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THE EYES

don't have it

Chance Brothers see to that. Where there's light there's danger—if there's too much of the wrong kind of ray about. Lots of chaps have to work in light that would ruin the best pair of eyes, if it wasn't for Chance Brothers: the metal welder, for instance. So we have made glasses that take the harm out of harmful light and pass on only the rays the eyes can stand. Chance protective glasses are called CROOKES, PROTEX (Regd.) and NEODEX. Why, even the noonday basker in Britain's elusive sun may be wearing glasses made from Chance glass. Write for leaflet "Eye-protecting glasses".

CHANCE BROTHERS LTD. Glass-makers since 1824.

Head Office: Smethwick 40, Birmingham.

London Office: 28 St. James's Square, S.W.1

Branch Works at Glasgow, St. Helen's and Malvern.

Chance
GLASS

FOR SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND THE HOME

*This is one of a series of our advertisements at present appearing in
Technical Magazines.*

Chance

COMMENTS

NOV.
1949
Vol. 2 No. 5



THE MAGAZINE OF
CHANCE BROTHERS LIMITED, SMETHWICK

3D

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

Editorial . .

THIS year the Company attains its 125th Birthday and the interesting article on the early days of the firm is written by W. E. Jephcott, the well-known Smethwick journalist.

W. N. Wheat who contributes the article on his recent trip to Germany, is the Sales Manager of the Optical and Special Glass Division. Until the main manufacturing side of the Division was transferred to St. Helens, Mr. Wheat was responsible for Production in addition to Sales, and in 1944 he was awarded the M.B.E. for his work in connection with the production of Optical Glass for the Armed Forces.

The question of fuel economy really is important and we make no apology for publishing an appeal from the Chief Engineer to everyone to reduce the consumption of electricity and gas during the winter period. Mr. Barratt's article on this matter appears on page 16.

Nurse Sadie McMahon spent a long holiday in America this year to visit her brother. Our women readers will enjoy her article on her impressions of shopping in New York — a city which she disliked.

John Cheetham, writer of the Sports article, is the Chief Draughtsman in the Glassworks Drawing Office. His main hobby is angling and he has had a successful year in the competitions organised by the Works Angling Club.

Postscript is by John Fletcher, a seventeen year old apprentice in the Engineering Division.

This month's front cover shows Archie Woodfield and Harry Cowley at a flattening kiln in the Coloured Department.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office J. ALLEN

Blown and Pressed

Decorating A. CHAMBERS
Inspection F. O'CONNOR

Making B. PATRICK
Methods D. DAVIES
Process S. STOCKIN

Sales F. HARRIS
Buying & Stationery F. J. WHITE
Costs MISS D. SANDERS

Engineering

Drawing Office S. DORAN
Electrical D. PRICHARD

Machine and Fitting F. STYLES

Production Control J. WARD

Commercial Staff F. W. G. BEAUMONT

Stores J. P. DEELEY

Sumo Office R. P. WARD

Sumo Works W. KINCHIN

Time Study A. HEATH

Toolroom and Mould Shop W. D. COX

Welding and Blacksmiths D. EDWARDS

Works Staff A. SLEIGH

Export H. V. SKAN

Flat Glass

Making and Warehouse R. E. EVANS

Sales S. RAY

Seven Storey A. FARDELL

Laboratory MRS. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction

Boiler Shop H. HANSON

Building S. BEARDSMORE

Electricians E. A. WHITEHOUSE

Garage V. COOKSEY

Millwrights W. JOHNSON

Old Hall E. BREKES

Stores D. KIRKWOOD

Mixing N. GREEN

Optical MISS E. COTTON

Personnel MISS M. BEE

Pyrometry N. WALKER

Recreation Club A. FARLEY

Silvering T. PAGE

Stonemasons H. ARMSTRONG

Transport F. G. ANKORN

Typists Pool MISS S. SPENCER

Wages B. FIELDHOUSE

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow J. A. AITCHISON

London J. W. CHANCE

Malvern MISS D. CLARE

St. Helens MRS. I. DAVIES

125 YEARS of GLASSMAKING

by W. Ellery Jephcott

TO compress into the limits of this article the story of a firm which has been in existence for 125 years is not easy. It becomes more difficult when that recital is not merely the development of a great works, but in effect the history of the glass trade in Great Britain, and also of a phase of the industrial and social life of the community through the period known as the "Industrial Revolution."

The story really begins in the year before the Battle of Waterloo, when Smethwick was a hamlet of about 1,600 inhabitants and Spon Lane an almost entirely rural area of farmsteads and cottages, intersected by the first local canal constructed some 50 years earlier. That improved method of transport was probably the reason why one Thomas Shutt purchased some 12 acres of land of the Blakeley Hall estate, and in 1814 built a works for the manufacture of crown window glass, the only kind then made in this country. It had only one furnace located on the canal side. The rest of the land, extending in a narrow strip to the Dudley-Birmingham turnpike road, consisted of fields.

At that period William Chance, whose forbears were yeoman farmers located at Bromsgrove, and his brother-in-law, Edward Homer, trading as hardware merchants in Birmingham, were partners with another brother-in-law, John Robert Lucas, in a glass manufactory which the latter had established some years prior to 1793 at Nailsea, near Bristol. William's eldest son, Robert Lucas Chance, after a period as Manager of the Birmingham business, joined the Nailsea concern in a similar capacity and married his cousin, Louisa Homer. He left after four years to start on his own accord as a glass merchant in London.

Being keen and enterprising and realising the advantages of being his own supplier, on May 18th, 1824, he bought from Joseph Stock and others, then comprising the British Crown Glass Company, their works and land at Spon Lane. Thus was launched an enterprise which to-day covers an area of 40 acres and finds employment for some 2,800 persons at Spon Lane alone, besides having branch works in Glasgow, St. Helens and Malvern, and being linked up with other glass-making concerns.

Lucas Chance (as he is always known) immediately began the process of extension which has continued ever since. He built a second glass house at once and added a third in 1828. His business was largely export "I have £20,000 in foreign hands" he told his brother Henry in 1827. But in 1831 he faced a crisis, another glass house and other extensions with the depressed state of trade, strained his financial resources. In this situation he sought the aid of his brother, William, a prosperous Birmingham Merchant who provided more capital and also became a partner.

The firm now embarked upon the making of sheet window glass, which was already supplanting crown glass on the Continent and in America, but was barely known in England. The method of manufacture was the same then as now, the glass being blown into hollow cylinders, cut and flattened into sheets. But only continental workman had the experience and skill required to carry out these processes, so they had to be induced to come to Spon Lane by the offer of higher wages. Their recruitment was fraught with some peril to the agents, for the French and Belgian manufacturers naturally resented losing their best men and sometimes invoked the law to restrain the English "poachers."

Thus arose that singular position, a foreign colony in Spon Lane, where dark-eyed, olive-skinned, and bearded Frenchmen and Belgians, in blue blouses and wooden sabots, with their wives and children, lived in the houses provided by the firm, drank their native wines in their own cabaret, and introduced the eating of one of their favourite dishes, fried hind legs of frogs. It was many years before the services of these foreigners could be dispensed with, because they would not teach their craft to Englishmen and would not permit them in the "French House" in which they worked.

125 YEARS *(continued)*

Lucas Chance also secured the aid of the manager of the Nailsea Works, John Hartley, a North Countryman whose knowledge of the trade was considerable and who brought his sons James and John to assist him. The firm became Chances and Hartleys, but after the elder John's death in 1831 differences arose and 1836 the Hartleys left the partnership. They established themselves as glass makers in Sunderland, but John later became a leading figure in the iron trade of Staffordshire.

Despite difficulties caused by the heavy excise duties upon glass — much more than double the cost of production — recalcitrant foreigners and manufacturing problems, the business steadily progressed until it was turning out one sixth of all window glass made in the United Kingdom. Then in 1837 coincident with the change of the firm's title to Chance Brothers and Co., a decision was made which profoundly influenced its future. Without the Hartley's help Lucas Chance found the control of the manufacturing and commercial sides of the business beyond even his great capacity. Someone must come in to assist him and the choice fell upon William's eldest son, James Timmins Chance, a brilliant graduate of Cambridge who was preparing to enter the legal profession. A man of great intellectual powers and physical endurance, he sacrificed his chosen career and entered heart and soul into his new work at Spon Lane. His first achievement was to solve the problem of grinding and polishing thin sheet glass to give it the transparency of plate. As a result, in a few years it completely ousted crown glass for window glazing.

In the many improvements in glass making processes which followed, James Chance played an important part but his greatest work was the development of the Lighthouse Section. Scientific knowledge and technical skill of a high order are required to construct a dioptric light. Both of these he possessed. For many years he made this subject his absorbing occupation and finally had the satisfaction of breaking the monopoly the French had previously enjoyed and making the name of Chance supreme in lighthouse construction. In recognition of his national service in this respect and his

great public benefactions — principal among them his gift and endowment of West Smethwick Park and his establishment of the Chance School of Engineering at Birmingham University, in each case at a cost of £50,000 — he had been created a Baronet, eighteen months before his death on January 11th, 1902, at the age of 87.

