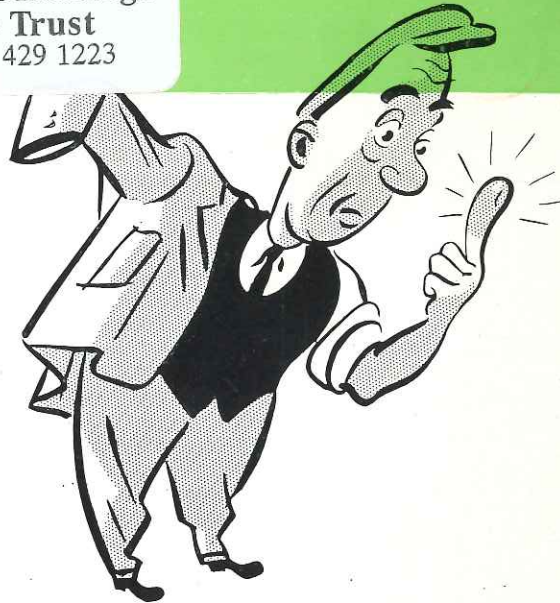


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This is the property of
**Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust**
Tele 0121 429 1223



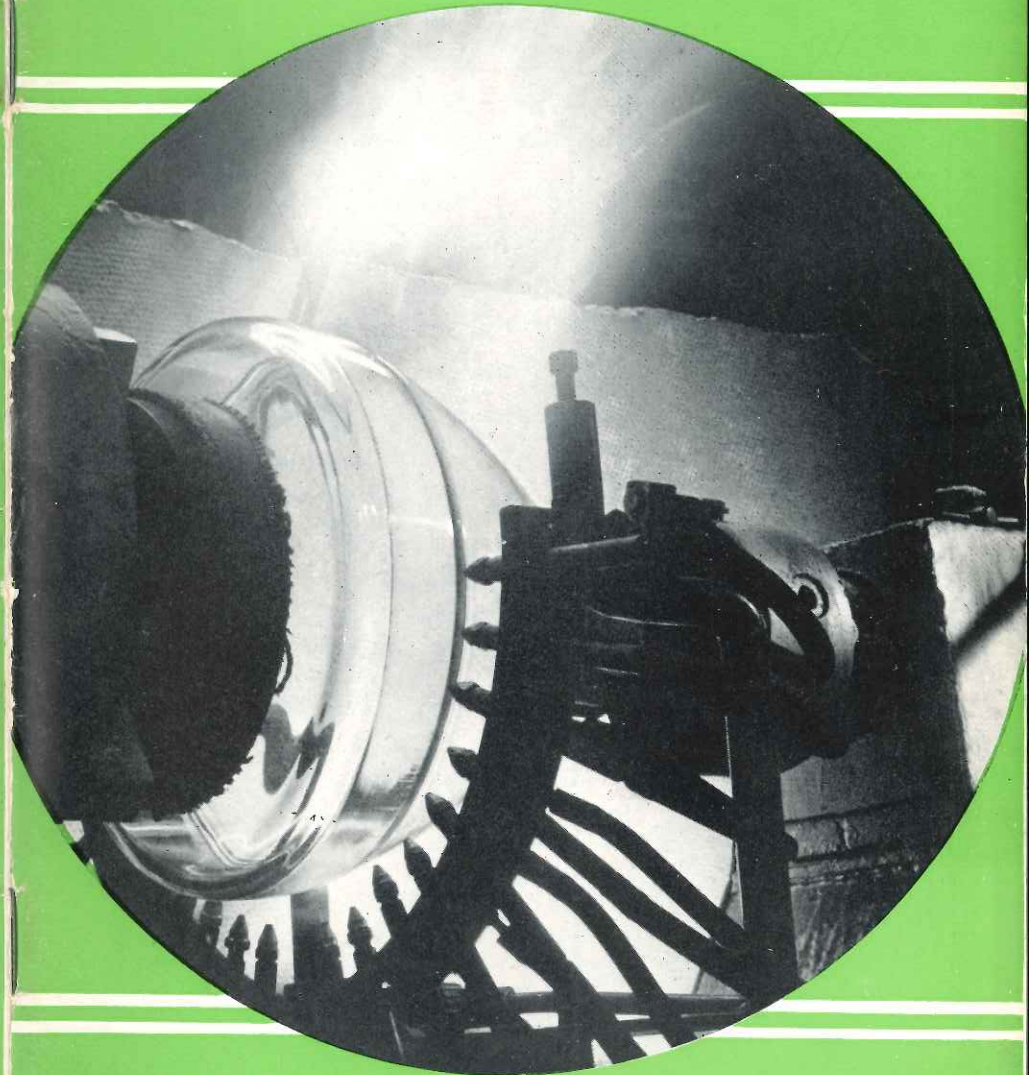
Inflammation can be dangerous!

Don't neglect rashes, inflammation, skin complaints.
Better take a small infection to the surgery now than
be carried there tomorrow.
Report any skin troubles immediately.

Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar

Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street,
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Chance COMMENTS



MAY-JUNE 1952

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Chance

COMMENTS

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

EDITOR A. OGDEN

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<i>Blown and Pressed</i>	
Decorating	A. CHAMBERS
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
	R. TURTON
Process	B. PATRICK
	S. STOCKIN
	F. TATTON
Sales	MISS L. RATLIDGE
Warehouse	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying & Stationery	MRS. CANTY
<i>Engineering</i>	
Drawing Office	J. FISHER
Electrical	J. THOMPSON
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Machine and Fitting	F. CARTWRIGHT
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Sumo Office	J. J. WHITE
Sumo Works	J. T. HALL
Time Study	A. HEATH
Toolroom and Mould Shop	W. B. COX
Welding and Blacksmiths	D. EDWARDS
Works Staff	A. SLEIGH
Export	H. V. SKAN
<i>Flat Glass</i>	
Making and Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	S. RAY
Seven Storey Laboratory	A. FARDELL
	MRS. RUSSELL
<i>Maintenance and Construction</i>	
Boiler Shop	D. HILL
Building	S. BEARDSMORE
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
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Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall Stores	D. KIRKWOOD
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Recreation Club	A. FARLEY
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Traffic	MRS. K. FELLOWS
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Glasgow	J. A. AITCHISON
London	J. W. CHANCE
Malvern	MISS D. CLARE
	P. ROBINSON
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VOL. 5, No. 2

MAY—JUNE 1952

The Lighthouse Makers

On Wednesday, 12th March, 1952, in the Home Service, Mr. Bertram Mycock, the B.B.C. Industrial Correspondent, broadcast a fifteen-minute talk describing a recent visit to our factory. We are indebted to the British Broadcasting Corporation for permission to publish the following abridged copy of the script.

