. £10 for any other group which reduces its frequency rate at all.
3. £10 for any group whose rate goes up but nevertheless remains below 0.5.

The additional £10 prizes will mean that some recognition will be made of the work of departments who decrease their rates but who miss the £50 and also groups who achieve a rate below 0.5 will have some incentive in the competition to keep it there.

Whilst the competition is a good focus for attention on safety, readers will agree that the winning of prizes is of secondary value compared with the satisfaction gained from knowing that various individual people have been saved from pain and suffering and that the Company by the same action has been made more efficient.

MAKE 1958 A  
SAFETY YEAR

# RECREATION CLUB NEWS

## Albert Wood becomes Treasurer

Following the resignation of Mr. J. C. Richards from the office of Treasurer to the Recreation Club, an election resulted in the appointment of Mr. Albert Wood.



Our new treasurer

From many angles it is appropriate that the Company's cashier should be Treasurer to the Club. He already holds a similar post in the Provident Society and the Personal Holiday Saving Fund.

## A tote raises club funds

Herbert Mills has organised a tote to raise funds for the club. Participation is, of course, confined to club members and the stakes are units of 6d. Tickets are sold from the pavilion and the draw is made on Sunday evenings. From a small beginning the effort is now producing £5 a week to club funds and the weekly prizes average £15.

## Four table tennis teams

Since the table tennis section acquired a new table, interest in this game has increased considerably and the club now has four teams participating in leagues. Two teams play in the Smethwick league (which we won last year), one team is in the Oldbury league and the other in the Business Houses and Works league. Games are played in the pavilion on Wednesdays and Thursdays and the section's secretary is Bernard Cumberlandidge (Laboratory).

## Footballers make a good start

Both football teams got away to a good start to the season and secretary Ron Steventon reports that the First XI got through the first round of the West Bromwich F.C. shield and the second team won the first round of the Lench Bowl competition.

It is planned to organise an inter-departmental knock-out competition early in the New Year.

## Anglers participate in two competitions

The annual angling contest was fished at Claines on 8th September, in the Salwarpe. Conditions were perfect and although good catches were expected, the result was disappointing, although everyone caught fish.

The first three were:—

E. Yardley	3 lbs.
K. Hunt	2 lbs. 2 oz.
L. Richards	1 lb. 13 oz.

On 13th October, the section fished the second bye-contest at Uckinghall Meadows, and the river, after the floods had subsided, was in very good condition and some excellent fishing resulted. Roach, bream, chub, gudgeon were taken and the first four returned an aggregate weight of well over the 20 lbs. mark.

The best results were:—

1st J. Bodley	5 lbs. 13 oz.
2nd E. Richards	5 lbs. 12 oz.
3rd E. Yardley	5 lbs. 10 oz.

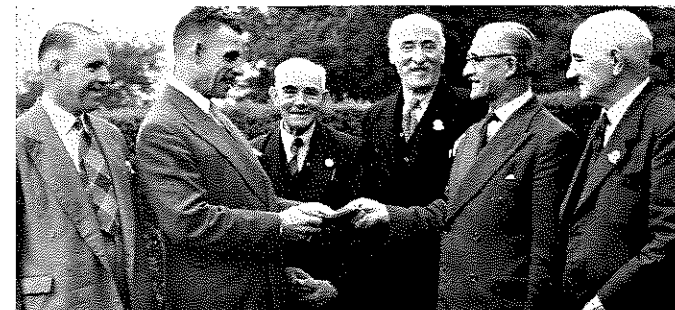
The section is open for new members and applications for membership should be made to either R. Palmer of the drawing office, or H. L. Newey of the general offices.

## Cricket 1957

We again had one team in the premier division of the Midland Works' and Business Houses' league and one team in the top reserve division. Both teams found the opposition reasonable and both finished in the top halves of their respective divisions.

In regard to individual playing performances, the outstanding one of the year is John Allen bowling in the Reserve XI. To take 45 wickets in 119 overs for an average of 5.11 runs is a really extraordinary feat. It is unfortunate that the league this year stopped awarding individual prizes—John would have won the bowling prize for Reserve Division A.

# BOUQUETS...



For the past six years, Steve Morrall of Blown and Pressed has organised an annual fishing contest at West Smethwick Park in aid of the Park's Sons of Rest. This year the proceeds of the event was £40 and the total raised so far from the contests is about £200. As a mark of their appreciation of Steve's efforts on their behalf, the Sons presented him with "Mary," a budgerigar in a cage which has been a pet at the Sons of Rest home for some years.

The photograph shows Steve, second from left, presenting the cash to Councillor L. N. Morrison-Wells and some of the Sons and this was taken by Frank Spiers of West Bromwich for the Smethwick Telephone.

Bill Jesson of Rolled Plate Making attended a truck driver's course at the Birmingham Safety Training Centre recently. He was awarded a prize of a Ronson lighter for proving himself to be the best driver on the course.