Prior to this there had been other events of great moment. The removal of the excise duty on glass in 1845 brought an enormous demand and at Spon Lane large extensions were made to cope with it. In 1851 the firm obtained the contract for the glazing of the Great Exhibition building, Joseph Paxton's "Crystal Palace", which meant the production in a few months of some 200 tons of sheet glass over and above the ordinary output. Just prior to this James Hartley had invented a new method of producing thin cast plate which had such advantages that Chances secured a licence to use it, with a consequent great increase in output.

Up to 1861 all glass furnaces were heated by coal. That year saw revolution in glass founding by the introduction of Siemens regenerative gas furnace, which Chances at once adopted, which continues in operation to this day.

At first all the chemical ingredients that enter into the composition of glass were made at Spon Lane, but in 1845 the whole of these processes were removed to Oldbury where the making of sulphate of soda had been commenced ten years earlier. Alexander Macomb Chance, son of George, took over the management and carried them on with remarkable success. In 1890 this branch was converted into a separate Company. Eight years later it became Chance & Hunt by amalgamation with Hunt & Sons of Wednesbury and it is now part of the Imperial Chemical Industries. The materials for glass making are now again manufactured at Spon Lane.

Two world wars and the immense scientific and technical advances of the last half century have had a marked effect upon the manufacture of glass. While what may be termed the main products remain little changed, great additions have been made and the development of pressing has opened up a wide new field in domestic glassware. Coincident with this has been the steady advance in manufacturing

methods, aided considerably by the employees' suggestion scheme, inaugurated in 1905, which has supplemented in a practical way the work of the Laboratory Division in devising improved manufacturing methods and new types of glass.

On the personal side the years have seen many changes in the management of the firm. William Chance died in February 1856 and Lucas Chance in March 1865 at the age of 82. They had been an ideal partnership, William conservative and essentially prudent; his brother enterprising and overflowing with energy. With their passing James became the head of the firm and since then the two branches of the family have supplied the business with men who have maintained its high traditions not only in its direction but in public service and private munificence. The churches of St. Paul's, West Smethwick, The Good Shepherd, Spon Lane, and St. John's, Tat Bank, Oldbury, are due largely or wholly to their liberality, while Warley and Lightwoods Parks were secured almost entirely through the efforts of Alexander Chance.

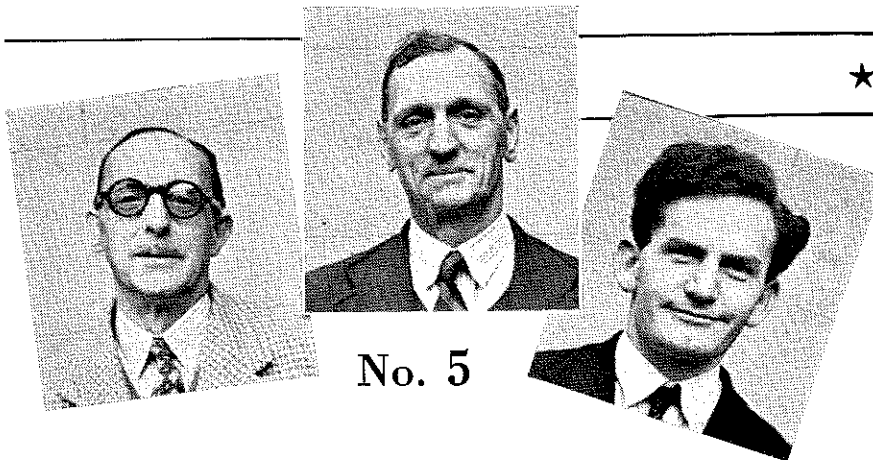
In 1889 the business was formed into a private limited liability company. "Departmental Directors" were first appointed in 1918 and in 1935 an issue of preference shares was made to the public, the name of the Company being changed to Chance Brothers Limited. The workpeople also have facilities for acquiring shares.

Side by side with their industrial activities the firm have carried on a wide range of social work which, though intended primarily for their own employees, has materially benefited the whole community. As early as 1845-6 day schools for boys and girls and infants were built and maintained until 1887, when they were taken over by the Smethwick School Board. Later the buildings were sold to the Board, but repurchased by the Company in 1914 and eventually converted into the present canteen.

In 1841 was established a Provident Society, which comprised a medical attendance club, a sick pay club, and a savings club. Old age pensions for employees were begun in 1866. The firm took measures to limit drinking — once prevalent in all works — restrict Sunday labour to the minimum, and institute welfare work especially for women, girls and boys. Much of this activity was duplicated at Oldbury when the works there were directly associated with Spon Lane. Though most of those matters are now the direct concern of the Government, Chances continue to supplement the State provision, as well as foster and support many recreational and welfare organisations for the benefit of their employees.

Spon Lane Works from the air.





No. 5

ERNEST COURTNEY

One cold December morning, forty-six years ago, Ernest Courtney started work as a messenger in the Old Gatehouse.

He was then thirteen years of age. He looks back with happy memories to those early days although boys then worked from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In those days Malvern water was brought to the Works in bottles and used for tea-making. One day he was told to take a bottle of this water to one of the Director's rooms. In his excitement he mistook the message and gallantly struggled upstairs with a bucketful of water from the tap.

After twelve months he was transferred to the Wages and Statistics Department where he remained, as Charles Lamb says, "At the drudgery of the desk's dead wood" for ten years. He almost disagrees with Lamb here because this was a very happy ten years.

At the end of this time Mr. Walter Chance sent for him and offered him a position in the Seven Storey under Mr. Slim. This position was offered on the conditions that his performance in the Department was satisfactory.

It appears that it was so, for after he had spent some time dealing with Assorting, Cutting, Packing, etc., he was appointed Chief Assorter in the Sheet Glass Warehouse, and a few years later he became Assistant to the Manager.

In 1928 Mr. Slim retired and Ernest was appointed to take full control.

The Department has grown tremendously during all these years; where two or three girls were employed in 1928, eighty-six girls are now kept busily engaged and there are some forty-eight male workers making a staff of about one hundred and thirty-four people.

There is a happy team spirit among personnel in the Seven Storey and Ernie believes that the study and consideration of each individual is the reason why.

In his spare time he likes reading of a general nature, and says with Shakespeare, "Our life except from the public haunt finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything".

Apart from a forty-six year service record, Ernie has a marvellous time-keeping record. On one occasion he had three weeks of illness, but other than this, days off have been very few and far between.

He declares that if all the steps he has climbed in his work were put together he could walk along the Milky Way.

ALBERT LESLIE FIELD

Forty-one years ago, Bert Field started work in the Sheet Tank, as a boy of fourteen years. He started off as "Machine Boy", graduating in each of the different jobs to Gatherer.

In 1914 he joined the Worcestershire Regiment, and returned to the Globe

Meet Your SUPERVISORS ★

Department as a Blower on his demobilization.

The Globe at that time was quite a small affair, having only two furnaces — a four pot and a two pot — on Heat Resisting Glass. He continued as Blower until 1923, and then was appointed Foreman in the Globe and remained in that position until 1940.

During this term of Foremanship many new things were introduced, such as Hysil, Chemical-ware, Cathode Ray Tubes, Resistopal, Electric Opal and Glass Tubing.

A first attempt at Glass Pressing was also made during that time.

No worth-while knowledge, or experience was ever cheaply gained, and Bert had his full share of headaches, worries, snags and disappointments, but of all this he is most reticent.

In 1940 Bert returned to the Coloured Department, until 1943. Then he had a period of two years in the Rolled Plate, returning again to the Coloured in 1945.

Bert's favourite sport is cricket, but he is fond of gardening and especially fruit grafting, so should we require a few tips on either Crown, or Tongue grafting, we can give him a call.

Happily married, with one girl, he is a "home lover".

Forty-one years of glassmaking is a long time, but Bert, like most others of long experience, has little to say about himself and would rather repeat the words of the renowned Greek philosopher, Plato, "The learning and knowledge that we have, is, at the most, but little compared with that of which we are ignorant".

ALBERT MANN

Bert left school at the age of sixteen years in 1937 and started work in the Physics Laboratory. He commenced by doing odd jobs and routine work such as Coefficient of Expansion, Refractive Index, Seed Count, and in general being initiated into the technology of glass.

In this work he was happy and keenly interested, and he remained in the Laboratory until the outbreak of war in 1939.

Being a Territorial, he was mobilised during the month of August, 1939, and served with the Royal Corps of Signals, until discharged with an ankle injury in 1943.

On rejoining the firm he was attached to the Pressed Department, gaining considerable knowledge of Glass Melting and Pressing, Furnace Management, Treatment of Moulds, Control of Personnel, etc.