IT'S an odd thing that practically every lighthouse around the coast of Britain—and indeed, most of those in the Empire—have been made by men and women who live about as far from the sea as it's possible to get in these islands. Up in the Black Country of South Staffordshire, somewhere around the geographical centre of England, there's a factory which for one hundred years has been making the glass for the lighthouses, and the mechanism that turns the light. In fact, if you want a lighthouse anywhere in the world, the people of Smethwick will not only make the light, but will plan the tower, tell you where it should stand, and, if you like, will even arrange to build it. But this factory at Smethwick makes other things besides lighthouses. It makes the lenses for car headlamps and for railway signals; it gives eyes to the tank-driver, the gunner, and the airman; it makes lights for streets and public buildings; it makes tumblers and fruit bowls and test tubes. It made, a hundred years ago, a million square feet of glass

for the Crystal Palace. It gave Big Ben his shining clock face.

I went up to the Black Country to see the present generation of these glassmakers at work. It's a hundred years since they built the equipment for their first lighthouse. It's a business that marches with the times, and at the same time lags behind them. In an age when technical development races ahead, many of the world's lighthouses must remain as they were planned scores of years ago. The lighthouse on the mainland coast is now electrified; but many of those on the jagged little rocks that lie across the shipping channels in remote parts of the world, have to go on burning oil and petroleum vapour. So, when you go through the lighthouse works in Smethwick, you see them making ponderous gear of a pattern which hasn't changed much in half a century; and in the very next bay of the works, you find them making electric lights that are so compact you could stand them on a kitchen table. Yet both kinds—the little

one and the big one—can send out their finger of light to distant horizons.

Somehow the old ones seem the more romantic. I saw two men building up, in a painstaking process that will last for three months, the gunmetal frame of what you and I would call the "lens" (and what they call the "optic") of a lighthouse which is bound for Colombo, in Ceylon. It will hold the scores of prisms and reflectors that pick up the light and push it out in a straight and powerful beam swinging around the horizon as the mechanism slowly turns. It was a pleasure to see and to touch this wonderful piece of metalwork, each section cunningly contrived to set the prism at just the right angle.

This lighthouse works is one of the strangest mixtures of old and new that I have seen in any industry. Some of its people talk in terms of radar and electronics. Some of them pursue an ancient craft which can trace its lineage two thousand years back to the Roman occupation. It has many modern industrial techniques; yet some of the machinery that grinds and polishes the optical glass for the lighthouses and the guns and the aeroplanes, has been running for close on a hundred years.

It's one of those jobs where the skill of the operator still counts. Sometimes it's a very special skill that can be handed down from father to son, as it is in the Black Country. They say, jokingly, that the whole factory seems to run on about five basic families—which may not be literally true, but it does help to point the family loyalties to the firm and to the job.

As you go about the factory, you see dozens of little communities of men and women, each working around their own furnace. You walk across the floor of a workshop, and are rather surprised to see three heads sticking up out of the floor. When you draw nearer, you find that the heads belong to three people sitting in a little pit. In front of each one is a mould, heated by gas and opened and closed by hand. Above ground, a man with a long blowpipe strides up to the furnace, lowering his visor as he goes, and squinting through it into the heart of the fire. He thrusts in the rod, twists it a few times, and draws out on the end a blob of glass—glowing a milky pink in the gloom of the workshop. Swinging it as he goes, he strides back to the pit, giving the tube a few tentative puffs to start the blob of glass on its way to becoming a bottle or a flask. Then he lowers it into the pit, and the operator below closes the mould around it. A long blow on the pipe, with cheeks bulging, and then the mould is opened again and out comes the perfect shape—red now, and yet sparkling and picking up the light from the furnace, as it is slung away into a truck.

Sometimes the moulding is done by machine. This way, they can make the headlamps for cars, the lights for railway signals, heavy dishes for the laboratory, and so on. A blob of glass is dropped into a mould, and when the operator grasps a long handle that looks something like the tiller of a barge, and pulls it down, a die presses into the mould and produces the lens or the dish, or whatever it may be. Some of these moulding processes are being fully

mechanised. And yet, there's always the final stage where the human hand has to take over. You see an enormous and very complicated piece of machinery that takes the white-hot glass from the furnace and passes it from one mechanical hand to another, but at the very last somebody has to come along with a pair of tweezers or a little shovel, and relieve the monster of the thing it has made.

Talking of monsters, the machine that rolls out the decorative sheets of glass that are so common in office partitions—what used to be called "frosted" glass, and is now gaily patterned in all sorts of ways that catch the light—this machine has a direct affinity with steel rolling or, for that matter, biscuit making. The furnace at one end produces a continuous flow of molten glass which is rolled out, and patterned as it goes. It goes through ovens whose job, oddly enough, is not to heat it but to see that it cools slowly. At the far end of this long road-way of glass, a man stands carving it into sheets with a diamond, and throwing away the waste pieces and making a tremendous, strangely satisfying series of crashes as he does so.

The people at Smethwick make a good deal of optical glass, and I saw the yield from one furnace which had been emptied out of a crucible to cool on the shop floor. It was destined to become prisms for the instruments of aircraft and fighting vehicles and lighthouses. And it lay on the floor like an enormous uncut diamond, picking up the light from the open door, and sparkling and flashing, although it was dull and foggy outside. Another part of the factory

is especially busy now that television is covering the densely-populated industrial areas of the Midlands and the north of England. It's the section where they make the cathode ray tubes for television receivers. The tubes are made in two parts—the screen, which is the surface that we see, and the body, which holds the working part of the valve. The two parts have to be fused together, and they told me that this is a highly-skilled operation.

It's perhaps natural that a trade with traditions so old should have one of the quaintest jargons of its own. Some of the terms remind us that French craftsmen brought glass techniques into this country many years ago. Some of the terms are native to the Black Country itself, and are part of the rich and highly distinctive dialect of that part of the Midlands. I've been talking about "blobs" of glass; the proper term is a "gob." They don't talk about "casting" glass; they call it "teeming," and the small furnace they call a "monkey." It's on record that the Chairman of the Company was entertaining a pompous visitor, when an untidy head thrust itself around the office door and asked: "Sir, shall I white-wash the monkey?"

