

BUY IT FROM THE CANTEEN

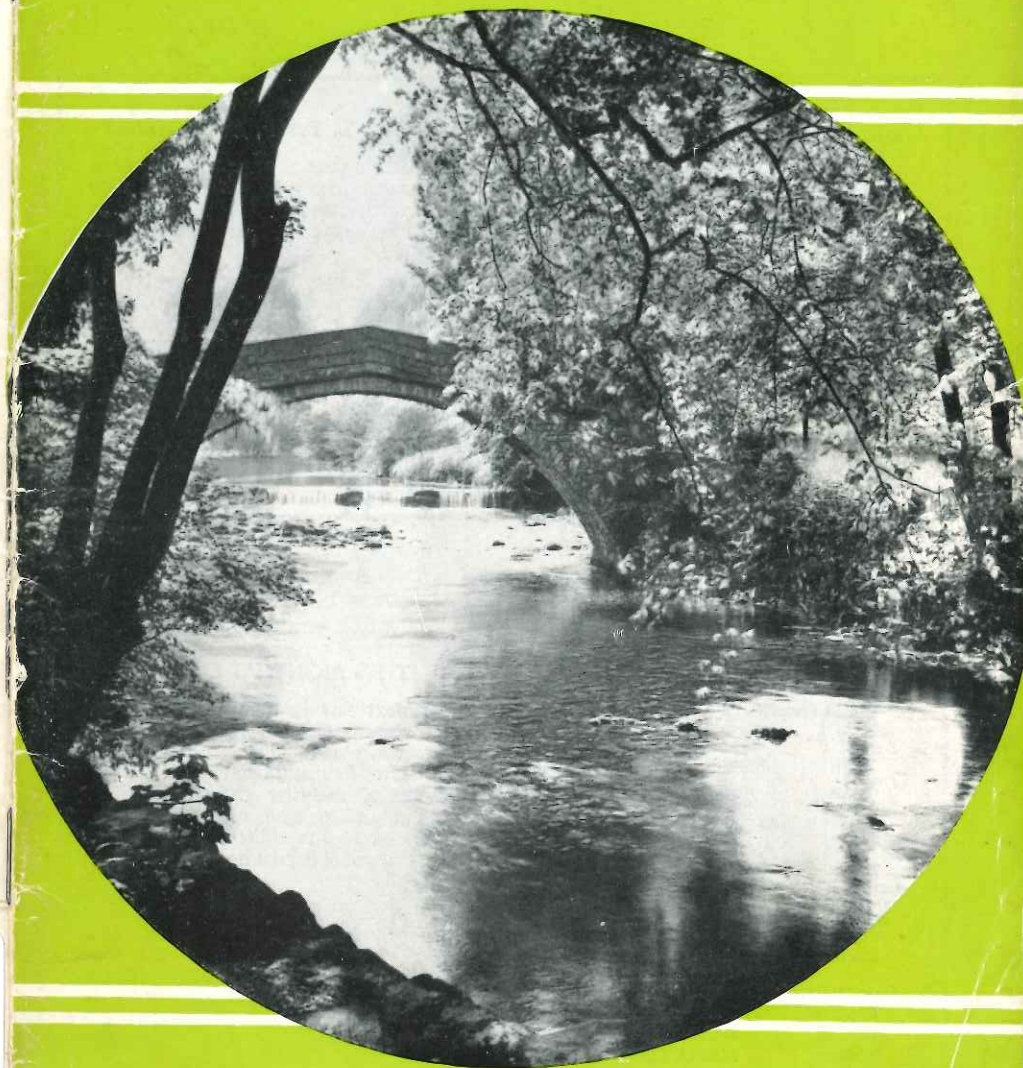
AS well as selling meals at reasonable prices, the canteens have an attractive range of chocolates, cakes, sandwiches and cigarettes. Why not buy YOUR needs from us?

If you bring a sandwich lunch to work you can of course eat it in the dining room without any obligation to buy. The newly decorated and re-furnished dining rooms are far more attractive and healthy than a corner in a workshop or office

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Chance COMMENTS



APRIL — MAY 1958

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Chance

COMMENTS

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

EDITOR A. OGDEN

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Malvern	MISS D. CLARE

Major W. L. Foster, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Whilst we were at press with this issue of *Chance Comments* we learned with profound sorrow, of the death of Major W. L. Foster on 22nd March at the age of 83.

Major Foster was a Director of Chance Brothers from 1909 to 1950 and for a period of 31 years up to the end of 1940, he was a Managing Director.

He was much respected as a leader, businessman, soldier, and sportsman and there are many at Spon Lane who remember him with gratitude. We mourn the passing of a beloved gentleman.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

For the next few issues we shall reproduce photographs of beautiful parts of the country. Readers are invited to identify the location, and a prize of five shillings will be awarded to the sender of the first correct identification opened in the editor's office. Envelopes should be addressed to the Editor, "Chance Comments," Personnel department.

VOL. II, No. I

APRIL—MAY, 1958



(Reproduced from Pottery Gazette)
Two Nailsea-type jugs from Sir Hugh's collection. They are in pale green glass decorated with opal.