He continued here until 1946 when he was transferred to the Optical Department to superintend the Heat Treatment of photographic colour Filters.

This is work of a very technical nature. It means the heating of Filters to the temperatures required to obtain the required tints.

The person doing this work must be possessed of a conscientious and painstaking nature, and Bert certainly has these qualities.

From the Optical he was transferred to the Flat Glass Division in 1948, and appointed to supervise the manufacture of Drawn Micro Glass.

Just getting through the initial teething troubles of a new venture and new plant, he has had appreciable success and attributes much of it to the keenest and reliability of his operators.

Bert is married and has one little girl nearly two years old who keeps things both happy and lively.

A firm believer in the "personal touch," he declares that one of the main ingredients of success in any Division, or Section is the individual contact a Manager or Supervisor has with his people.

A rugger enthusiast until he received an injury, he now enjoys any sort of pastime and amusement that creates a silver lining, and truly believes that "What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity."

★ Above, left to right : Ernest Courtney, Albert Field and Albert Mann.



At the Annual General Meeting on 11th October the following were elected to the General Committee for the ensuing year.

Chairman : A. Ogden.

Treasurer : L. H. Cleaver.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Rolled Plate. | Vacant. |
| 2. Coloured. | J. Saul. |
| 3. Optical. | H. Edwards. |
| 4. Globe. | H. Llewelyn. |
| 5. Pressed. | J. Yates. |
| 6. Lighthouse Fitting, & Machine Shops. | F. Walker. |
| 7. Lighthouse Electrical, Grinding. | H. Mills. |
| 8. Millwrights, Electricians. | T. Grice. |
| 9. Building, Carpenters. | Vacant. |
| 10. Garage, Transport. | B. Bagnall. |
| 11. Glassworks Offices. | E. Buttress. |
| 12. Lighthouse Offices. | R. Ward. |

Your Committee are disturbed at the apparent apathy towards Club activities displayed by many members. Any suggestions from members for improving existing facilities or encouraging new ones are welcomed. Send your suggestions to your Group Representative.

BILLIARDS & SNOOKER

We have two Billiards teams competing in the Langley & District League, one Snooker team in the West Bromwich League, and two Snooker teams in the Langley & District League. Great interest was displayed in the recent local "derby" between the "A" team (Snooker) and St. Pauls Social Club. We are happy to report a convincing win for the Club by four matches to one.

DANCES

Fred Cumberland and his Broadcasting Orchestra will provide the Music

for the Third Annual Gala Ball at West Bromwich Baths on Friday, 30th Dec. The final judging of the Glass Queen Competition will take place at this Dance.

FOOTBALL

For the first time for several years, a team has been entered in the Birmingham "Junior Cup". In League games the last five matches have all been won.

In the first round of the Cup Competition we beat Kingstanding Royal 2-1.

MUSIC

A very important change of policy has been decided upon by the Section, which is that in future Drama will be sponsored as well as Music, and it is hoped from time to time to present plays by local dramatic companies in our Little Theatre.

Comments and suggestions will be welcomed on this venture, which should be sent to the Secretary, Miss M. Crozier.

The usual musical presentation will commence on Tuesday 10th January.

A dance has been arranged for Friday 14th April at the Blue Gates Hotel and as a result of the success of the Thames Valley trip last summer, a further

outing has been arranged for Saturday 10th June.

This will be to Cheddar Gorge and Weston-Super-Mare, and is open to non-members, details being obtainable from the Secretary.

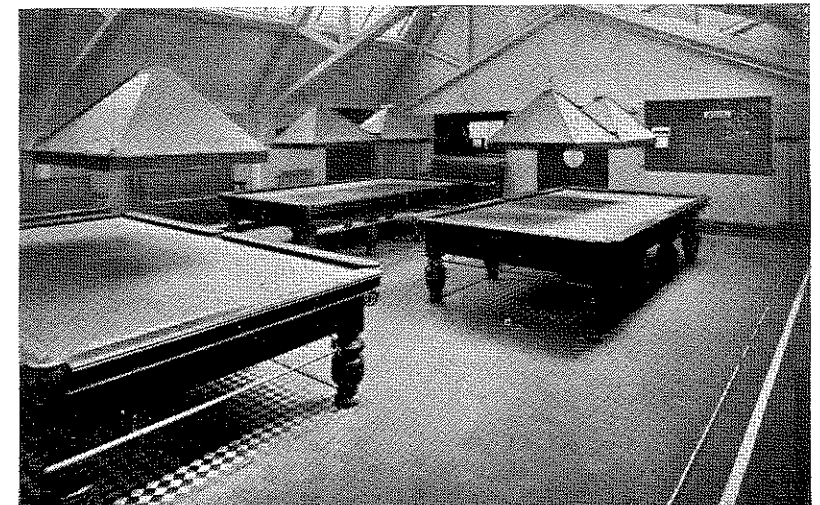
The resignation of the Chairman, G. Mansell, through pressure of other duties is regretted by the Committee. He is succeeded by C. D. Harper.

VARIETY

Rehearsals are being held for the Christmas Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" every Friday evening in the Cinema Room. The Pantomime will open on 19th December and be repeated on 21st December, 2nd, 4th and 6th January. We expect the Pantomime to run to the end of January next, after which it has tentatively been agreed that the next production should be "1066 and All That".

TABLE TENNIS

Both teams are so far undefeated in the first and third Divisions of the Smethwick and District League. Jim Cashmore and Geoff. Thompson have both been chosen to represent the Smethwick League in their inter-league game with the Licensed Victuallers' League.



The bar and billiard room over the canteen.

ANNUAL GALA BALL West Bromwich Baths Hall on FRIDAY, 30th DECEMBER, 1949

Dancing 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

For further details see Notice Boards



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

Things do not appear to have gone quite as well as we had hoped but there is no need at all for people to get disheartened.

The metal out of No. 9 is, on the whole, of very good quality and the co-operation between glassmakers and the interest taken by everyone concerned in the making of cathode ray faces is showing results. We have still a long way to go, but provided this interest is kept up we need not fear any slipping back.

No. 8 has been full of troubles and perhaps some people are feeling slightly depressed with the results that we have had from this tank. There are still wonderful prospects of making this a real success and it is better to learn our lessons now and see that what we put on to the market is really first class, rather than to try and persuade the public to buy glass of which we cannot ourselves be proud.

The one big fault — if fault is the correct word — is the lack of appreciation of the need to reduce the scrap. If the Division could reduce the scrap to half what it is at present, the picture would be very different. Each member of the Division should try to visualise that he is a very important cog in the wheel of divisional progress and that his job, however humble it may seem or however big it may seem, is part of the whole and is necessary to complete success. Watch the scrap, watch that the job you are doing is being done better by you than by anyone else who has ever done it before, and we have nothing to worry about.

The Division wish Rhys Davies every happiness and contentment in his retirement. Rhys retired on 1st October after 43 years' service with the Company.

The Decorating Department is getting back into its production stride and welcomes back three old hands, namely Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Perry, and Mrs. Cutler. The section congratulates Mrs. Czakowski nee Julie Roberts, on the birth of a son, and Mrs. Oliver on the birth of a daughter.

The Globe Process Section welcomes back Florry Caddick after a five weeks absence consequent on an operation.

It is with profound regret that the Department learnt of the death of Lily Hale on 29th September. Lily had been with Company since she left school.

ENGINEERING

Production is on a fairly high level, but not high enough. The main machine shop is very busily engaged on a new range of automatic mould sets for the No. 8 presses and the new square beam Airport Beacon is at last taking shape. We have quite a number of 3rd order Optics to build and this section will be fully occupied for several months. Sumo Pump orders have shown an increase in recent weeks, and large size units are now coming through the test very well. The Electric Shop is very busy building special standby sets and Power Plant for Lighthouses in the Far East, particular attention being paid this time to building units to withstand the attacks of various insects experienced in the Tropical climates.

Ernie Barratt left on the 6th October for the British West Indies, where he will carry out the installation of acetylene apparatus on a somewhat remote spot known as Sand Cay. It is anticipated that this installation will take him three to four months, and he will then proceed to Trinidad where he will erect apparatus at Bocas and Point Galera.

Lou Humphries of the Electrical Shop left England on 1st November, by air for India, Singapore and then on to Borneo and Sarawak to carry out servicing of acetylene flashers, and to investigate local conditions arising out of difficulties which have been experienced by customers when putting acetylene flashers into service.

The Electrical Department, especially the Flasher Boys wish him every success on his mission.

The Electrical Shop congratulates Dick Skidmore on his marriage to Beryl Robbins on 27th August. Congratulations are also offered to Mrs. Cresswell nee Miss Rogers, on the birth of a daughter on 20th September.

Four Engineering Apprentices have recently attained their majority and congratulations are offered to Derek Butler, and Raymond Green of the Drawing Office, Douglas Lightwood of the Fitting Shop, and R. Proverbs of the Service Department.