★ ★ ★

THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month's cover photograph shows the operation of welding the face on to a cathode ray tube.



The Works Civil Defence teams get down to practical training.

1. A First Aid Squad prepares to enter the gas chamber.
2. The Building Department at the stirrup pump.
3. C.D. Instructor gives fire-fighting instruction.
4. The Lighthouse Works Warden Squad at the fire hut.



BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

hurled around at the

IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION



To the member of London Office senior staff who stayed all night on the Stand before the opening to ensure that the Contractors worked to get the Shop finished.



To the two people who followed two pairs of legs from the Wilkinson Razor Stand round the galleries, having passed right by the Stand for which they were supposed to be looking.



To the senior 'Assistant' who virtually stole the customer from under the watching eyes of the Managing Director who, while acting as an extra assistant, had been patiently waiting for ten minutes for the psychological moment to strike.



To the representative who after a fortnight's spell of duty missed his train home on Sunday by going to the Shop to do stocktaking to help the weary colleague who should have been there.



To all those who didn't once mark a bin card.



To the senior member of the staff who was the only person to awaken on the last Sunday morning when the hotel failed to make the early calls.



To the London Office staff for their help in so many ways.



To the Executive, acting as shop assistant, who secured a customer for Fiesta, got so far through the drill of filling the complicated Order Form, and turned round to ask for customer's name and address only to find he had disappeared.



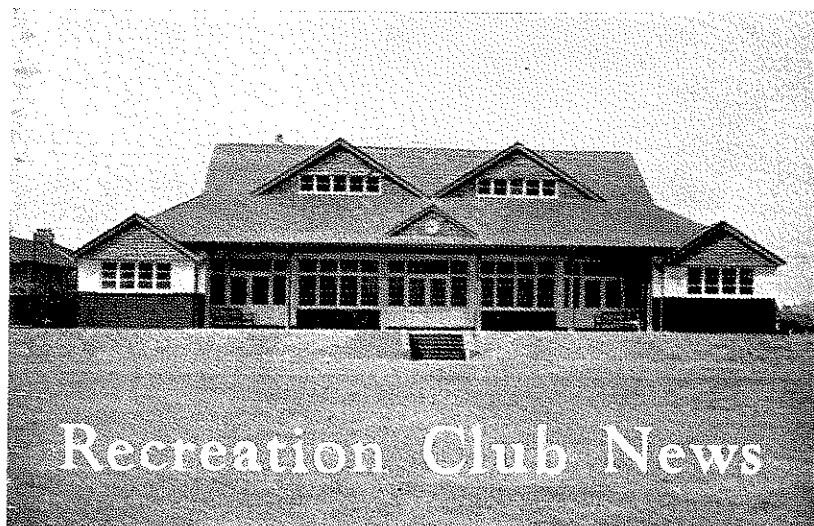
To the 'temporary assistant' who sold the Britannia bowl off the display one Saturday evening.



To all the representatives, London Office and Export staff who worked overtime on Saturdays to help the other shift during the busy periods.



One final big bouquet to Mr. Jupp and his staff who worked so hard and enthusiastically to get the glass on to the stand each morning. Several times cartons left the Works in the afternoon and were being unpacked on the stand at 8 o'clock the following morning.



NEW ACTIVITIES

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments* a Photographic Section has been formed. Several lectures have been given on the technique of photography, and during the summer months trips will be made to places of photographic interest. This section meets in the Pavilion every Monday at 5-45 and new members will be welcomed.



It has been suggested that four other sections should be formed—Cycling, Air-gun Shooting, Ladies' Fencing, and a Film Club. All those interested in any of these activities should give their names to A. Farley who will be calling preliminary meetings within the next few weeks.

It has also been suggested that an inter-departmental table tennis competition should be arranged. This is intended for enthusiasts irrespective of skill, and departments wishing to enter a team should also get in touch with A. Farley.

PAVILION

Dances are still being held every Wednesday and Saturday, and concerts every Sunday. There will be a Carnival Dance on Whit Monday and a Special Concert on Whit Tuesday.

For some time we have been suffering from shortage of space and it is hoped that very soon we shall be able to build extensions to the existing pavilion. To do this within our budget we should depend largely on voluntary labour, and if these plans go through we hope that people will be prepared to help with constructional work in the evenings and at week-ends.



SPORT

Tennis began on April 21st and club nights as usual are Mondays and Thursdays. New members of this section will be welcomed and should apply to Miss V. Carwardine in No. 8. Office (B. & P.).

Netball also began on April 21st. We are hoping to retain the West

Midlands Shield this year but should be glad of some new playing members. They should apply to Mrs. B. Crimes in the Buying Office.



SILVER JUBILEE BALL

500 members and friends attended the Silver Jubilee Ball at Dudley Town Hall on March 28th. Music was provided by Hedley Ward and his Band, and his team of American Square Dancers encouraged many of us to "do-si-do" and "swing our partners" in true barnyard style. The exhibition of Latin-American dancing by Joe Frith and Francis Baldwin was enthusiastically received, and Mr. Jack Thompson, the Master of Ceremonies, varied the dances to suit all tastes. A souvenir "Fiesta" ash-tray was presented to everyone as a memento of the occasion.



THE CHORAL SECTION CONCERT

I was very glad when I first heard the news that the Choral Section of the Recreation Club was being reinstated, particularly in view of my recollections of this Section which operated so successfully in the early days of the 1939/45 war under the guidance and conductorship of Bill Smallwood of the M. & C. Division.

It was therefore with considerable interest that my wife and I attended the second performance of the newly formed Choir on the evening of Friday, 4th April.

I think everyone who attended either the Thursday or the Friday night concert will readily agree with me that both the solo artists and the Choir

gave a good account of themselves, particularly in view of the very short space of time which the reconstituted Section has been in operation.

My memory serves me well regarding many functions which I have attended in the Recreation Club's Pavilion over a number of years, but I do not remember an occasion which gave me greater pleasure than this concert and I sincerely hope that encouraged by their initial success the Section will go on from strength to strength and give us concerts from time to time to which we can look forward, probably not with the same apprehension as the first but in the full knowledge that we are going to hear and see a performance well carried out and enjoyed as much by the performers as the audience.