THE NAILSEA GLASS WORKS

by Sir Hugh Chance

A LITTLE green leather-covered notebook, its fifty odd pages filled with memoranda written in neat and clearly legible handwriting, gives a comprehensive picture of the Nailsea (Somerset) glass and alkali works in the years 1836/37. The author was Charles Thornton Coathupe—a partner in the firm, and a son of William Coathupe, one of the original partners. The first twenty-three pages deal with the chemicals side of the business, and the title page is headed "Nailsea Alkali Works 1836," under which appears "£3,500" and "Toph-aceus." The significance of the two latter entries is not self-evident.

Glasshouse memoranda account for the remainder of the contents, and an index at the end sets them out in detail.

Coathupe must have been something of a chemist, as he records such items as atomic equivalents, specific gravities, and a variety of chemical data. Mention is made of a vitriol (sulphuric acid) chamber and a saltcake furnace; details of costs of manufacture are given. In the memoranda there are sections on glass mixtures, raw materials, furnaces, crates, founding, waste in manufacture, wages, consumption of materials and costs of production. It is possible to

study in considerable detail the technical and financial aspects of the operation of the factory.

Lucas—Chance—Homer

John Robert Lucas, whose family came from Worcestershire, and whose father was a cooper and glass bottle manufacturer, had interests in glass bottle works before he decided to start a crown-glass factory. In 1788, with two other partners, he established the Nailsea glass works in the village of Nailsea, some eight miles from Bristol. Local coal mines, limestone and sand

were no doubt essential reasons for locating the factory in the country in spite of the disadvantages of lack of transport facilities other than the high road to Bristol.

In 1793 Lucas's brothers-in-law, William Chance and Edward Homer — hardware merchants of Birmingham—replaced one of the original partners and provided a substantial amount of additional capital. Their firm acted as agents for the glass works in South Wales, where they had an extensive trade connection. William Chance's eldest son, Robert Lucas Chance, managed the works for a few years, before departing to London to establish himself as a glass merchant. He took some of his supplies of crown glass from Nailsea—and the Chance family connection ended in 1821, when William Chance's second son, William, sold his shares in the Nailsea partnership to William Coathupe.

Crown-Glass Method

Until 1832, when Robert Lucas Chance introduced into England the sheet-glass method of manufacture at the Spon Lane glass works, the bulk of window glass was produced by the crown-glass process. This consisted of blowing a "gathering" of glass into a large sphere, to the surface of which, opposite the blow-pipe, was attached an iron rod called a "pontil" or "punty." The blow-pipe was then cracked off and the "bull" reheated in a blowing hole. Rapid rotation of the pontil caused the



No. 1 Furnace pot arch. (This and the following picture are from photographs taken by Sir Hugh around 1930).

"bull" to open out into a slightly concave disc called a "table," about 50 ins. in diameter. After separation from the pontil, the "table" was placed in a kiln for annealing, and was subsequently cut into small panes of window glass—the "bullion" or point where the pontil had been attached being more or less a waste product. A table weighed about 9 lb., and when cut produced some 11 sq. ft. of quarries and a few small squares.

The factory was located on the Bristol side of the village of Nailsea, and covered a long narrow site adjoining the "Royal Oak" public house, with an office building facing the main road. No doubt the lay-out was not dissimilar from that shown on a plan of sale when the works was put up for auction in 1905, after it had been acquired by Chance Brothers; it had been closed down in 1873 owing to failure of the local coal-mines.

Materials

In 1836 there were two coal-fired furnaces both holding 6 pots each containing about 25 cwt. of glass. The furnaces must have been close together, as only two founders crews were employed. Alkali for use in the batch was manufactured in a separate section of the works, and the batch was calcined in a furnace called a "calcar" before being mixed with cullet preparatory to filling-on.

Of the other raw materials in use, sand came either from the Isle of

Wight (it cost 28s. per ton delivered wet) or from Easton, which was presumably a local source, as the delivered cost is given as only 16s. 6d. or 18s. "dried and fit for use." Quicklime cost 3d. per bushel, and was used as hydrate (it cost 4½d. per cwt., so this too was presumably from a local source), but dried chalk is also mentioned as a source of calcium. Other raw materials were charcoal (to reduce the alkali); manganese (for decoloration) at 9s. 11d. per cwt., and arsenic (for fining) at 34s. per cwt. Coal came from local pits—brush coal costing 2s. 8d. per quarter of 8 bushels, and small coal 1s. 4d. per quarter.

Four double journeys were usually worked per week, i.e. 48 pots, but on occasions it was possible to exceed this number. Six weeks per furnace was allowed annually for furnace building or repair.

Some 1,200 tables—averaging each about 11½ sq. ft. of saleable glass per table—were produced in a double journey and 12 tables packed in a crate gave about 140 sq. ft. per crate. Coathupe gives the annual output as totalling 10,400 crates, or say just under 1½ million square feet per year. The crates were carted to Bristol in special wagons called "dillies," and no doubt distributed from the firm's warehouse in Nicholas Street either by sea, road or canal.



The pictures on the right were taken nearly 50 years ago i.e. some 30 years after the factory had ceased to operate, and show some of the principal buildings already in a ruinous condition.