The Service Department bade farewell to a Service Engineer P. T. Millin on the 26th August consequent on him accepting a position with the Post Office at Manchester. The Department extends a welcome return to M. C. Hitchcox. Austinlite Tester C. J. Hughes is congratulated on the birth of a daughter on the 15th September.

FLAT GLASS

Whilst orders for Wired Glass remain at a high level there is indication that orders for Figured Glass are tending to drop.

On the Coloured side, further progress has been made in the establishment of the Flashed Drawn Process and it has been possible to export some full-sized sheets of flashed opal to dollar countries.

Due to the bad condition of the roof in the Bending Department, arrangements have been made to transfer the Bending Process to the site previously occupied by Number 7 Furnace.

A party from the Rolled Plate Warehouse had a weekend trip to the Blackpool illuminations during September, and the event was a great success.

Andy Nicol was appalled at the report in the last issue of *Chance Comments* to the effect that he spent his spare time in the country with a 12" bore gun!

The Editor regrets getting mixed up with names in the last issue of the magazine. Charlie Bird who retired after 60 years' service, was from the Seven Storey and not from the Rolled Plate Warehouse as reported. Joe Bird has retired from the Warehouse with 51 years' service to his credit.

Congratulations and best wishes are offered to Arthur Fardell on his marriage to Joan Bishop.

LABORATORY

The Laboratory Staff congratulates Jimmy Peakman who has passed his Higher School Certificate.

A welcome is extended to R. Coleman, and B. Seargent who have recently joined the Chemical Lab.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Although the majority of our furnace repair programme has been completed, we still find ourselves up to the neck in work and troubles. The Blown and Pressed Division are still making very heavy demands on our services and, also, the Works have got into such a state, that major repairs are necessary.

Recently three roofs have been condemned and have to be replaced immediately. Additional to this a considerable amount of our electric wiring is in a poor state and has to be replaced; so there is every indication that the department will be working at very high pressure over the coming six months.

On Saturday 8th October a large party of personnel from the Department, with wives and children, left Spon Lane by coach for a trip to Blackpool to see the illuminations. A tired but happy party got back to Smethwick at 5.30 a.m. on the Sunday morning. The outing was a qualified success and it is certain that outings of this kind will be arranged each year. Even in the best organised affairs accidents will happen, and two of the party were left at Blackpool. How, why, or

where, they missed the 'bus will always be a mystery.

The Drawing Office extends a sincere welcome to R. Wright, K. Poole, R. Drury and R. Bell, all of whom are newcomers to the Department.

Congratulations are offered to Cyril Bullock on attaining his majority on the 16th October.

Geoffrey Watts of the Boiler Shop is now in the Forces and has sent a letter of greetings from Hong Kong.

The Company, and the M. & C. Division in particular, wish John Hill a happy retirement after 55 years' service.

OPTICAL

The production of Spectacle blanks has increased, but the demand for this product has also increased appreciably and a larger output is still required. A further plant is to be installed early in the new year in order to increase the output still further.

The demand for Ballotini continues to increase and there is likely to be a big demand for this product if experiments in the use of Ballotini for covering the white lines on the roads are found to be successful. Experiments are now well in hand for the production of Ballotini by a more rapid method than at present in use, since the existing plant is incapable of producing the present and likely future demands.

Members of the Spon Lane and Malvern staff held a dinner on Friday, 14th October at the Station Hotel, Dudley and a very enjoyable evening was rounded off by a visit to the Dudley Hippodrome.

PERSONNEL AND WELFARE

Vera Nickless sailed for Australia on the 2nd November to join her married sister, Clare, who before the war was in the Lighthouse Drawing Office. Vera first joined Chance Brothers in 1940 and her personal charm endeared her to everyone with whom she had contact. We wish her every happiness in her new life. Mollie Bee comes to the Department from the Lighthouse Typing Pool.

TRANSPORT

The sympathy of the Department is extended to E. Smith in his recent bereavement.

A welcome visitor was Tom Heath who is now recovering from the injuries he received some months ago.

TIME STUDY

Congratulations to David Taylor on obtaining his National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering and Ann Sprigg who passed the R.S.A. examination in Typing with credit.

News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● LONDON

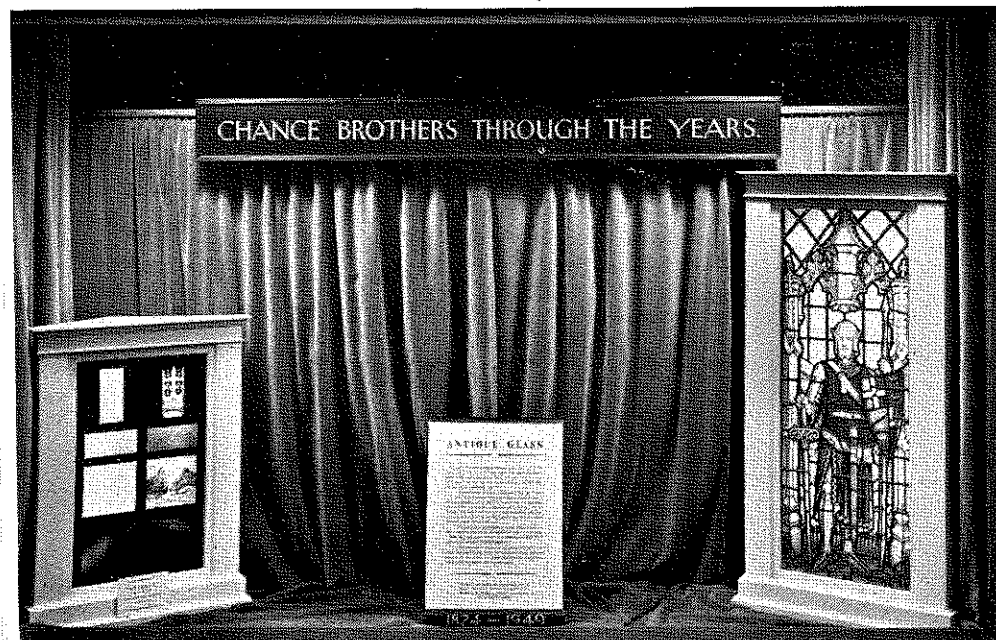
Geoff and Jack Elphee have now moved their houses and families, Geoff to West Wickham in Kent, and Jack to Tadworth in Surrey. This means that their friends at Spon Lane will see them less often.

Our teleprinter operator, Miss Brown, has left to undergo a course of shorthand/typing. In her place we now have Miss E. I. Tate, who comes to us from the W.R.N.S.

We are sorry to lose Miss Gina Mariani, due to domestic claims. She left us to keep house for her father at Southend.

Kenneth Sutton-Jones arrived safely at Nairobi. From there he proceeds to Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Liberia and Gambia, and hopes to be back in London by Christmas.

London Office current window display.



We were pleased to welcome the new Domestic Glassware representatives for London and the Home Counties, Messrs. Skipp, Potts and Walkinshaw. They are using London Office as the focal point of their activities.

● GLASGOW

The Rolled Plate and Spectacle Moulding departments continue to operate at high pressure in an endeavour to maintain deliveries to schedule.

The Recreation Club is now in full activity for the Winter Season and details of special occasions will be notified as soon as arrangements are completed by the Committee.

A very successful bus run and dance was held on Friday, 21st October, to the "Heads of Ayr Hotel." This was a combined effort by the members of Chances and Fibreglass and a party of two hundred had an enjoyable evening. It is not known when the last of the revellers got home, but does it matter?



Malvern Works visits St. Helens Works.

The Football team is reported to be going strong, but results of games played, have not been so far revealed.

This section is considering ways and means to raise money for dressing accommodation on the ground "on loan" from the N.C.B. It would probably be incorrect to suggest that a "stone" building might not be inappropriate.

The Badminton Section now has two courts and the numbers interested in Table Tennis has necessitated installing another table.

The Swimming Club's Winter Season opened on 2nd November at the Maryhill Baths. Diving and swimming instruction is available from an ex-Scottish Champion.

The Recreation Club Committee is greatly indebted to James Smith, driver of our No. 2 motor lorry, for the facilities to use his Billiard table, in conjunction with the Table Tennis section.

Congratulations are due to Ian McCrone of the Rolled Plate Department on winning the final tie by 10 and 8, over 36 holes, and thus becoming club champion for 1949 of the Cawder Golf Club.

● MALVERN

The Malvern Branch outing to Blackpool was a great success. Leaving Malvern at 6 a.m. the journey was broken at St. Helens for lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was preceded by an interesting tour of the works there. May we convey our grateful thanks to Mr. Pickering and the employees of St. Helens who helped to make our visit such a pleasant one. The

journey was continued to Blackpool, arriving approximately 3 p.m. Despite the elbow pushing multitudes a good time was had by all. The Illuminations far exceeded our expectations we were glad, however, to arrive back in Malvern 5 a.m. Sunday to find no "queues".

We are pleased to hear that Mary Whiteside is progressing slowly although still in hospital.