I have already made mention of Bill Smallwood and his association with the Section as originally formed; to me it is indeed good to see Mr. Smallwood taking part in the newly formed Section and I feel that he must have been a tower of strength to Mr. Beaumont in re-forming the Section.

I thought that the performance by Arnold Heath in controlling the Choir under his baton was first class and the support and obvious team spirit with which the Choir followed him and their discipline throughout the performance was most marked.

I understand the Choir plans to give us another concert in October followed by another concert probably in December and yet a third concert in the early spring of 1953. I feel that they can go ahead with these projects with the knowledge of the full support and appreciation of all members.

C. J. S. Newman.

MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



JOHN SHREWSBURY

JOHN was educated at the West Bromwich Secondary Technical School and left at the age of sixteen. He joined the Company as an apprentice in the Flat Glass Sales Office in August 1951. He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week where he is studying for an Ordinary National Certificate in Commerce and his ambition is to become an outside representative on the Flat Glass Sales Staff.

John is a member of Hampstead Youth Club. He is a keen sportsman and is particularly fond of football and cricket.

He likes reading short stories, his favourite authors being J. B. Priestly and A. A. Milne.

When asked what he liked best in life he replied "Getting away from the Midlands for a fortnight's holiday by the sea." The

thing he dislikes most in life is "bad manners."



RONALD COLEMAN

RON joined the Company in September 1949 as a Student Apprentice in the Chemical Laboratory, after leaving King Edward School, Birmingham, where he obtained a London Universities "Matric" and a Northern Universities Higher School Certificate.

He attends the Birmingham College of Technology on two half days per week where he is studying for a University of London, External Degree in Chemistry. In the term ending June 1951 Ron was successful with his Part I Final B.Sc. His ambition in life lies in original research work.

Ron is a keen sportsman with particular interests in cricket and tennis. He is a lover of classical music, theatre and cinema.



His like in life is to get away from city life to the mountains and amongst his dislikes is "uncleanliness."



JOHN GRIFFITHS

JOHN was educated at the George Dixon Grammar School where he obtained a Northern Universities School Certificate in July 1950. He commenced with the Company in September 1950 as an apprentice in the Lighthouse Electrical Department.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week where he is studying for a Higher National Certificate in Electrical Engineering and his ambition in life is to become a Sales Engineer.

John is a lover of ballroom dancing and is a keen sportsman with particular interests in swimming, ice skating, tennis and motor cycling.

Among his likes in life is motor cycle racing and his dislikes is people who rustle paper in the cinema.



ERIC PETERS

ERIC joined the Company as a Mechanical apprentice in August 1949 after completing a three year full time technical course at the James Watt Technical College. His first six months with the Company were spent in the Laboratory Fitting Shop. He was transferred to the Lighthouse Electrical Department where he is now receiving training. His ambition in life is to become a skilled fitter.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day a week where he is studying for a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

Eric is a very keen member of the Y.M.C.A. and serves on both General and Members' Committees. Eric's other hobbies are cycling and building radio sets. He is a lover of classical music.

The thing he likes most in life is listening to a symphony concert and his dislike in life is "people who take their seats late at a concert."



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The final meeting of the Works Consultative Committee for the year 1951/52 was held on the 27th March.

After dealing with the reports of the several sub-committees, the Chairman, Mr. John Raymond, gave a comprehensive review of the production position. He said that during the past few years the Company had spent large sums of money on modernising the Works, and we had now reached the stage where we must concentrate on consolidating what had been done and avoid all but essential expenditure. This was particularly important under present-day conditions when trade generally showed some signs of slackening.

Dealing with each Manufacturing Division, Mr. Raymond reported that in the Flat Glass Division the volume of orders was beginning to improve and we were receiving a good share of the available business for Rolled Plate glass. In the Blown & Pressed Division it had been decided to cease the manufacture of blown Opal, hand-blown Soda-Lime and blown and pressed coloured glasses, and to concentrate on the production of all classes of Hysil products as well as hand and machine-pressed and machine-blown

articles. The Optical Division was very busy at St. Helens, and the Platinum Melting Section at Spon Lane remained busy but the Spectacle Glass markets were at the moment very slack. The Engineering Division had a very full order book, although orders for Sumo pumps had not come up to expectations, partly due to the restrictions on imports imposed by certain countries. This had made it necessary to slow-down production in certain sections for the time being. There was every indication that a satisfactory volume of orders would be forthcoming for the new 4" pump which would shortly be available.

The elections for Workpeople's Representatives for the year 1952/3 were held on the 18th April with the following results :—

Division	Group	Representative
Flat Glass	1. Coloured & Seven Storey	A. Piper
	2. Rolled Plate	W. Hicks
Optical Blown & Pressed	3. Optical	E. Edwards
	4. Making & Furnaces	R. Cammies
	5. Process, Warehouse & Inspection	Mrs. O. Bowser
	6. Millwrights, Electricians, Boiler Shop, etc.	E. A. Whitehouse
Maintenance & Const.	7. Building, Carpenters, Garage, etc.	T. Grice (Deputy)
	8. Fitting, Machine, Tool Room, Sumo, Smithy, Welding, etc.	W. H. Bates
Engineering	9. Electrical, Grinding	F. A. Cartwright
	10. Mixing, Pot & Clay, Transport, Traffic, Cleaners, Gatehouses	P. A. May (Deputy)
General Services		H. Belt
		F. Walton
		T. R. Page (Deputy)

Suggestions Scheme

DURING the past two months there has been some dropping off in the number of suggestions submitted through the Suggestions Scheme, and the Committee hope that this is only temporary as determined efforts are being made to break the record made in 1951, when 244 suggestions were submitted.

The highest award made at the March and April meetings was one of £6 to W. H. Bird of the Seven Storey Warehouse, who suggested an improved method of packing micro glass for export. The suggested new method resulted in quite a substantial saving by the avoidance of breakages.

A joint suggestion by J. Biggs and T. Page of the Optical Moulding Section concerning improvements to the compressed air press equipment resulted in time saving on optical moulding, and 12s. 6d. was awarded.

J. D. Watson of the Export Office submitted an idea for a new method of packing parcels for export which resulted in a saving in the postage rates, and he received 10s. 0d.