Personnel

About 120 people were employed at the works and in the warehouse at Bristol; the weekly wage bill and allowances (chiefly house-coal) varied between £138 and £158 per week. There were two managers employed at £200 per annum each, a clerk at £100 plus coal and house reckoned at £20 per annum. In charge of the 50 or so glass makers were a senior and two junior foremen—Edward Phillips, John Brooks and Thomas Smart. Nine men constituted the founders crew, and a similar number was responsible for metal mixing. Others employed were cutters and packers (12), hauliers and dillymen (5), cratemakers (4) pot-makers and clay dept. (3), alkali works (3), glass packers (4), smiths (4), carpenters (2), masons (4), and yardmen (7); £1 7s. 6d. per week is recorded as payable to pensioners (it will be noted that the works had been established nearly 50 years earlier).

In addition to their wages, brush coal was supplied free to the foremen

Continued overleaf

The siege (floor) of No. 2 Furnace—note the siege blocks.



NAILSEA GLASS WORKS—continued from overleaf

and skilled workmen; the senior grades receiving 8, the middle grades 6 and the lower grades 5 loads per annum. Among those receiving coal were Richard and Thomas Sims, William and Samuel Baldwin and Edward Thomson. Some of the workmen lived in cottages belonging to the firm, which adjoined the works.

Cost and Capital

The annual cost of wages and salaries in running the works and warehouse is given as £8,886 16s. 0d. or about £170 per week. Raw materials were estimated at £2,188, and coal seems to have cost about £3,000 per annum, so it would appear that the main items of expenditure added up to about £14,000 yearly. On a basis of a saleable production of 1,150,000 sq. ft. this represents a cost of 2s. 4d. per foot. No indication is given of the value of sales or of the annual turnover, but in 1844 the partnership capital was given as £44,000. Coathupe's responsibility was limited to the management of the works, while another Coathupe was in charge of sales in Bristol.

There is no indication that at the time the notebook was completed any other form of glass other than crown window glass was manufactured. It has been stated (by H. St. George Gray, articles in "Connoisseur") that in the early years of the firm's existence, at a time when trade was bad, and Excise Duties were a serious economic burden, certain primitive articles of a domestic nature were produced, some of which were crudely decorated with opal speckling or threading. The type of batch used for crown glass, in which alkali was introduced in the form of sodium sulphate, could not have produced a colourless glass, and so it seems unlikely that fancy articles—often assigned to Nailsea—such as bells, pipes, walking sticks and the like—could have been manufactured there.

Connection with Bristol

The opal used for decoration of the greenish domestic glass could well have come from one of the Bristol works which specialised in opal domestic

ware, and could have been brought to the Nailsea factory by its glassmakers in the form of rod or cullet. John Robert Lucas, the founder of the factory, had a financial interest in bottle works in Bristol and at Wick, some miles to the east of the City. The opal speckled dark green bottles and other vessels—often classified as of Nailsea origin—could have passed through the firm's warehouse in Nicholas Street, Bristol, and been invoiced under the firm's name "Nailsea Glass Works"—although in fact they were never manufactured at Nailsea. As a means of using up the surplus metal in the bottom of the pots it was customary for window glass factories to make such articles as rolling pins, inkpots, shades and the like, but these would have had the typical greenish colour of the crown glass. In their spare time glassmakers were accustomed to make "friggers," and the Nailsea men must have produced such articles, though they would all be recognisable by the greenish coloured metal.

At the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century there were several flint glasshouses in the City of Bristol, and opal, blue, green and ruby glass were regularly manufactured. But there is no reliable evidence to show that any flint or coloured domestic glass was ever manufactured at Nailsea. The fact that many items in the Challinor collection—now housed at the Castle Museum at Taunton, and stated to have been made at Nailsea—were found in houses in and around the village is no conclusive evidence that they were actually made in the Nailsea factory. Glassmakers are a clannish lot, and moved from one factory to another. It would be natural to find Bristol-made "friggers" in a village in which glass—albeit crown glass—was the staple product, and which was only a few miles distant from the City.

Collectors are accustomed to associate the Nailsea factory with the manufacture of opal, blue and ruby "friggers," but from the date of its foundation until it closed down in the 1870's, the Nailsea factory made only window glass, making crown glass in the early years of its existence, and later sheet and rolled window glass.

MY HOBBY IS

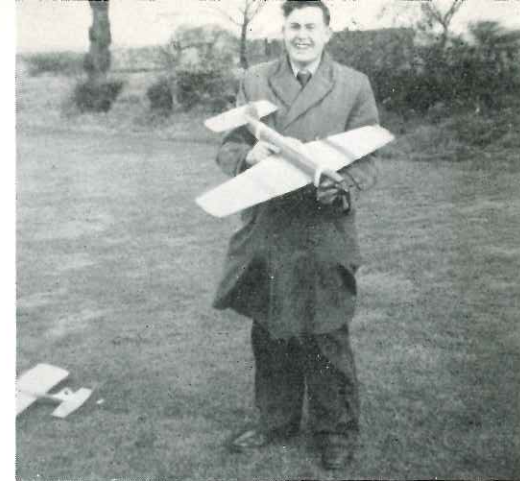
by RON LAUNCHBURY,

Cost Office

AEROMODELLING kids' stuff? Not on your life. There are aeromodelling clubs in all parts of the world and their activities appeal to people of all ages. I belong to the Blackheath club which in addition to organising week-end flights, holds a weekly club night at which we work on building models and hold lectures and discussions on every aspect of flight. As well as being tremendously creative and interesting, the hobby is a healthy one in that members of the clubs get out into the open country at week ends to fly their machines, and recovery of one's model entails quite a lot of running about. If a plane is caught in a thermol it can remain in flight for three or four miles—many of us at some time or other lose a model.