Mrs. Martin, an employee at the Malvern Branch since the Factory opened, retired last month. We all wish her a long and happy retirement.

● ST. HELENS

The seasonal decline in Optical orders which usually occurs about this time of the year has not yet affected us, and due to our commitments in supplying Spectacle blanks activity is running at a very high level in both manufacturing and processing departments. Although this situation occasionally "frays tempers" when decisions on priority orders have to be taken, we are only too pleased to be "up to the neck" in it, rather than in the opposite situation which results from a lack of orders.

We welcome the new additions to our remoulding strength and hope they will quickly settle in and be happy in our midst.

On Friday, 23rd September, five coaches left the St. Helens Works to see "The Lights." Our short visit to Blackpool was most enjoyable, helped considerably by a fine evening.

We were pleased to welcome a party of friends from Malvern, on Saturday, 1st October. They called en route to Blackpool (photograph). We are sorry they couldn't stay longer and trust their week-end was a pleasant one.



—Chance PORTRAITS—

HERE is the promised further set of Walter Nurnberg's head studies of some of our people.

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INSPECTOR

Olive Foster. *Blown and Pressed Division.*

GATHERER

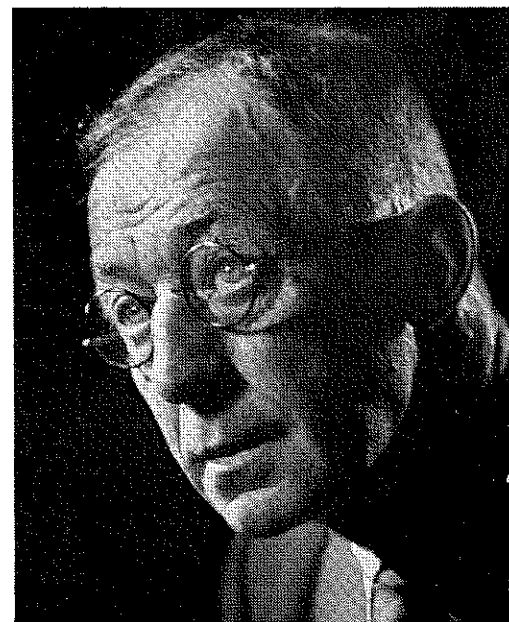
William Smith. *No. 15 Tank, Blown and Pressed Division.*

ELECTRICIAN

Wilfred Hollyhead. *Maintenance and Construction Department.*

FOREMAN

Harry Lloyd. *Mixing Department.*



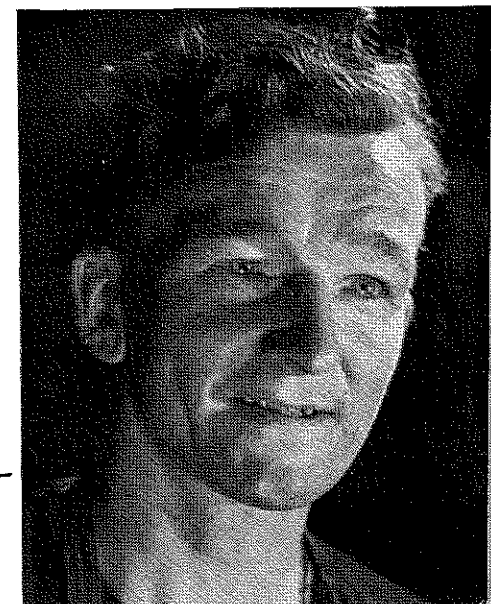
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CUTTER

Elsie Smallwood. *Optical Division.*

SKIMMER

Fred Davies. *No. 11 Tank, Blown and Pressed Division.*



Tottings

OF SHORTER ITEMS
AND EMPLOYEES'
CONTRIBUTIONS

OBITUARY

A. E. BASSETT

ALBERT Edward Bassett, born in 1876, came to Chance Brothers in 1890, at which date his older brother, William (so well known afterwards as one of the most outstanding English footballers of all time), was also employed here.

Young Bassett started as a boy in the Gatehouse but was soon promoted to the Offices, and in 1903 was selected to succeed Enoch Hall as Manager of the Rolled Plate Warehouse, where his boundless energy and enthusiasm very soon made themselves felt to the great benefit of the Firm.

Some years later when the need was felt for an increase in our sales organisation, Mr. Bassett was appointed one of our regular travellers under Mr. Crowther, and almost immediately made his mark as an excellent trade representative for the Firm. In 1922 he was appointed a Managing Director of the Company and from then until 1940 he took his full share in the control of the Firm, especially in connection with the Globe and Pressed departments, and with home and overseas sales. Throughout the whole of that period the great value of his energy and experience was immensely appreciated both by his co-Directors and by the staff at Spon Lane and Glasgow, and by our customers at home and all over the world, by all of whom he was regarded with quite remarkable respect and affection.

He had an outstanding sympathy for everyone's difficulties and a quite wonderful sense of justice and fair play which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. His innate kindness, boundless enthusiasm and unswerving loyalty were pre-eminent characteristics of his truly remarkable career.

W.L.C.

LUKE CLARKE

LUKE Clarke, who died on 14th September, joined the Company in 1915, at the age of 18 years, as a teaser in the Optical Department at Spon Lane. When the Head Founder, Mr. Dan Whitehouse, left the Department in 1921, Mr. Clarke became Founder; he was transferred to the Staff with Foreman status in 1946.

He worked under successive Managers, Mr. S. Lamb, Dr. W. M. Hampton, myself and, for the last twelve months, Mr. S. T. Pickering, and his quiet efficiency and equable temperament earned him the

respect and affection of all, workmates and Management alike.

Optical Glass making calls for patience and unstinted care and attention to detail. In the early days long hours of work were frequent and reward by successful results less common than disappointment. No men could have been more suited to the work, and during the late war his share in the record output achieved was recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal.

Although Optical Glass manufacture ceased at Spon Lane in 1948 his energies were transferred to the new development of melting in platinum pots, the precursor of more advanced methods which his death prevented his seeing brought to finality.

A country man, he was throughout his life a lover of the countryside where he frequently spent his holidays; his garden occupied much of his spare time. His passing came as a profound shock to all his many friends at the Works, and our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow and family.

W.N.W.

P. C. GOODMAN

MANY people associated with the Firm were grieved by the death of Percy Goodman at the age of 38.

Educated at the James Watt Technical School, he entered the Glassworks Drawing Office as an apprentice in April 1926. During the subsequent five years he gained practical Engineering experience in the Glassworks Maintenance Department and attended the Chance Technical College where he obtained the Higher National Certificate.

After serving his apprenticeship he was awarded a scholarship by the Chance Education Trust for Sheffield University where he studied Engineering and Glass Technology under Professor Turner.

His subsequent appointments up to June, 1948, were directly associated with improvements in plant layout and the handling of materials. Every problem irrespective of its magnitude was tackled with courage and given the same meticulous consideration.

His high sense of duty, his integrity and modesty coloured his whole career, and his recent promotion to the position of Manager to the Method and Development Section in the Blown and Pressed Division was a recognition of his out-standing ability.

L.G.B.

PRESS ON REGARDLESS

I am a beggar. I beg two curious things — News and Space. Now they tell me that beggars cannot be choosers, and how right they are! Because of this I despise no news which comes my way; I only clamour for more, and yet more! So here I am at my corner of the street begging for news — news of the factory. Big or small, all is seized upon greedily, because it is the *News* which helps me to beg for my second item Space.

"No news — No space" that is the motto of the Newspaper world. Publishing life pivots on that one word "Space". It is a particularly rare commodity today (similar almost to nylons, only "space" cannot be found even in the streets: try yourself swinging a cat in Oxford Street!). And because space is rare Editors are not always philanthropic to such beggars as the Press Officer for Chance Brothers. Therefore, to charm them, I am obliged to resort to cunning; the news I have to offer must be attractive (don't let him think that you are advertising!) and it must be brief. (If he has space he will ask for more).

Now there must be many little bits of news of the Works which do not come my way, but which would look good neatly dressed-up and occupying the Editor's "Space". It may not seem news to you that "Waverley" is now being produced in colour; it may not seem important that a new book on "Careers for Young People" has been printed by Chance Brothers; it may not seem worthy of report that Sumo Pumps are being used at the Midlands Ideal Home Exhibition to send coloured water flowing down 30 ft. pyramids of glass; it may appear trivial that Dolcis Shoe shops are displaying a "Spider-web" bowl in their windows because they know it to be a well-designed object; but all these things are the kind of news for which I beg and which, in their turn, help me to plead for "Space" so that the name of Chance Brothers is

kept before the public eye, as a constant reminder that we are all working like mad to help export and the home market.

* *

(With apologies to *Punch*)

Are you a "Teaser"? A "Gathering" geyser?
Do you Manage, Direct or obey?
D'you demand or request? Are you Blown and Pressed?
Antique? or just going grey?
Whether thinking in terms of endurance or therms,
Of Prism, or Beaker or Flask;
Whether Rolled and Reeded, or wired and seeded,
Your news is all I ask!