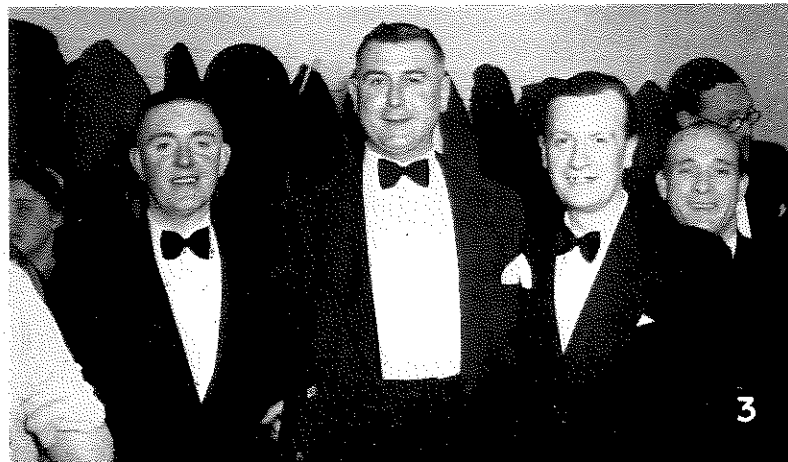
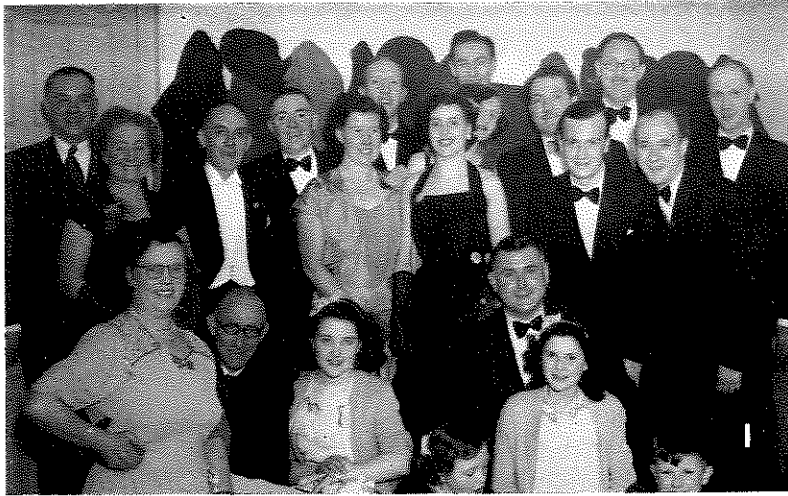
10s. 0d. was also awarded to S. C. Matthews of the Millwrights, who suggested that the bottom lip casting on No. 1 Tank be drilled and tapped so that a permanent piece of packing can be used when a new bottom lip is fitted.

J. Horton of the Millwrights made a suggestion for the rollers on the conveyor belt in the new Mixing Department, and he received 10s. 0d. for his idea.

A member of the Malvern Works, E. D. Bishop, submitted an idea concerning the machining of thrust bearing supports, and he received 10s. 0d.

There were three awards of 7s. 6d. each to C. Jones of the Blown & Pressed Mould Shop for a suggestion relating to split bushes for the pneumatic presses ; to H. Care, also of the Mould Shop, for an idea concerning steel jigs for polishing mould bodies, and to E. J. Evans of the Blown & Pressed Division for a suggestion concerning the equipment at No. 9 pipe arches.

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



1, 2 & 3. Groups at the Recreation Club's Silver Jubilee Ball.

5. The Rolled Plate Department enjoy an evening outing to Stourport.

4. Mrs. John Raymond officiates at the draw for prizes at the Jubilee Ball.

6. At the Group 10 Dinner held in the Pavilion. The two retired veterans, Joe Ashley and Joe Guise, are seated on the extreme left.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Frank Horton has been called to the armed Forces, and the Sumo Shop sends him all good wishes.

It is good to have Bert Deakin back after his absence due to illness.

The Installation Department offers deepest sympathy to Jack Williams, whose mother passed away at the end of March.

The Grinding Room welcomes back Bill Stokes after his long illness. Harry Ahrens is at present at a convalescent home, and we hope he will soon be able to resume work.

The Machine and Fitting Shops welcome B. Ward, who has joined the lathe section, and extend best wishes to S. Jeffrey and A. Hickman, who recently accepted employment with another firm.



FLAT GLASS

It was with pleasure that the Division received news that Tom Boden, who has been absent from work for over twenty months through a shoulder injury, hopes to be able to re-start on a light job in the early future.

Bill Banner was sent by the Company to a convalescent home at Clevedon to help his recovery after a serious illness. It is hoped that Bill will soon be back at work.

A party from the Rolled Plate Making and Warehouse had an enjoyable "binge" at Stourport recently. The photograph on the centre page shows some well-known people in the right setting.

LABORATORY

The Laboratory staff were sorry to say "goodbye" to Dr. W. H. Willett, who left us at the end of March to take up an important position in a glass firm in Yorkshire. His many friends wish him every success and happiness.

Stan. Williams has returned after his service in the armed Forces.



MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

During recent weeks the Maintenance & Construction Department has had the unfortunate necessity of saying "good-bye" to several friends.

Ernie Breens from the Drawing Office left in the middle of April to take up a position with another Company, as did Eric Farley, and Bill Norris also from the D.O.

A very dear friend, Mr. Bullock, is retiring at the end of May. In later years Mr. Bullock was the Safety Officer, and earlier in his career he had held key positions in the Maintenance & Construction Division.

Norman Plant left early in May. Norman was Superintendent of the Gas Plant.

The Millwrights offer deep sympathy to Reg. Lambden, who lost his wife early in April.

At the time of going to press J. Hollingworth of the Millwrights is at a convalescent home at Clevedon, where he has been sent by the Company in an effort to complete his recovery after a long absence through illness.

The Boiler Shop, and indeed everybody at Spon Lane, wish Joe Hinton every happiness in his retirement. Joe had been employed by the Company for 50 years.

At the time of going to press Jack Hill is absent with a fractured wrist caused by a road accident.



TRAFFIC

The Traffic Department, together with the Mixing, Internal Transport and the Gatehouses, had an excellent dinner and concert at the Pavilion on March 14th. There was a sad note in the proceedings when reference was made to the retirement of Joe Guise and Joe Ashley.