In addition to club meetings, we participate in inter-club competitions and flight demonstrations are a popular attraction at garden fetes.

To make a start on aeromodelling one thing is essential as in all hobbies, namely keenness. The task of building a model aeroplane is not at all difficult, as whilst the structure may at first glance appear to be complicated the material is mainly Balsa-wood which is very easy to work with, and full size working plans are readily available at



hobby shops and through the monthly journal *Aero Modeller*.

There are five main types of model aircraft. There are those which are driven by a small diesel or glow plug engine and are known as power models. Some are attached to twin wires and fly in circles around the operator and these are called control-line models. Others zoom into the sky on their own and are named free-flight models and these, if operated by an expert, can be most attractive and thrilling to watch.

There is also the rubber model—not that it is built of rubber but that the prop is turned by the twisting of a rubber motor. This particular type is very fragile and is slow in flight and does not climb well. Nor does it make a noise, and we modellers just love to hear the sound of a machine. Lastly, there are the gliders. These have no power of any kind. They stay in the air by two factors—weight in the nose of the model and the force of gravity. They are so built that as these two factors tend to bring the models down, the shape makes them go forward and, in certain circumstances, upwards. Gliders are, of course, silent and they move very slowly but are most attractive to observe.

At the present time I am building a control model which will have a thirty-six inch wing span and will be powered by a two and a half c.c. diesel engine. Yes—aeromodelling is great fun and I can recommend it as an all absorbing hobby.

Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

OUR ELEVENTH YEAR

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

Because it is a house magazine, *Chance Comments* must represent faithfully the interests of the Company and of the employees; in the last analysis, these interests are the same.

The Company is anxious that the magazine should continue to form a means of communicating with employees, letting them know Company aims, policies, trends and standards.

The employees want *Chance Comments* to reflect their activities in and outside the Company and to give them any information touching on their position as members of the Chance family.

All information falling into either of these categories which means really anything of general interest within the Company must find its place in *Chance Comments*. It is impossible for one individual to circulate sufficiently in a large field to keep himself informed of all that is going on and this is where the departmental correspondents come in. Several correspondents have held office since the very first issue and appreciation is expressed for their services. In recent weeks some new correspondents have been appointed and the editor welcomes them. The full list appears on the inside of the front cover.

PROVIDENT SOCIETY INCREASES BENEFITS

For the second time within twelve months, the Smethwick Glassworks Provident Society has been able to increase the benefits paid to members.

The weekly amount for sick benefit is now 10s. 0d., up to a maximum of twelve weeks in any year. When a member attends a convalescent home, the Society will bear the cost of the fees and railway fare and will make a personal grant of £1 plus 10s. 0d., a week sick benefit. Death benefit remains at £10.

In the year 1957, this Society paid out £549 in sick benefits, £50 for death benefit and £155 for convalescence—a total of £754. Members subscribed £961.

At the annual general meeting held in February, the following were elected as the committee for 1958:—

Dr. W. M. Hampton (Chairman)

Mr. A. Wood (Treasurer)

Mr. A. Ogden (Secretary)

Mr. E. Bullen (Crate Yard); **Mrs. Bloomer** (Optical); **Mr. H. Care** (M. & C.); **Mr. R. Cammies** (Blown and Pressed); **Mr. W. Durham** (Optical); **Mr. W. Glover** (Blown and Pressed); **Mr. J. Hill** (M. & C.); **Mr. L. G. Hinton** (Company Secretary); **Mr. R. Ingram** (Security); **Sister M. Jones** (Medical); **Mr. J. Kokke** (Malvern); **Mr. E. Mann** (Rolled Plate); **Miss J. Nicklin** (Personnel); **Mr. J. Randle** (Traffic); **Mr. W. Short** (Mixing); **Mr. R. Turley** (M. & C.).

A LETTER FROM ST. ASAPH

"On behalf of all at St. Asaph, I would like to thank you for the kind wishes expressed in the article on the St. Asaph plant in *Chance Comments*."

You may be interested to know that all the Smethwick contingent are settling down very well: Abe Edwards hopes to be in his new house later this month and has also become the Darts King of St. Asaph. Ken Kettle is putting on more weight. His wife, who used to be with Peter Merchant's at Chance Brothers, is now in our Sales office and seems to like it. Ernest Andrew is finding life very hectic. Fred Rollason and his wife are living at Rhyl, and they and their family seem to be thriving on the sea air. The Sales contingent consisting of Alan Naylor, Francis Sass, David Holland and John Gordon are all settling down very well in their new houses in the area, and seem to be doing well on the hard work which the move has entailed.