R. Garland,

Press Officer (London Office).

* *

DISMAL JIMMY

I have been bombed, blasted, burnt, sandbagged, walked upon, sat upon, held up, held down, flattened out, and squeezed by INCOME TAX, SUPER TAX, TOBACCO TAX, BEER TAX, PURCHASE TAX, SPIRIT TAX, MOTOR TAX, and every Society, Organisation, Club, that the inventive mind of man can conceive, to extract what I may or may not have in my possession for the RED CROSS, BLACK CROSS, DOUBLE CROSS, and every cross and hospital in the town and country. The Government has governed my business until I do not know who really does own it!!!

I am suspected, inspected, examined, informed, required, and commanded, so that I do not know where I am, or why I am here at all. All I know is that I am supposed to have an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire or hope of human race, and because I will not go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied about, held up, rung up, robbed and damned near ruined.

The only reason that I am clinging to life at all, is to see what on earth is going to happen next!!!!!!!!!!

JOTTINGS (Continued)

WE MUST ECONOMISE

How we have all come to hate and detest this word. Day in and day out, one hears it, reads about it, and now very nearly dreams about it, and still once again we have to appeal to all employees to economise in electricity during the next four to five months.

We had hoped that this year would see the end of the shortage of electricity, but although new power stations have been erected throughout the country, more and more electricity is being used both in the homes and throughout industry as a whole. There is every indication that there will be a serious shortage of electricity particularly during December, January and February.

Last winter we were very fortunate inasmuch that the weather was mild and we were able to get through without any serious cuts. The coming winter, of course, may be a very different tale and if very long cold spells are experienced we may find that industry will be affected unless everyone plays their part and conserves as much current as possible.

As last winter, we again have to make considerable savings in consumption of electricity and the Lighthouse Works are playing their part by taking all their supply from two small diesel alternator sets which were installed last year. With regard to the Glassworks, due to our heavy continuous load we are only able to make a relatively small saving and this is to be done by operating certain equipment during hours outside the peak load periods and by very strict economy in the use of electricity.

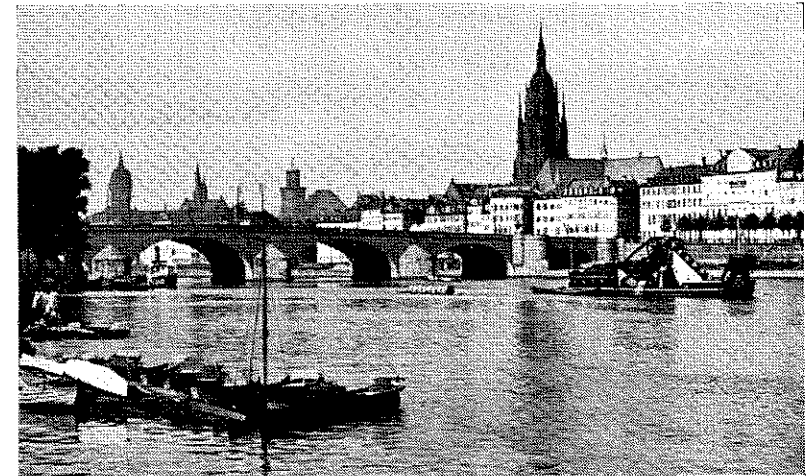
This matter of economy is a personal one for all those employed in the Glassworks and although our electrical staff will do all they can to keep the load at a minimum, their efforts will be completely in vain unless they receive full co-operation throughout the whole of the Works. Therefore, it is up to everyone of us to do all we can to reduce the consumption of electricity and thus ensure full employment throughout the Works during the critical period.

W. E. Barrett.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Mr. D. E. C. Eversley, a member of the staff of the Commerce Department of Birmingham University, is carrying out a research into the Company's early business and financial history. He is very keen to get hold of any old papers, catalogues, photographs, agreements, reports, correspondence, etc., dated prior to 1914, and if anyone knows of a storing place for such old documents, or can tell of cupboards, tin trunks or boxes which appear not to have been opened for many years, Mr. Eversley would be very glad if information as to their whereabouts could be passed to Mr. Cleaver.

Leonard H. Cleaver, Secretary and Chief Accountant
(Drawn by Walt Johnson).



FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN

Photo: Fox Photos Ltd.

Impressions of Germany in 1949

by W. N. WHEAT

PRESENT-DAY Germany provides a top priority subject for the political and economic experts, and a layman in these matters cannot hope to grasp the full significance of the present trends. The remarkable recovery of German industry since 1945, at least in the Western Zones, is however well known; production has reached almost 90 per cent. of the pre-war level, and the policy of the occupying powers, (U.S., Britain, and France) is to foster its recovery in every possible way and drive it up to 130 per cent. or so. A few industries with a definite war potential, such as aircraft construction, are prohibited. Others, such as shipbuilding and steel production have a ceiling or are drastically controlled, but for most the "sky is the limit"; and among the latter is the scientific instrument industry.

It has been argued that a nation cannot wage war without instruments and one of the best ways of preventing a revival of military power in Germany would be to prohibit or at least restrict this industry. The supporters of this policy have lost the day, and now the manufacturers of cameras, binoculars, microscopes, etc., is in full swing, and exports are increasing.

I had the job of going to see some of the big German firms and find out whether there is a market for Chance Optical Glass there or whether they can make enough for themselves. It was an interesting experience, the more interesting as I was there in 1945, two weeks after the war. The comparison was startling. In May, 1945, German industries virtually came to a full-stop; most towns of any size were so heavily bombed that in parts they looked like rubble heaps through which the bulldozers had cleared lanes for traffic. Such shops as were left were closed, no trains ran, and lines of damaged locomotives stood idly on the tracks. Only the country-side looked normal as seen from the autobahns which run straight for mile after mile to avoid the towns. Even here viaducts were destroyed and motor transport had to make frequent and muddy detours, down ravines and up the other side. Thousands of wayfarers, many shoeless, travelled the roads on foot.

Germany in 1949—continued

To-day the rubble in the streets has gone, many of the bombed buildings in the town centres are pulled down and some have been re-built; shops are open and apparently well stocked. The railways are running frequent services on time and the only discomfort is that one has to be satisfied with an unpadded wooden seat. There are no restaurant cars on the trains but on most of them attendants bring along cups of quite drinkable coffee with excellent cakes and biscuits and, if one's tastes run that way, hot sausages. I spoke to one of these men; he had been an air gunner during the war and had taken part in the bombing of Coventry.

Food is rationed in Germany and, when the traveller crosses the frontier, he is issued with a seven-day sheet of coupons for meat, fish, butter, margarine, bread, etc. To my astonishment this did not appear to be required. I fed in restaurants daily for a week before I was asked for a coupon, and only then did I discover that giving them up saves half a mark (say 9d. at the former exchange rate) on the bill. There is no shortage of food in restaurants and hotels; menus are long and steaks are large! In fact, in my experience, one can have really excellent meals, better than in England, at quite reasonable prices. I was assured that German beer was back to pre-war strength and it was certainly a vast improvement on the Jena brew of 1945.

This is hardly what one would expect to find in a country so lately defeated in a total war, but things are not quite so bright for the ordinary man in the street. Wages have not increased to the same extent as they have in Britain, whereas the prices of goods in the shops seem very similar to those of corresponding goods at home. A pair of shoes seems to cost the equivalent of 30s. to £3, according to quality; a suit of clothes £12 to £20. Furniture seems to be as expensive as at home, so the ordinary people cannot afford to buy very much or to have meals out except as a very occasional treat. Under these conditions one would expect widespread discontent, but not so. My own opinion is that the average man, whose future seemed so black in the early post-war years, now sees the wheels turning and

things speeding up, with jobs for most in spite of the millions of refugees who have come in from the Russian Zone, and feels relieved that things have not turned out so badly after all.

The week of my arrival marked the handing over of most authority to the newly elected West German Government established at Bonn. I was told of floodlit Rhine castles and celebrations; black, red and orange striped flags were everywhere; I even saw some girls with jumpers knitted in the national colours. Occasional Union Jacks in the towns of the British Zone looked very, very lonely.

I entered Germany from Holland on 8th September and arrived at Brunswick in the evening. As in most large towns, there is considerable destruction and I found it very difficult to get a hotel. I had the same trouble in all the towns and cities I visited. The next day I went to see the firm of Voigtlander, probably the oldest instrument firm in Germany. Before the establishment of Schott's Glassworks at Jena in 1886 they were good customers of Chance Brothers and there are still old records in the department of the types of glass they used to buy. After an interval of over 60 years we have had orders from them for some of the new types of optical glass we make in our platinum pot furnaces. I found them very friendly and, if import licences can be obtained, we have a prospect of a share in their business. They have 1,400 workers, mostly employed in making camera lenses.