Joe Guise, who is 80 years old, had over 50 years' service in the Traffic Department. Joe's memories of the Department go back to 1891. Those were the days of the horse and cart and the hansom cab—when the firm's Birmingham deliveries seldom consisted of more than two horse-loads a day.

Joe Ashley, who is 77 years old, has been employed by the Company since 1890. He started as a grinder in the Lighthouse Grinding Room, and was with the Traffic Department for 15 years as a checker.



CONGRATULATIONS

ENGAGEMENTS

J. Gillespie (Laboratory) to Miss T. Bentley.

E. Halford (Laboratory) to Miss J. Moses.

MARRIAGES

Geoff. Glover (Sumo) to Miss Iris Bird.

Fred. Bywater (Sumo) to Miss M. Tressler.

B. Bryant (Traffic) to Miss Olive Parry.

Iris Moore (Silvering) to Mr. Crook J. Stanley (Optical) to Miss E. Forsyth.

M. Hennessey (Optical) to Miss D. Ward.

S. Rollason (Optical) to Miss E. Hughes.

Ivy Horton (Fiesta) to Mr. Jones Joyce Lowe (Seven Storey) to Mr. Roberts.

Dorothy Williams (Seven Storey) to Mr. Rose.

Muriel Riding (Offices) to Mr. Koszary.

Betty Eggington (Offices) to Mr. Westwood.

BIRTHS

A daughter to Mr. & Mrs. J. Foster (Traffic).

A son to Mr. & Mrs. E. Armfield (Optical).

COMING-OF-AGE

"Spud" Taylor—L. H. (Drawing Office).



Our illustrations below shows, from top to bottom: Bert Bryant with his bride, Olive Parry; Mr. & Mrs. J. Stanley on their wedding day; and Mr. & Mrs. M. Hennessey.



News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Tubing Plant is settling down to produce a reasonable quantity of good quality tubes for fluorescent lighting units, and consignments are on the move daily between Glasgow and London.

The Rolled Plate unit is now in the position of dealing with orders as soon as received and accordingly all orders are valuable.

The Summer season of the Swimming section, commences on 7th May. Club night is Wednesday, at 9 o'clock at the Maryhill Baths.

A Ladies "keep fit" class is a successful feature at the canteen of Fibreglass—Possilpark, every Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. This class is in charge of an instructress from the League of Health and Beauty.

Arrangements for an evening outing to Largs about the middle of June, are in hand. Full information will be posted as soon as details are complete.

● MALVERN

The Malvern (Engineering Division) offers congratulations to the following on their recent marriages.

Pam Taylor, Assembly Shop. Betty Watkins, Machine Shop. Marion Jenkins, Assembly Shop. Frank Freeth, Inspection. Bob Gibson, Machine Shop.

Several members of the staff were present at the Smethwick Recreation Club's Jubilee Ball, at Dudley Town Hall

A visit was paid recently by Mr. Nicholls the American Sales representative of Sumo Pumps, to view the new B. Type Pump, which has the appearance of being a very successful product. Mr. Nicholls was loud in his praise and thinks that it will catch the eye of the American market.

Another product which is not quite so spectacular but equally as important is the new A.304 Rotary Switch and we hear that the Ministry of Supply is showing great interest in this.

It is interesting to note that the Midland Red are running special buses to and from the works.

The Optical Section congratulates Elaine Kinsey on attaining her majority in March last.

● LONDON

Our teleprinter operator, Kay Evans, has just announced her engagement. Congratulations! We shall be sorry to lose her in a few weeks' time.

We had a successful time at the recent Ideal Home Exhibition with our glass shop in the Ideal Village. Although a much smaller display than last year, we



One of the Midland Red buses which go to and from the Malvern works.



This is Mr. J. Buckley presenting Mr. Al Winton and Mrs. G. Glover, after 40 years and 30 years service respectively, with retirement gifts on behalf of the personnel of the St. Helens factory.

were often overwhelmed by visitors, many of whom remembered us from last year. The sales target was easily surpassed. See pictures elsewhere in this issue.

We are preparing for our special B.I.F. display which will be on the same lines as last year.

Our lunch hour problem has been simplified by the generosity of Pilkington Brothers, who have placed their excellent catering facilities at Selwyn House at the disposal of our staff.

● ST. HELENS

Although there has been a decline in incoming orders there are indications that the re-armament drive will take up some of the "slack". We are, however, fully programmed on meltings, and will be ready to bring the melting unit we have under repair back into service in about 3/4 weeks time. This furnace is in the nature of an experiment, in that it is fitted with a new type of air pre-heater, and a new design for the introduction of the pre-heated air into the furnace.

The new electric kiln for cast blocks has been giving more promising results recently.

Congratulations to the following employees who have recently married:—

Miss M. Macaulay (Wages) to J. Hill. Miss S. Gileaney (S.B.A.) to J. Eisuiberg.

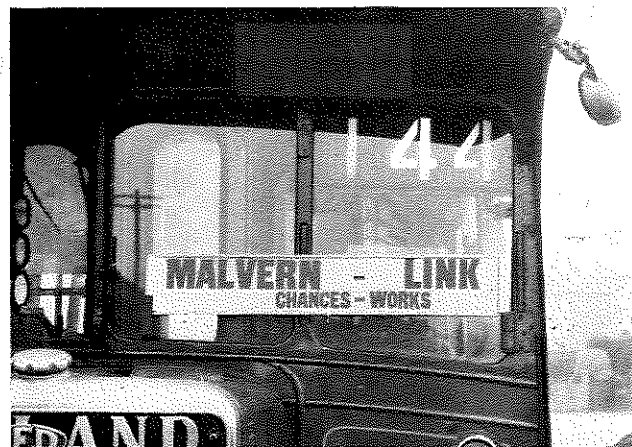
Miss D. Roberts (Wages) to E. Burrows.

Miss I. Blakemore (Cutting) to D. Johnson.

Miss W. Greener (Cutting) to L. Barrow.

It is with a feeling of sadness that we have to record here the retirements of two of our oldest and dearest friends and workmates, Mrs. G. Glover and Mr. A. Winton. Mrs. Glover is retiring after 34 years service and Mr. A. Winton after 40 years, and as their combined age is 133 years they have set up a record here at St. Helens which is going to take some beating.

