

FRIT & CULLET

DO YOU KNOW ?

1. Which of the following articles were known to the Romans ?—razor, scissors, needle, pen-nib, glass, sugar, soap, paper, concrete, linen.
2. The scale of a map is half an inch to the mile. What actual area is represented by 2 square inches on the map ?
3. What are the dates of the birth and the death of Jesus Christ ?
4. What are the five languages in the world which are spoken by the most people ?
5. Which of the following birds are extinct ?—rhea, dodo, great auk, kiwi, albatross, ibis, cassowary, quetzal, moa.
6. Name five gambling games in which cards are not used.

SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS

Chivalry is the attitude of a man towards a strange woman.

Bovine is an adjective applied to women, as doggy is applied to men.

2015.277
A bachelor is a man who has done without marriage.

Honolulu is celebrated for its climate and its maidens. Both are much dustier than white men expect.

Busts are no longer worn by women, so everybody breathes more freely.

Answers to Do you Know ?

1. Razor, scissors, needle, glass, sugar, soap, concrete, linen.
2. Eight square miles.
3. There are difficulties whatever dates are adopted. The most scholars are agreed on is that Jesus was born 7, 6 or 5 B.C., and died in A.D. 29 or 30.
4. Chinese, English, Russian, German, Spanish.
5. Dodo; great auk; moa.
6. Crown and anchor; fantan; mora; roulette; shove-half-penny; pitch and toss; dicing.