From Brunswick I travelled south-west to Gottingen, and the country gets a little less flat, with old castles on some of the wooded hills. Not far away are the Harz mountains. There are several optical firms in this neighbourhood, and further on at Wetzlar is the Leitz Works, the home of the Leica, and Hensoldt, which is part of the Schott organisation. The Leitz factory is on the fringe of the town overlooking the river. I saw a sign on the roof announcing that this is their centenary year; so we started to make optical glass at Smethwick a year before they were established.

It was a sunny morning as I walked across the bridge, and over on the right was a sports ground with a bevy of

girls of all ages and sizes trotting the race track with an instructress. Leitz employ 4,000 people, mostly in making cameras and lenses and, like Voigtlander, they have ordered some of our new glasses. They are bringing out new designs of lenses based on these and, if licences are granted, we have prospects of some work to keep the new electric furnace busy.

I also visited the firm of Minox not far away where they make real miniature cameras about the size of a cigarette lighter.

Wetzlar is in the U.S. Zone and further south at Frankfurt is the headquarters of the Allied Control Commission, established in the huge I. G. Farben building, where I interviewed some officials. At the gate is a U.S. military police post with a coca-cola bar conveniently adjacent. In Frankfurt there is also now a British Government Commercial Representative, from whom I obtained some information.

Soldiers and officials abound, and the streets and car parks are crowded with American cars. It was the same in all the towns in the U.S. Zone and in marked contrast to our own area where the troops seemed to be hidden away. From here I travelled to Kreuznach in the French Zone where I had a very friendly reception at the Works of Schneider, who again make photographic lenses and with whom future business should be possible.

I went south to Stuttgart where I visited Kodak and Zeiss Ikon, and then on to Munich. The road runs through hilly forested country and crosses the Danube at the old town of Ulm. Munich, where I had two calls to make, was as busy as Frankfurt, and I was glad to find a bed in a cubicle of the basement of a half bombed hotel. In Munich, the past mingles with the present; medieval buildings, some badly damaged, stand close to the store of F. W. Woolworth A.G. The "Brauhaus" or large tavern, is an institution, and there are several famous ones. On Sunday evenings they are filled to capacity, as are their customers whose speed in emptying the tall beer mugs filled me with admiration. Hereabouts was the former headquarters of the Nazis, the Brownhouse.

My last trip was to Landshut, about 40 miles north-east of Munich, where Schott & Genossen, optical and scientific glass manufacturers, have their office. I learned something of their activities since they had to leave Jena when the



STUTTGART: View from Town Hall.
Photo: Fox Photos Ltd.

Russians took over in 1945, and they now have a factory close to the Czech frontier. Workers are frequently escaping from the Russian Zone and joining them, and they are making optical glass again on a big scale. It is very doubtful if they have made as much progress as we have in the newer manufacturing methods, so for the time being the German manufacturers requiring the new types of glass have to come to us or the Americans. For the first time we have a lead, and there is no reason why we should not keep it.

I left Germany with the feeling that from now on we shall have to meet the most determined competition for the export markets of the world, in glass and in many other trades. The Germans are industrious and have a genius for invention, and the policy of the Allied Control is to encourage them in every possible way.

They are intensely nationalistic and already feeling their feet in matters of Government. The Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes on the high twin flagstaffs outside the I. G. Farben building in Frankfurt looked very isolated in the general activity, and one wonders how long our influence will continue to count for much amidst it all.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM

● Works Consultative Committee

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments* there have been two meetings of the Works Consultative Committee. At the September meeting the Committee received a report from the Chairman regarding the Management's decision not to arrange for a portable Radiograph to visit the works. Investigations had shown that the X-Ray of many numbers of employees would result in considerable loss of work hours. With the shorter working week and the fact that we, in common with other Industries are having to face increasing competition with World Markets, the Management did not feel justified in agreeing to the project which would break further into the working week.

In his review of the production position, the Chairman, Mr. John Raymond, referred to the de-valuation of the Pound and its effect on the Company. From the point of view of buying we were fortunate on the Glass-works side in that many of our materials were mined or produced in this country. In the case of Borax however, we were faced with the additional cost of £10,000 which would effect mainly the Blown and Pressed Division. The cost of materials used by the Engineering Division had increased considerably, but against this, in the case of Sumo Pumps in particular, the prospects of importing in the United States and Canada were much brighter. On the selling side, de-valuation would help us considerably where we were in competition with America or wished to export goods to the U.S.A., but where we had already established products in America we would need to sell nearly half as much again in order to earn as many dollars.

At the October meeting it was resolved to urge the Management to reconsider the matter of the portable Radiograph as it was felt that arrangements might be made whereby em-

ployees could be X-rayed outside their working hours.

The First Aid Services were reviewed and the members of the Committee were interested to learn that during the past year attendances at the new Medical Centre totalled 24,549. 1,680 eye accidents were treated, 860 cases of burns, and 5,454 other accidents, making a total of 7,994. The bulk of the other attendances were re-dressings. There is no doubt that the Medical Centre is one of the most up-to-date units in the country but it was felt that there was still a need for the services of voluntary first aid men and women in each department, and the Committee recommended that efforts should be made to recreate a Works Ambulance Brigade.

● Suggestion Scheme

In the months of August and September the Suggestion Scheme Committee made awards totalling £26 5s. 0d.

Steve Morrall of the Pressed Making received a further £5 for his suggestion in connection with the use of two loose collars on a pressing job. Steve recently received an interim award of £2 for this suggestion.

C. J. Bough, Pressed Mould Shop, suggested that the semi-automatic press should have an electric plug fixed at a point near to the press. This idea was of real value and the suggestion received an award of £5.

Harry Stanley of the Lighthouse Machine Shop has probably submitted more suggestions this year than any other employee. In September he put in a suggestion concerning two or three section moulds. Previously, a relief was milled for all mating faces and Harry suggested that a relief milled in one of the pair of faces would serve the same purpose. The Committee awarded £5.

£3 was awarded to J. Sharpless of the St. Helens Branch Works, for putting forward a method of feeding duplicating

machines with printing fluid to prevent excessive waste.

Ideas concerning the design of crates and boxes are often submitted to the Committee. D. Chrimes of the Blown and Pressed Division put in some ideas for improving the crates used for packing pressed glassware. It is believed that the adoption of these ideas will considerably reduce breakage of small articles and the Committee awarded £2.

An original and practical suggestion was put forward by S. Timbrell of the Lighthouse Machine Shop concerning the use of a round table for the machining of glass rubbers. He received £1 for this idea.

£1 was also awarded to G. Pilkington of the St. Helens Branch Factory for suggesting that a rubber stop be put in the cut-out of T squares to avoid damage to the end of the glass and the diamond.

An idea for a bracket to hold moulds in position on the Deeley Machines was submitted by W. H. Ward of the Blown and Pressed Division and his idea earned him £1.

A. Culwick of the Carpenters Shop suggested that a number of tubes be fitted on one side of the Globe Decorating Lehr to make it more easy to grease the chain. This practical suggestion earned 15s.

W. Waterhouse of the Optical Division put forward a device for improving the grading process in the manufacture of Ballotini and his ideas resulted in an award of 15s.

Three employees each earned 10s. F. Cartwright of the Lighthouse Fitting Shop put forward a suggestion as to a method of removing the centre sleeve from the 4th Order type pedestals without completely dismantling the pedestals and A. Black of St. Helens suggested an improved method of heating optical moulds and plungers. J. H. Bird of the Pressed Department put forward suggestions relating to alterations to the Pressed Lehr to improve annealing.

J. L. Houghton of St. Helens pointed out that suggestion forms could be kept with advantage in the Suggestion Boxes at the St. Helens Works instead of in the Office as at present. This was adopted and 5s. was awarded.

● Safety Committee

At the last meeting of the Safety Committee the circumstances which led

to ten lost time accidents were reviewed.

There were three cases of small wounds becoming septic and in neither case did the employee concerned attend for First Aid treatment in the first instance. The Safety Committee does stress the importance of attending at the Medical Centre no matter how minor the injury may seem.

Two lost time accidents were the result of careless handling of Glass-ware, such as carrying too many articles for processing.

There was one unfortunate accident in that an apprentice received a scalp wound as a result of his hair coming into contact with a drill spindle. Operators are urged to use machine guards and should they consider that the guard is inadequate the matter should be taken up with the shop foreman.

The Works Medical Centre is open from 7 a.m. on Monday until 12 noon Saturday. During the weekends, treatment can be obtained at the First Aid Dressing Station at The Old Gate.

There is one at each gate.





● *Woman's Page*

Shopping in NEW YORK

by *Sadie McMahon,*

TO one who had just left England and its utility shopping, visiting the various shopping centres in New York left one gazing in awe at the different things on show. Summer dresses, coats, sun suits, etc. in materials from silk to cotton and in any colour you fancied. Compared with our utility prices, clothes in America are much cheaper, in fact there are prices to suit everyone's purse.