At a formal presentation in the Works Mr. J. Buckley on behalf of their many friends presented Mrs. G. Glover with an exquisite diamante brooch, and Mr. A. Winton with a handsome brush-set. As our photograph shows there were many of their numerous friends there to wish them as we do again now the very best of luck in their retirement.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

A SEARCH FOR AN ANCESTOR

The following is an extract from a letter received by the Company last month "I was interested in the talk given recently over the radio on the Lighthouse Makers. A little personal pride is revealed by the fact that my great-grandfather worked for your firm and travelled the world in connection with his calling. During the last war I was on service in Sicily, and on entering the main square at Palermo for the first time I was brought to a standstill by a sudden and most convincing belief that I had been there before. Had my ancestor trod the same ground and probably worked on the local lighthouse?"

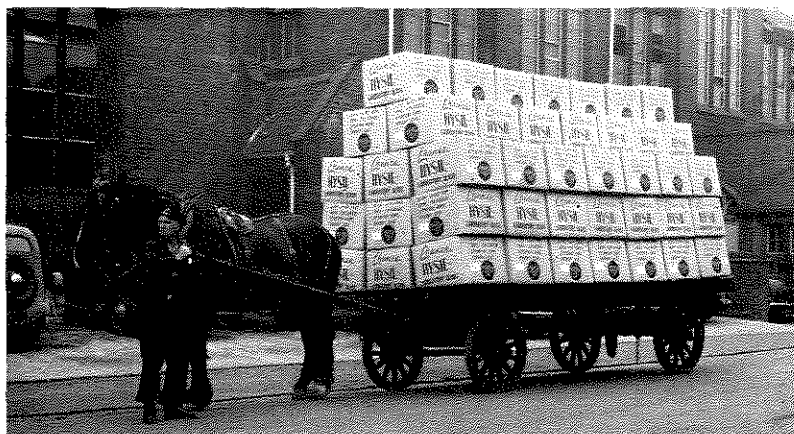
After a search had been made of such records as we still have relating to the middle of last century, we find that our correspondent was probably referring to a Samuel Taylor who began with the Company in 1841 at a wage of 6s. 0d. per week!

SPON LANE HORSES

The photograph below of a load of our Hysil laboratory glassware en route to Finland features the Spon Lane Station horse "Tiny."

All the Station horses are welcome guests in our factory, and it is most amusing to see them wandering off from the loading bays at the Old Gate to

"Tiny" with a load of Hysil laboratory glassware.



proceed to the Old Canteen, where they are assured of gifts of substantial pieces of cake from their many friends. If the canteen door is closed the horses demand attention by rubbing their heads against the glazing.

The particular load of glass pictured was packed in the Laboratory Warehouse under the supervision of Lily Russell by Alma Cole, Jessie Webb, Margaret Bird and Florrie Ward.



WHAT'S WRONG? COMPETITION

The popularity of Quiz programmes over the last few years has always been high, so that a "What's Wrong?" competition should be assured of good support.

A competition is being organised on the recommendation of the Safety Committee, and employees may obtain particulars from any of the Gatehouses. Competitors will be issued on request with a leaflet which illustrates the interior of a crazy workshop, and they will be asked to list the many accident hazards in the picture. Many of the hazards are obvious to everybody; for example, a workman is misusing compressed air, a youth is spilling oil on the floor, a ladder is in a bad state of repair.

It will be good fun to enter, but naturally this is not just being done for the purpose of running a competition; it is also to try to make people realise the many different ways accidents can be caused.

All employees are eligible for entry except Managers, Foremen and members of the Safety Committee.

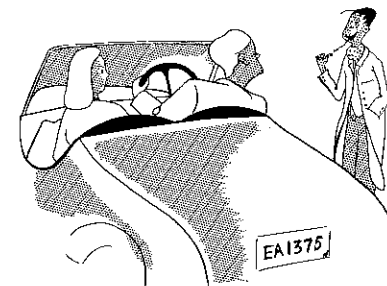
The competition will be open for one month, the closing date being June 25th. The three employees who find the most faults will receive prizes as follows:—

First Prize	...	£2
Second Prize	...	£1
Third Prize	...	10s.

THE OLD PIPE TRUCK

There are many tools and gadgets on our Works which have been used for many years, but none is more useful than the Millwrights' Pipe Truck. This extremely helpful vehicle was designed by Bill Smallwood's father, the late Dave Smallwood, 86 years ago and it was made by the late William Wright who was employed at that time as a wheelwright. It has been in constant use since it was first made, and nobody can think of a better aid for the pipe fitters to transport long and heavy pipes about the Works.

"Yes, Sir. Descend the gradient, past the eminence on the left, until you reach the bridge at the confluence of the rivers, whence retrace the more westerly. The place you want is the penultimate residence on the right."





★ Woman's Feature

WHITE IS FOR SUMMER

NOTHING can add chic to your summer clothes like white accessories, and here we show what white scalloped gloves, a new type of dorothy bag with wide handle, and a mite of a bonnet can do ; you can make the bonnet and handbag for yourself from the free Penny Wise sewing instructions which are available from the Personnel Department.

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IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION

OLYMPIA

EXHIBITING at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia can be as highly diverting as it is tiring, and this year I was the only member of the staff to be on the Chance Stand for the duration of the Exhibition. "Stand" is not really the right description because we occupied a shop in the Ideal Village which was the centrepiece of the Daily Mail Exhibition. My first surprise was to see the actual stone cross which had been transported from Meriden and re-erected on the traditional village green. Situated around the green was the usual collection of village shops (not forgetting the typical village inn), and also the different houses for which this particular Exhibition is famed. These houses are the first exhibits to which the

public flock, and every morning by 9.45 queues had formed outside each one. We were at the end of one of the village streets (Shop No. 1) but were fortunate in that one entrance to the shop was opposite the exit from one of the houses and the public walked straight out of the house into the shop selling the glassware which would fit so admirably into the sort of house which they had just inspected.

The shop was most attractively designed and the glassware so well displayed and lighted that I don't think anyone passed by without either a second look at the windows or (and this in most cases) a further look inside the shop. The photographs here do not

The Chance Shop at the Ideal Home Exhibition.



show the outstanding effect we achieved in comparison with the other village shops.