Unfortunately, Bill King is in the local sanatorium and it seems likely that he may have to stay there for some time yet. He is, however, very cheerful and was very happy to receive greetings and news from personnel at Spon Lane.

S.T.P."

BOUQUETS

Doug. Curry of the Blown and Pressed division was a player in the Warwickshire Rugby Union team which won the inter-county competition for the first time since 1939.

* * *

William Clements of the Seven Storey was appointed to referee the Football Association Amateur Cup Final at Wembley played in April.

* * *

For the fifth successive year, Mr. W. A. Standley has been appointed Chairman of the Birmingham area of the Traders Road Transport Association.

EMPLOYEES' CHARITY FUND

The organisation of the Smethwick Employees' Charity Fund was determined at a meeting of the subscribers held on the 26th March, when the rules of the fund were decided upon. Any subscriber may obtain a copy of the approv-

ed rules on request to the Personnel department.

The following were elected as the committee:—

W. Bick	Miss J. Nicklin
H. Care	A. Ogden (Secretary)
H. F. Cosnett	W. A. Standley
L. G. Hinton (Chairman)	L. Steel
D. R. Kirkwood	A. G. R. Talbot
W. King	A. Wood (Treasurer)

Some sixty per cent of the Smethwick employees have volunteered to have one penny a week deducted from their wages and salaries, and as a result the sum of £200 a year will become available for distribution for charitable purposes. The organising committee hopes very much that the time will not be too distant when it can be announced that every employee has joined the scheme. If you are not a member, please be generous and ask the Personnel department for an enrolment form.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

So far 110 employees at the Smethwick works have signed enrolment forms for blood transfusion services.

We aim to obtain a register of not less than two hundred donors. If you have not yet signed a form, please consider the urgency. The scheme is that the unit will visit the works on three occasions a year, and appointments will be made for volunteers to donate their blood during normal working hours.

BUY IT FROM THE CANTEEN

The canteens are a welfare service provided voluntarily by the Company to supply wholesome meals, snacks and beverages at very reasonable prices. This service is made possible by grants of money made to the canteen towards the cost of service, equipment and fuel and light.

During recent months the main dining rooms have been re-decorated and re-furnished and the Canteen committee

(continued on page 10)



★ ★ *Chance* ★ ★

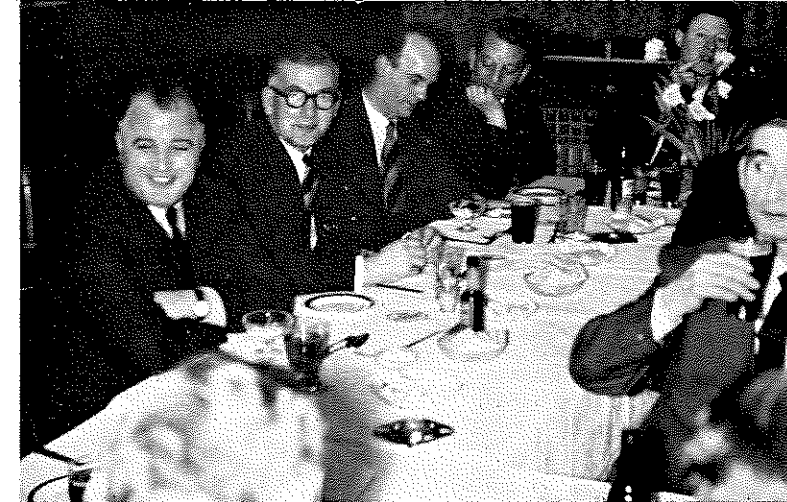
PARTY TIME SNAPSHOTS

The four photographs on the left are of table groups at the Blown and Pressed Division annual dinner held at the Sandwell Hotel. On right: three snapshots taken at the Pressed Mould Shop Mutual Aid Society dinner at the Spon Croft Hotel.



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From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

The Blown and Pressed division held their annual dinner in February at the Sandwell Hotel, West Bromwich. The one hundred and twenty persons who attended unhesitatingly declared it the best ever. The guests included Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Barrett, Mr. J. Jordan, Mr. A. Wood and Mr. A. Ogden. After an excellent dinner and a first class concert, Dr. Hampton presented long service awards to Joe Beard and Ted Ward.

Soon after receiving his award, Joe Beard was away for a time due to sickness but we are glad to see him back again.

In recent weeks, Arthur Sutton, George Worley and Charles Burford have received cash awards to mark the completion of twenty-five years service with the Company.

Jottings—continued from page 7

reminds all employees that they may use these canteens at mid-day without any obligation to buy. Those who bring a packed lunch to the works or office may eat in the dining rooms, and surely this is more attractive and healthy than eating in a workshop or office.

It is perhaps not generally known that snacks of all kinds, for example, sandwiches, cakes, toast and even fish and chips can be purchased for consumption outside the canteens and an attractive stock of chocolates and cigarettes is maintained.

The overheads are considerable and it would help if all our employees bought their needs from a canteen.

Bill Walters has retired from the Cathode section and Stan Nickless has left us to take a position elsewhere.