Those very precious articles we see so little of in this country — nylon stockings — are plentiful in America and cost so little, anything from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

The large stores are usually packed with shoppers, and very often there are long queues especially if there is a sale, (which happens about once a week) when it is not really safe to go out shopping at all.

There are many different nationalities in America, and many coloured people who, blended with the brightly coloured materials, make everything look like a technicolour picture.

I can only TRY to give you a picture of the food stores. Everything you can think of in the food line is plentiful, and, what is more, can be bought without points or ration books. This was not so in war-time however. The Americans also had a rationing system, although it was not to be compared with ours. Householders were not required to register with any one retailer, which meant if they wanted to get their week-end joint they had to be out very early in the morning and nearly always the latecomers went without.

The first thing that impressed me was the cleanliness of the food. Practically everything is wrapped in greaseproof paper, and laid out methodically. You collect the articles required and take them along to the cashier who packs the food very neatly in large shopping bags. All the articles are priced and the shop assistants do not touch the food at all.

I should like to mention here that I saw some very beautiful English china — all shapes and sizes. This china is bought very quickly, in fact as soon as it is unpacked. The Americans like our china and are glad to buy it. They like good quality !!!

Apart from the wonderful things to be bought, the shops are very much like our own here in England, and the people you meet in the streets are no different to the people you meet in the English streets. There is perhaps a little more civility from the assistants, which I think is because they are never obliged to say "No."

Who knows, perhaps one day we shall have all these things in England.

ANGLING - by JOHN CHEETHAM

THE picture drawn by cartoonists of an angler usually depicts a yokel sitting by the river with a stick, a piece of string, a large hook and a worm, waiting patiently for the fish to hook themselves, and beside him are shown a number of large fish which have been caught with nonchalant ease.

The impression given that fish are unintelligent creatures and easily caught is certainly wrong. Some of them possess remarkable brain power, are cunning, keen-eyed and cautious, and their capture necessitates the use of the finest tackle and a high degree of skill.

From the early days when men caught fish as food without the aid of rod, reel, or line, there was evolved the modern art of rod fishing which has developed into one of to-days most engrossing sport.

Izaak Walton, the father of angling, said that somebody might have invented a better sport than angling but nobody had, and his words express the sentiments of the angling sportsmen of to-day.

Some idea of the popularity of "the gentle art" can be gained by reference to the membership figures of the Birmingham Angling Association to which our own Angling Club is affiliated. These show an increase of 4,000 in the last two years with a total membership now of 27,000, while in their annual match this year there were 8,000 competitors fishing on the River Severn between Bridgnorth and Tewkesbury.

Match fishing, in addition to being a test of ability to catch the maximum weight of fish in a limited time, may also present additional problems such as fishing very shallow water, or fishing positions from which it is almost impossible to cast. However, many of these seemingly hopeless positions do in fact turn out to be match winners.

The angler who consistently secures good catches is generally one who studies the fish, the river, and the weather, has a quick eye, an easy style, possesses powers of concentration and uses the lightest tackle possible according to conditions.

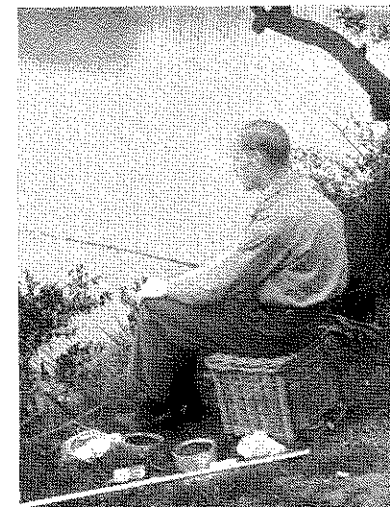
The fish mostly encountered by the coarse angler in this country are Pike, Perch, Ruffe, Carp, Tench, Roach, Rudd, Chub, Dace, Gudgeon, Bream, Bleek, Barbel and Eels, and without exception all give good sport.

My own early experiences in angling were gained in the River Withan and the Foss Dyke Canal and at the age of 11 I fished in the Lincolnshire Boy's Match and managed to catch a small silver bream and win a prize of 7s 6d. Beginners luck?, I know, but it was the start of my interest in angling.

I have made no attempt in this article to tell how the various types of fish are caught, but I do feel that a few points for beginners would serve a useful purpose. Don't start by buying a lot of elaborate and expensive tackle, instead seek the advice of an experienced angler and obtain a limited amount of good equipment, later on you can add all the trimmings.

Read all the books you can about the fish, the rivers, the weather and styles of fishing, but do not forget that experience is by far the best teacher. Join a fishing club (our own for preference) and you will quickly learn many wrinkles and see quite a number of styles of fishing; from these you can develop your own styles.

No reference has been made in this article to Fly Fishing but as this form is not met with in match fishing, I deemed it advisable to omit commenting thereon, even though the Fly-Fisher is still held as the aristocrat of Anglers.



Heard in the Canteen

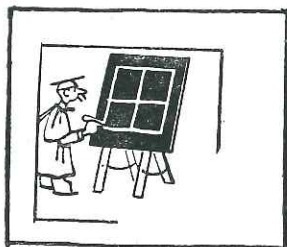


Optician: "So you wish me to test your eyesight, with a view to your applying for a driving licence. Just tell me, what is the number of that car outside?"

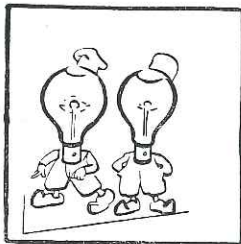
Patient "What car?"

DOODLE QUIZ

What do these "doodles" mean?
The words below each are a clue.
More "doodles" in our next issue.



9 TWO-THIRDS OF A
SENTENCE



10 IMPORTED
FOR THE SPRING

Sister: "Come, Willie, and take your powder like a little man. You never hear me make any complaint about a trifle like that."

Willie: "Neither would I if I could dab it on my face like you do. It's swallowing the stuff that puts the wind up me!"

The soldiers were being drilled in the village square, watched by a little group of the residents.

"Company! Two paces forward — march!" bawled out the sergeant-major.

"Now isn't that just like them chaps!" said an old lady amongst the spectators. "Why couldn't he take two paces forward himself instead of moving the whole regiment?"

"Mummy, do the Herald angels have wings?"

"Yes, dear," replied mother.

"And can Herald angels fly, mummy?"

"Yes, dear."

"Daddy told nurse she was a little angel last night. When will she fly?"

"To-morrow!" replied mother with decision.

Jack: "And is Jim as fat as ever?"

Bill: "Fat! Why he had mumps for three weeks before we knew it."

Member of Anti-gambling League: "I will not say I have never gambled. I once bought a ticket in a raffle for my wife."

Man in Audience: "So that's how you got her!"

"DOODLE" ANSWERS.
No. 9 "Drawn and quartered"
No. 10 "Dutch Bubs"

Postscript

TO many of us there is one place where we know that we can forget the troubles and problems of the engineering world in which we live. This sanctuary is our garden.

Some enthusiasts like herbaceous plants with their many varied colours, and lawns set out neatly with crazy-paving paths. Others prefer roses and one might go far to find a rival to the rose for beauty and colour.

For me, however, a garden is not complete without a rockery. By this I do not mean that worthless corner, under the eternal drip of trees, bourgeoning with periwinkle and Welsh poppies, because, to quote Farrar, "nothing else will grow there." Nor yet the landscape-gardener's expensive dream of lofty pinnacles, ravines and water courses.

A well constructed rock garden is one where alpine plants can live under conditions approximating closely to those under which the plant would be found in their natural habitat.

The rockery, therefore, is built to provide suitable accommodation for the plants, which are as varied in their habits, likes and dislikes as a community of human beings and one eminent authority on alpine has called them "the little people of the hills." The majority are charming if exacting little plants and once having started out to cultivate alpine, very few turn back. Who can explain the strange charm of these plants that people from every walk of life, from the humble to the noble, seek to spend all their time in making their alpine happy? Is it not that we are incorrigible romanticists at heart, ever seeking after adventure but never finding it in our daily life? Men have died in search of new species to grace our alpine houses and cold frames.

To those who have travelled to mountain ranges in order to collect alpine, the specimens that survive English winters and live on to enhance their rockeries ever bring back poignant recollections of days spent searching for plants. Mention the name *Campanula* and there is conjured up in my memory the first time that I saw these delightful bell flowers, nodding in a light breeze, growing wild at four thousand feet on the steep, grassy slopes of the Alps in Southern France. Growing on my rockery is a plant of *Globularia cordifolia* which was growing, two years ago, on dazzling white limestone rock about twenty-three kilometres from Valence.

I hope that these few thoughts might encourage somebody to start climbing the hill which eventually leads to attempts at the successful cultivation of *Eritrichium nanum*, Woolly-Hair the Dwarf.

*With the kiss of the Sun for pardon,
And the Song of the birds for Mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on Earth.*

John Fletcher.