It was manned entirely by Chance Brothers' staff (mainly the Blown and Pressed Glass Division representatives) who very quickly learned how to spot the prospective buyer as apart from the visitors who were 'just looking.' They also learned when to approach the customer and when to hover in the background. It is fascinating to watch people looking at our glassware and to listen to the various comments, some of which I must include. The main comment was "How attractive," but far too common was the cry "Is it plastic?" The Fibreglass curtains, which were suitably labelled "Made of pure glass," caused a considerable stir and sent people away wondering what next in this Modern Age would be made of glass. Fiesta was admired by everyone and it was a pity that single pieces of this glass couldn't be sold over the counter because most Exhibition visitors want a souvenir and would choose Fiesta only to be told regretfully that they couldn't take it with them. In most cases, though, they would leave an order for Fiesta, to be collected later from their nearest Stockist, and take away a pressed dish, plate or vase as the souvenir.

The London Ideal Home Exhibition would seem to be held at the wrong time of the year since so many visitors said "I could do all my Christmas shopping here." I think it is true to say that the bulk of the fruit and sandwich sets bought were destined for wedding, birthday or other presents for friends. Lots of people

bought single articles for their own use but the main sales were definitely for presents. I heard one lady say that she wished she was just setting up house so that she could 'run wild' in the Shop and choose all the glassware to equip her home. Several girls closely examined the glassware and made copious notes of the various sets they intended putting on their lists of wedding presents for friends to buy them. Fortunately we had prepared what we called the "blue book" which contained the names of all our retailers in the country and we were able to give them one. A copy of this booklet was also given away with every purchase.

Saturdays were the busiest days and also the happiest. The general public pushed each other (and us) around so good-naturedly and at times the Shop was so full that it was difficult to get to the displays to find out which pattern the customer wanted, and still more difficult to force a passage back to the counter to get the glass wrapped and paid for. I must mention the 'expert' wrapper we discovered in our ranks during the first fortnight who really looked as though he should have a white coat on and a slab of butter by his side on the counter; he was invaluable during the busy periods and wasn't allowed to move far away from the wrapping station.

As the B. & P. Domestic Sales and Production staffs know only too well the item most in demand was the Waverley white-backed floral sandwich set and we could NOT get enough stock to last for even one day. The pink Gossamer fruit set was the second favourite and decorated Spiderweb was

certainly a winner. It is difficult to differentiate between the various designs because public taste varies considerably but the Spiderweb was definitely bought by the men as presents for their ladies.

During the month thousands of people walked through and round the Shop and were all very much impressed with what they saw, which is certainly a tribute to Chance Glass. The Staff on the Stand are firmly convinced that this method of advertising is the best we have found; most Retailers have neither the room nor, in a lot of cases, the skill to display glassware to its best advantage and it is therefore very pleasing to be able to show the public the results which can be achieved by adequate lighting and clever positioning, and we in turn are satisfied with the financial results, and proud to be congratulated by many visitors to the

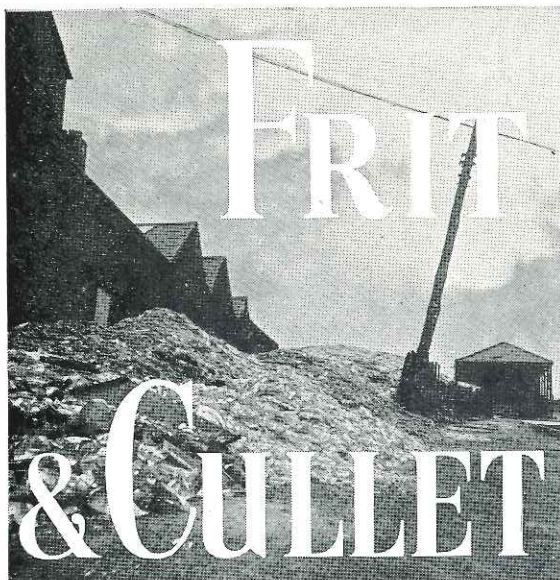
effect that we had the most attractive stand in the Exhibition.

I did not see the whole of the Ideal Home Exhibition but what I did see I liked very much and I can well understand Londoners spending the whole day going round—and they do it methodically, working to a plan—and also people coming from all over Great Britain, as far as Scotland, County Durham, Lancashire, South Wales, and Isle of Wight. Olympia is a vast place and one can quite easily get lost, particularly on the galleries, but we were gratified to hear so many people say that they had searched the Exhibition to find the Chance Shop, having remembered it from the previous year and wanting to see the latest glass designs, or to buy pieces to match something they had bought in 1951.

M. O. COLE

A view of the interior of the shop.





Schoolboy Howlers

An antiquarian is a place you keep fish in.

Clive committed suicide on three occasions. Fortunately, the pistol didn't go off each time and his life was spared.

The King's minister died of a bad attack of argue.

We now use eccentricity for lighting our rooms.

A mosquito is when your father is black and your mother white, or vice-versa.

Salome danced in front of Harrods.

Ambiguous : Dear Mr. A—, It was very good of you to send me a copy of your new novel ; I will lose no time in reading it.



DO YOU KNOW ?

1. What is the language of the angels ?
2. Who is the girl who, according to legend, opened the box and let out all the blessings but one ?
3. Of which drink is usquebaugh the old name ?
4. Are you *au fait* in matters of precedence ? Test yourself by trying to re-arrange the titles in the following group :

Able-bodied seaman
Skipper
Boatswain
Seaman
Chief Mate

5. If an Australian and an American schoolboy each ate a billion sweets, who would be the sicker and why ?
6. What is another very common word for sulphur ?

ANSWERS

1. Music
2. Pandora
3. Whisky
4. Skipper, Chief Mate, Boatswain, Able-bodied Seaman, Seaman
5. The Australian because the American billion is a mere thousand millions to the Australian it is a million millions.
6. Brimstone

SCIENTIFIC SELECTION

Mark Spade, in his book "How to run a Bassoon Factory," gives the following technique of scientific selection of staff. . . . Place the applicant in front of a machine and tell him to look at it. If, when you come back an hour later, he is still looking at it, he is suitable. If, on the other hand, he has stopped looking at it, note what he has begun to do. The following list shows how this may help to fit him into an appropriate job :—

If he is :

Asleep
Gone
Writing a letter
Looking at the girl on next machine
Arguing with somebody
Looking at his watch

Then he is suitable for :

Night Watchman
Traveller
Clerical Post
Personnel Department
Accountant
Time Study

WHO LAUGHS LAST