The division congratulates Emlyn Jones and his wife on the birth of a daughter. Ann Stevens of the Cartons section was married on 29th March, and Hazel Horton, Process department, was married on 22nd March. We wish them every happiness. Incidentally, Hazel's father and mother are with the Company.

Ruth Yates celebrated her Pearl wedding in April and we congratulate her.

Burchell Cooper from the Vello section has commenced his National Service and we understand that he has decided to sign on for the regular army.

Dick Forsyth has been in hospital for some time and we are glad to learn that he is making some recovery.

Those who are away ill are James Haynes and John Knight of the Process section. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Flat Glass

A party from the Rolled Plate Warehouse, Making and Fiesta departments held one of their outings to Stourport on the 11th March, and, as usual, the party was a great success.

We congratulate Joe Richards on having attained forty-five years service, and Bernard Hill on completing twenty-five years service.

Albert Burling, who met with an unfortunate accident in the Warehouse,

is having a very bad time and is in the Birmingham Accident Hospital. We understand that his injury will keep him off work for at least two months, and our best wishes are extended to him.

Joseph Woolley, Joseph Gilbert and Charles Gibbs have retired. Each is over seventy years of age, and Charles Gibbs had had fifty-nine years continuous service.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of John Ricketts on 15th February, at the age of fifty-seven. Jack had been employed here for twenty-nine years. Deep sympathy is expressed to his family.



A belated picture of the recent wedding of Lascelles Whittle (Blown and Pressed) to Doris Fletcher.

Glasgow

The Glasgow works recreation club organised three very successful supper and theatre nights during February and March, and one hundred and ninety employees and their friends attended these functions.

We welcome back James McLachlan after a long absence through illness.

Betty Whyte has left us to take up an appointment with Metropolitan-Vickers, and we wish her every success.

To Joan Robertson, who joined us recently, we extend a warm welcome, and trust she will be happy with us.

It was with deep regret that the older members of the staff at Glasgow learned of the death of Miss Elizabeth Macdonald. Miss Macdonald came to Chance Brothers in 1912, and from then until his death in 1942, was private secretary to the late Mr. Lindsay Forster. In this capacity she played no small part

in the development of glass silk (as it was then described) at Glasgow, and continued with Fibreglass Limited until they removed to the new premises at Possilpark, when she returned to Chance Brothers until she retired in 1950.

Laboratory

The Laboratory staff offer congratulations to Pat Wardle and David Nellist on the announcement of their engagement.

Congratulations are also expressed to Robert Beavon on successfully passing the examination for Graduate Membership of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Alan Giles has left us to take up a teaching position, and Kenneth Fidler has left to embark on a new career. We wish them every success.

London

"Green Leaves" is our delight at the moment. The new Fiesta design by Lady Casson has made its debut and has been accepted by "Design Review," the illustrated record of well-designed British goods from which exhibits to be displayed at the Design Centre are chosen. Readers may like to know that Chance Brothers will be exhibiting certain of their specialised products at the Brussels World Fair. Our stand will form part of the Birmingham Engineering Centre Group stand, and will be distinctive insofar as we will be the only glass manufacturers exhibiting on the Group stand.

Malvern

In this month's notes from Malvern we spot-light Rosa Tilbury, who has just completed ten years service. Rosa's job has always been the making of precision bore capillary tubing, some of which has a bore of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths of an inch! In a factory of very happy people, there is nobody who is more happy and more popular than Rosa, and we all hope that she will be with us for a long time to come.

At the time of going to press, Ann Buckler, our Glass Queen, is in hospital, and cheerful Ella Perks is away ill; we wish them speedy recovery.

Gert Corbett has had to give her job up due to ill health. We welcome the



Rosa Tilbury (Malvern)

following newcomers, Jack Hitchings, Percy Conn, Rosa Harford, Mary Burston, Shirley Jeynes, Miss Tipping and Ada Lane.

Many of the Smethwick staff have had occasion to admire the production chart in Mr. Sharp's office. The graph has now gone right off the chart and has started to climb up the wall! This is proof indeed that more syringes and syringe components are now being made than at any previous time in the history of the Malvern works.

Offices

On the evening of Friday, 31st January, a visit was made to the West End cinema by a party from the Sales office to see "Around the World in Eighty Days." Prior to the performance a meal was had in the cafe in the cinema.

One thing marred the evening and that was the weather—thick fog which unfortunately prevented several of our friends, including Mr. and Mrs. Fulton, from attending. A number of people (who shall be nameless) arrived a few minutes late, not due to the weather, but your correspondent understands from taking liquid refreshment supplied by

M. & B. en route. The visit to a cinema was in the nature of an experiment, as in previous years pantomimes have been the order of the day. From comments made afterwards it would appear that the evening out was enjoyed by all.

We were all sorry to see Sheila Humphries leave, so if anyone sees a stork hovering overhead in the near future, don't be surprised.

It was with pleasure that we welcomed Alec Goodwin back in the office after five weeks illness, and we all hope that he is now fully recovered.

Doreen Beattie left the Sales office recently, but fortunately has not moved very far as she is now working in Seven Storey.

The Wages office congratulates Mr. and Mrs. J. Perry on the birth of a son on the 8th March.