The results of the recent Suggestions Scheme competition have yet to be declared but at this stage a bouquet may be presented to Bert Bagnall of Internal Transport for having put in 22 suggestions during the competition period.

The Suggestions Scheme committee doesn't mind in what form suggestions are submitted so long as an idea is put to paper. It does, however, help if ideas are set out clearly and last month Robert Tandy, an apprentice in the Maintenance and Construction department, earned the praise of the committee by the manner in which he put forward an idea concerning the sand blasting machine in the Seven Storey. His case was most clearly stated together with an excellent sketch.

Bouquets are presented to all employees who have co-operated with the Canteen Committee by removing their overalls before going into the canteen at lunch time. This can be a bit of a nuisance but the re-decorated room is most attractive and it would be a pity if there was early deterioration of the furniture and fabric caused by oil and grease stains.

The group of departments comprising, Pot and Clay, Mixing, Security, Traffic, and Transport, finished second in the Safety Competition but they are to be congratulated on having a lower accident frequency rate than any other group. They just failed to beat their figure for the previous year.

# OIL IN TROUBLED ★ WATERS ★

RECENT troubles in the Middle East have driven home the importance to the British people of this vital oil-rich and intrigue-riddled area.

As a geographical expression the term "Middle East" is nearly as imprecise as the old "Levant," which it has supplanted. Levant in its strict sense meant the east wind; in popular usage it described the eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

Today the Middle East embraces those lands largely Arab and predominantly Mohammedan, which link together the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. This is the area which has been the cross roads of the world since history began. The conquerors recorded in the Old Testament that Herodotus passed across this territory, as did the Romans and the Crusaders. Men and goods have been transported across these lands by all sorts of conveyances, ranging from the pack camel caravan to the latest forms of jet aircraft.

In modern times the Middle East has acquired added importance. It still bestrides the world's lines of communication, and rather more important, the inhospitable deserts which form such a large part of the region cover two-thirds of the world's known supplies of oil.

Superficially these lands differ considerably. In size they range from Saudi Arabia, which is almost as large as Western Europe, to Kuwait, a tiny state on the Persian Gulf which covers an area similar to one of Britain's smaller counties. They also vary in population, tradition, and resources.

They are, on the other hand, impressively similar in that their populations are largely illiterate, have overwhelming national pride, a fierce dedication to dynastic blood feuds, political instability, and a tolerance of "Government by coup d'etat." It is not surprising that in this setting damagagues, against whom there is no weapon of opposition except conspiracy and force, find it comparatively easy to achieve power.

The nation which aspires to the leadership of this powder barrel is the Egypt of Gamal Abdul Nasser. There are many who believe that he is unduly optimistic in his ambitions; they point out that Egypt is one of the Middle Eastern countries which has not oil. Economically too the country is in a bad way. It has no middle class to act as a cushion between the poverty stricken masses and the well-to-do, and eight out of ten of its people are illiterate.

Egypt's chief rival for leadership in the Middle East is Iraq, formerly Mesopotamia, and the legendary site of the Garden of Eden. One of her most potent economic advantages is an income of about seventy million pounds a year derived from oil.

The Lebanon is a country which although it possesses no oil does pretty well out of pipeline dues. As the most energetic commercial power in the area, it contains many wealthy merchants and some near millionaires. Another country in much the same position is Syria, which benefits from the profitable pipelines passing over her territory.

In one other respect Syria is almost unique. It is the nearest approach to a

Soviet satellite outside the Iron Curtain. It is one of the Middle Eastern countries which has an open and flourishing Communist party; its Prime Minister, Sabry Assaly, is regarded as almost impotent compared to Colonel Abdul Sarraj, head of the secret police.

From a European standard the most modern country in this area is Turkey. The firmness of her Government has been one of the few stabilising features of the Middle Eastern scene in recent years. After the first World War Turkey, under the leadership of Mustapha Kemal, vacated the majority of its European territories, and established a new capital, Ankara, on the desolate Anatolian plain.

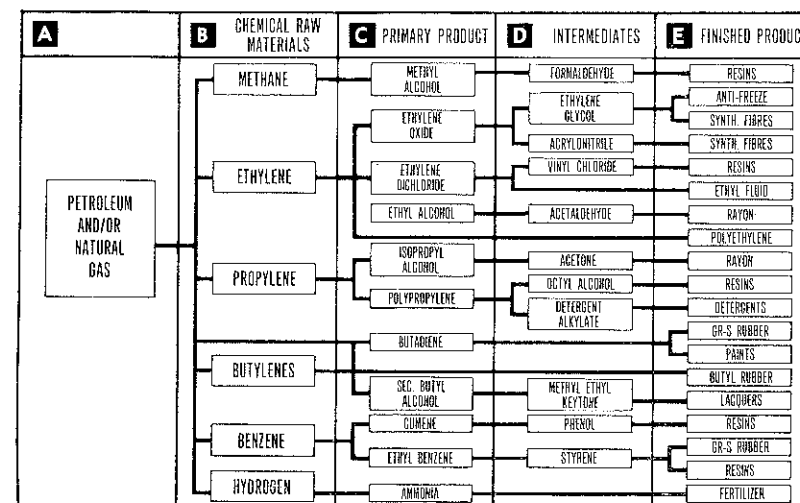
Kemal and his successors were stern realists, and they built a modern Turkey on the basis of the national characteristics of its people. With little oil, but

expanding consumer industries, this country remains loyal to the N.A.T.O. alliance, and has resisted any attempt to encroach upon her national sovereignty.