Newcomers to the offices are Sylvia Griffiths (Typing) and Mrs. H. Rock (Wages).

Elizabeth Turton resigned her position as private secretary to Mr. L. G. Hinton in order to take up a job nearer to her home.

Pensioner William Scott died on the 3rd March. Prior to his retirement ten years ago, Bill was a member of the Wages office staff and had had fifty-two years continuous service.

Optical

The Optical division congratulates Mr. and Mrs. O Henry on the birth of a son.

Mrs. D. Orme has left the division as she is expecting a happy event.

Clara Dennigan recently completed twenty-five years continuous service and Mrs. Hughes retired on 24th March after twenty-two years service.



Diana Sealey (Malvern) receiving wedding presents. (See last issue for report of her wedding).

SPORTS and SOCIAL

The end of winter

Despite some reduction in the membership of the Recreation Club, the winter season which is now drawing to a close has been a particularly active one, and in fact the pavilion was booked up every night by the several sections.

The badminton section found unparallelled support. At the commencement of the season activity was confined to Monday evenings, but due to the immense interest and enthusiasm it was found necessary to obtain Friday evening in addition.

The nucleus of the playing strength at that time was confined to beginners, but due to the tremendous improvement in ability most of these people are now giving the more experienced players quite a strenuous game.

In a recent match against Tube Investments, we lost heavily. In losing this game the home players gained in knowledge. Individually the visitors were not superior to the home team, but in the first essential "teamwork" they completely outclassed the opposition.

The team representing Chance Brothers on this occasion was:—
1st couple—E. Horton and D. Hewitt
2nd couple—J. Taylor and B. Palmer
3rd couple—B. Smith and H. Helsby

The domino section, under the leadership of Eric Owen, was crowded out of the pavilion half-way through the season, and league and individual games were played in the billiard room bar. The individual knock-out cup was won by Alfred Whitehouse.

The table tennis season has not yet ended, but this section has had one of its most enjoyable years ever. In some weeks as many as six teams played matches.

The ladies' darts team have had quite a lot of fun during the season, and at the time of going to press they were able to report that they had got through the first round of the Albert Cox Cup competition.

On the social side, several departments held their annual dinners or

dances in the pavilion. Club dances were held on every Saturday evening, but here there was some disappointment for the entertainments committee as the attendances were low and some financial loss resulted. Sundays continued as family evenings for informal concerts.

The football teams were not as successful as in previous years. The first eleven having been promoted to a higher division in the league found the going rather too tough, and the second-team also experienced strong opposition. For the first time for many years we sadly report that our teams were knocked out of the cup competition and our trophy cupboard will be empty for a time.

Into the summer



Groundsman Rod Cooper (left) discusses the condition of the wicket with cricket secretary Harry Helsby.

Cricket commences on 26th April, with a home match against our good friends Wolesley.

We are hoping to have a good season and to have better weather than in previous years.

A team has been entered for the Business Houses competition and the Mayor of Oldbury Cup. A new competition, the Bert Adshead Cup, has also been entered, the final of which is played on the Dudley County ground on 13th July.

Continued at foot of page 14

SUGGESTIONS SCHEME

£73 awarded in two months

Fifty-four ideas received

The number of ideas submitted to the Suggestions Scheme has shown a considerable increase in recent months and during February and March fifty-four suggestions were put forward. More and more of our employees are learning that a good idea can earn a cash award and below is a summary of some suggestions that have paid off.

£20 for J. Hill

Joe Hill of the Traffic office urged that before empty cathode cartons are returned to the suppliers they should be collapsed as it was costly to "transport air." Despite the labour cost involved in collapsing cartons, a considerable economy is effected by doing so in that lorries can thus carry a greater load. This idea earned Joe an award of £20 which he urgently required to buy a set of tyres for his motor car.

An apprentice receives £15

Frank Gould, Millwrights department, had occasion to be called in to attend to a breakdown on the sandjet machine in the Seven Storey. He quickly appreciated that there was a fault in the design of the machine in that the valve failed to close under certain conditions. He suggested the fitting of a spring behind the plunger of the air valve which would force down the plunger and the valve. A good suggestion which resulted in an award of £15.

Paper economy

Emlyn Jones of the Blown and Pressed warehouse recommended that the paper in which cathode components are



Joe Hill counts his £20

wrapped for delivery to the works from St. Helens, should not be discarded for scrap but should be used for wrapping head lamp lenses and other pressed ware. The idea of using salvaged paper is not new, but in this case Emlyn indicated a paper which was suitable in size and quality for a particular use and for which new wrappings were hitherto being purchased. £5 was awarded.

£3 for a lady employee

It is not often that a lady employee submits a suggestion, and it is with particular pleasure that we report that Mrs. E. Windsor of the Seven Storey earned £3. She pointed out that the heads of the Micro cutting boards get worn quickly and thus get out of square. This necessitates frequent repairs to the boards by a carpenter, and her suggestion was that a steel strip be inserted along the head of the board. Mrs. Windsor attached an excellent sketch with her suggestion form.