The eventual outcome of the struggle for power in this troubled region cannot be predicted. It is safe to say that plot and counter plot have been part and parcel of life in this turbulent part of the world since the beginning of man. There is no reason to suppose that the tremendous and difficult problems now inherent in Middle Eastern politics will be solved in the foreseeable future. The struggle for power will go on.

Meantime it would be folly for us to minimise Britain's interest in the natural resources of the Middle East being fully developed. This is another way of saying that we should do everything possible to help these countries

## WHAT WE GET OUT OF OIL



ESSO CHART

continued from page 19

towards political stability which is essential to organized progress. Constant upheavals and uncertainties can only react adversely both on the Arab people and the standard of living of Western European countries.

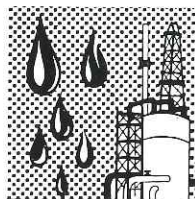
Without adequate supplies of oil large scale unemployment would inevitably come to Great Britain; it would be accompanied by a substantial reduction in living conditions.

Modern industry requires more and more power. For instance, the United States, with a population of about 170 millions, is using roughly half the world's energy derived from fuels.

Asia, with a population something like nine times that of the United States, is using barely one per cent. The wide difference in the standard of living enjoyed by the American and Asian peoples tells its own story.

In our own country the importance of oil has increased by leaps and bounds during the last fifty years. At the turn of the century the main market for the oil industry was the provision of lamp oil for cottage homes. To-day it has by-products numbering considerably more than a thousand. Everyone knows that we use oil fuel for power stations, industrial machinery, motor cars and tractors. We are also aware that it

lubricates everything with moveable parts, from the engines of large ocean going liners to the delicate works of a wrist watch.



It is not however, universally appreciated that about one-third of all organic chemicals produced in Britain are derived from oil, and that it also goes into the making of roads, tyres, clothes, plastics, medicines, fertilizers, paint, carbon brushes, and electrodes, boots and shoes and a host of other commodities which form part of our normal daily lives.

Let there be no mistake about this. Events in the Middle East are important to every man, woman and child in Britain. Fortunately there is an identity of interest between ourselves and the Middle Eastern peoples. Oil which is left under the desert has no economic value, and cannot be a source of revenue. It must be produced and marketed.

The Arab countries all need the money which can be derived from the sale or transport of oil. There are today three large oil consuming groups—America, Russia and her satellites, and Western Europe. America and Russia are themselves large producers of oil. It is to the Western European countries that the Middle East must look for a permanent and prosperous market.

### **PREVENT ACCIDENTS**

**IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING WHICH YOU CONSIDER  
MIGHT LEAD TO AN ACCIDENT FILL UP A HAZARD  
SLIP WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR  
FOREMAN'S OFFICE.**

# **GLASS QUEEN AND THE GALA BALL**

THE departmental Beauty Stakes photographs which appeared in recent issues proved what many of us have always known, namely that there are pretty girls galore employed by Chance Brothers and competitors in the holiday resorts beauty contests have nothing on the "Miss C.B.'s."

At least two works in the Pilkington Group hold an annual contest to elect Beauty Queens and the last time we at Chance Brothers held such an event was in 1951. Well, young ladies at Spon Lane, Glasgow and Malvern, you will have an opportunity, in January, to participate in an exciting event.

At the Gala Ball our lady employees will be invited to wear a small disc near the hem of their frocks. Each disc will be numbered and the plan is that several judges who will be unknown to everybody except the dance committee, will select a Glass Queen. There will be no set parade and the judges will make their decision on competitors' appear-

ance, pose and general attractiveness throughout the evening.

So simple isn't it? No embarrassing strutting in front of an audience. The winner will be formally crowned with a glass crown and there will be very attractive prizes.

It is probable that each works in the Pilkington Group will organise a similar competition during 1958 and the possibility of holding a grand final contest at Blackpool is under discussion.

Further particulars of the Chance Glass Queen contest will be given in the publicity for the Gala Ball.

This year this popular annual event will be on a new date and in a different setting. The date is Friday, 24th January, from 8.0 p.m. to 1.0 a.m., and the place is Tube Investments Social Club, Oldbury. Brian Pearsall and his orchestra have been booked and the price of tickets will again be 5s. 0d.

**RESERVE THIS DATE**

**Friday, 24th January, 1958**

**ANNUAL GALA BALL**

**at Tube Investments Ballroom**

**8 p.m. to 1 a.m.**

**Brian Pearsall's Band**

**Tickets 5/-**