Pipework at No. 1

T. Egginton, Millwrights department, suggested that the pipework on the oil system at No. 1 Rolled Plate tank should be fabricated and welded and thus reduce the cost of fittings and give a neater finish. The idea was put into operation quickly and is to be used also at Glasgow. There is always a better way and this example resulted in an award of £3 10s. 0d.

Ten awards of £1 15s. 0d.

When a suggestion cannot be related to a financial saving, a scale of awards operates for intangible ideas. During the last two months, ten ideas each earned £1 15s. 0d., under this method.

B. Jones, Rolled Plate, suggested the fitting of a bar down the centre of the Rolled Plate lehrs to prevent splits. His award is an interim one and the idea will be reviewed in the autumn. A. Burford, Rolled Plate claimed that a mirror fixed on the wire platform at Rolled Plate would assist the glassmakers during the joining up of rolls. G. Watton, Boiler shop, received his award for pointing out a method for avoiding damage to the wall of the Boiler shop scrap tip caused by contractors' lorries. Alterations to the roll brush at No. 1 in order to reduce breakdowns was an

idea of B. Brookes of Rolled Plate, and another Rolled Plate employee, G. Stone, had a necessary bell fitted as a signal aid between the cutters and the glassmakers. The fitting of an eye bolt to the carrier arm on the telpher to provide safety and speed in the event of a breakdown was the idea of F. Timmins, a millwright. G. E. Ross, Boilers, recommended that a bend should be made to return condensation pipes to prevent air and therefore oxygen from entering the condensate main, thus cutting out one of the causes of corrosion in condensate pipes. The fitting of a safety bar across the Rolled Plate lehrs was an idea of J. O'Mara of Rolled Plate. M. Diklic of Rolled Plate received two awards. One of his adopted ideas was the fitting of eyebolts to the Rolled Plate machines to aid handling, and the other was for a change to the bottom lip tube on the Rolled Plate forehearth to make a cleaner job at machine change.

Safety awards

£1 was awarded to each of the following for ideas concerning safety:— E. R. Owen, M. & C. (2 awards); E. Bullen, Crate Yard; K. Dorrell, Laboratory; W. T. Harper, M. & C.; F. Timmins, M. & C.; R. Jones, Transport Repairs.

SPORTS and SOCIAL—(continued from page 13)

We would like to extend an invitation to all cricket playing members of Chance Brothers who play for other teams to join us at Oldbury Road and make 1958 a big and successful season. The cricket square promises to be in excellent shape following considerable re-turfing.

The section has a new secretary, namely Harry Helsby (Pyrometry department).

The ladies' netball section starts off with a new secretary. After many years, Beatrice Crimes has passed the section over to Eunice Horton (Cost office).

League games commenced on 14th April.

The bowling green should be in good shape, and there is an urgent need for an enthusiastic bowls player to organise a live section, as last year competitive games were inter-departmental only.

The hard tennis courts are there to be played on, and perhaps the enthusiastic badminton section will keep together by transferring their energies to the courts.

Throughout the summer months, the Saturday night dances and the Sunday concerts will continue.

Long Service Awards



Above: Joe Beard of Blown and Pressed also chose a wrist watch. Right: Ted Bailey, Traffic Department, has been off work due to illness for some weeks, but he managed to get down to receive a clock from Mr. C. J. S. Newman.



Left: Dr. W. M. Hampton presents a gold watch to Ted Ward of Blown and Pressed. Below, left: "Cocker" Fenton, Blown and Pressed, with Dr. Hampton. Below, right: Walter Whitely of Pot and Clay received a wrist watch.



SINCE our last issue several more employees have received awards to mark forty-five or more years continuous service with the Company and we publish photographs of the recipients. William Yendole of the Electricians was unable to attend the works to receive his watch but his wife attended in his place.

Well worth quoting

Many a buying desire is nipped in the budget.

* * *

If two can live as cheaply as one why is it ever worth it to stay single?

* * *

Is it worth while working yourself to death just to get a living?

* * *

A bank is a place where, figuratively, they lend you an umbrella in fine weather—and demand it back when it's raining.

* * *

The optimistic alcoholic expects to be treated on the national health scheme.

* * *

A bare assertion is not necessarily the naked truth.

* * *

Persistence is the ability to stick to something you're not stuck on.

* * *

Most people who refer to the flower of womanhood are thinking of the stem.

* * *

If you want something done well don't do it yourself, unless you know how.

* * *

Many a man who has led a girl to the altar finds that's where his leadership ended.

* * *

It might be better to go straight than move in the best circles.

Middle age is when the 'morning after' lasts all day.

* * *

The only thing you can do these days on a shoe string is trip.

* * *

They call them declining years because that's when you have to turn down almost everything you'd like to do.

* * *

What many a boss hopes to catch his employees at is work.

* * *

A budget is a device which shows how much you are going to have to borrow.

* * *

The best arguments for being a bachelor are those he doesn't have at home.

* * *

A two sided argument sometimes never has an end.

* * *

Nothing can vex
Like the opposite sex.

* * *

No matter how orderly a woman is by nature, it's a mistake for her to be always putting her husband in his place.

* * *

A thread will tie an honest man better than a rope will a rogue.

* * *

The greatest mistake you can make in this life is to be continuously fearing you will make one.