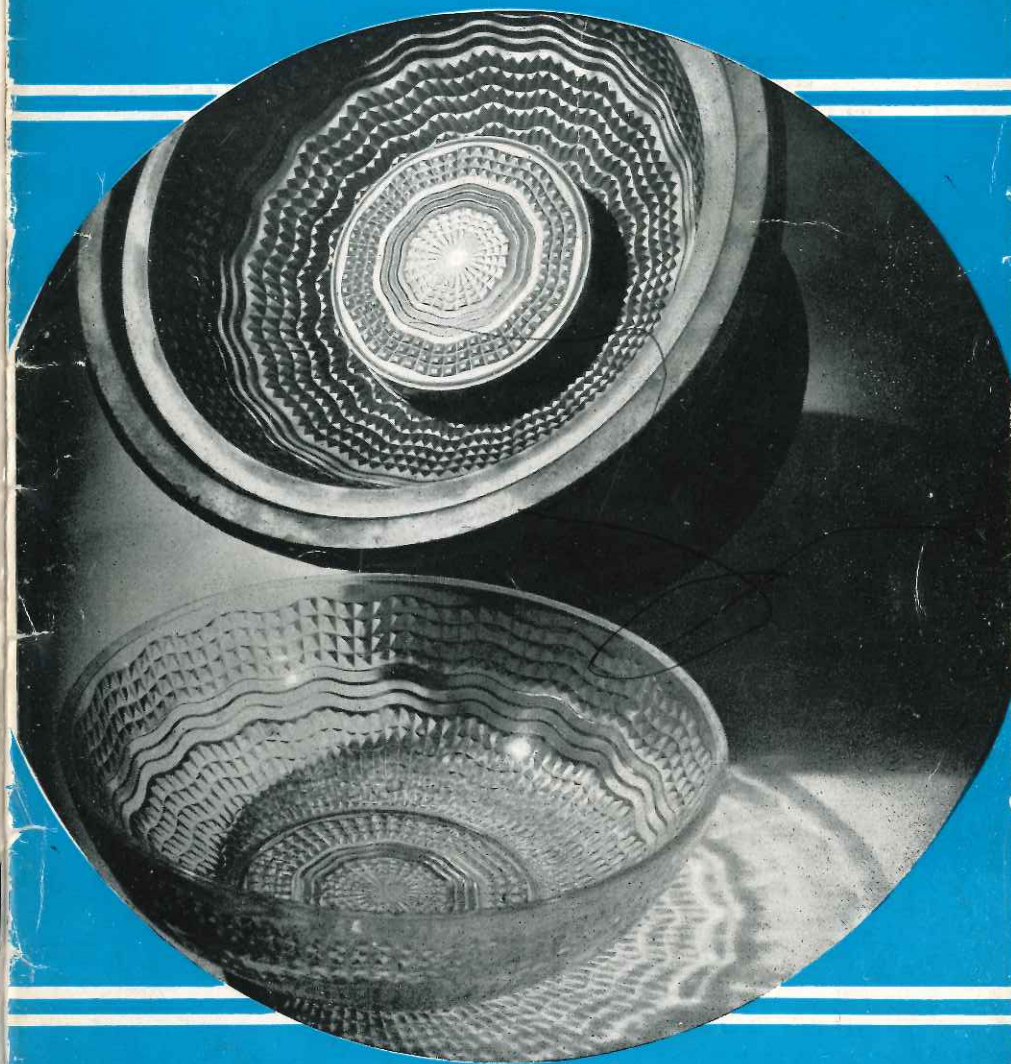
Laughter at Work



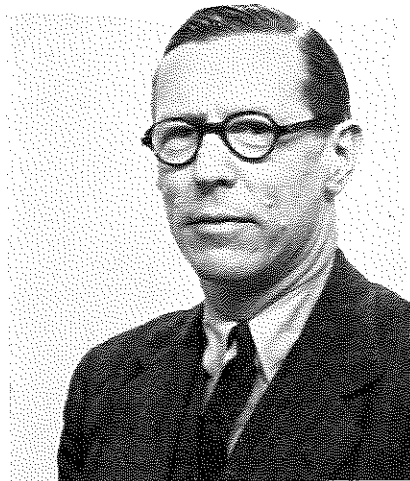
"THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE—I TOLD THE LABOUR EXCHANGE I WANTED LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES"

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Chance COMMENTS



A MESSAGE FROM MR. DOUGLAS V. PHELPS



I AM very glad, on succeeding to the Chairmanship of this old and honoured Company, to be able through *Chance Comments* to be introduced to the many of you who do not yet know me.

I am not quite a stranger to Chance Brothers' several Works, however, as I have been coming to your Board Meetings and going into the Works whenever I could for upwards of fifteen years. Perhaps this emphasises that this new step is really only one further stage in the gradual change in relationship between Chance Brothers Limited and Pilkington Brothers Limited which has been going on for the greater part of the working lives of most of us and it will not betoken any spectacular change in the day to day running of the Company.

After the comparatively easy years of the post-war period we are all once again having to fight for our commercial existence; at Chances, as almost everywhere else, we are having our difficult times but provided we all give of our best and operate our technical processes at the highest possible efficiency and our commercial organisation is kept keyed right up, I have no doubt we shall get back to where we all want to be with all our plants working and a full pay-roll. To this end we can, everyone of us, contribute something.

May 1953 bring success and prosperity to us all.

A MESSAGE FROM MR. JOHN RAYMOND

THIS is the first time I have contributed a personal note to *Chance Comments* and I am particularly glad that it should be on the occasion when we are welcoming our new Chairman, Mr. D. V. Phelps.

I have, as Managing Director of the Company, worked with Mr. Phelps for a number of years and all I know of him makes me confident that his appointment is a happy choice. The closer connection between him and Chance Brothers implicit in his accepting this responsibility will be all to the good of the Company and will enable us to benefit increasingly from our link with Pilkington Brothers.

We are all, I know, very glad indeed that Sir Hugh Chance is continuing as Deputy Chairman so that his wide experience will still be available to us.

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS



"I thought I would like to write saying how very much I enjoyed working as stand assistant at the "Woman & Home" Exhibition at Manchester. The staff of Chance Brothers were most kind and thoughtful, and it was a real pleasure working with them. I felt sorry to say goodbye to Miss Cole and will not forget her kindness to us all" . . . extract from letter received from a temporary employee.



On December 10th the Recreation Club's Choral Society gave a Christmas Concert for the Company's pensioners. The eighty old folks who attended enjoyed every minute of an excellent programme.



After treating an injured employee, one of our nurse's parting instruction was, "Come back tomorrow if you are still here."



To Alan Fisk of the Export staff, now on National Service, who has been successful in obtaining a commission.



To the member of the Laboratory staff, who, having spent nine months designing and constructing an experimental plant to produce a special kind of glass, drew glass for the first time and took a

sample to the Laboratory Manager exclaiming, "There it is, but we haven't quite reached perfection yet!"



To 344 employees who submitted ideas to the Suggestion Scheme Committee during 1952.



When the Circus visited West Bromwich recently the A.A. erected temporary direction signs. One was placed in Spon Lane reading "To the Circus"—but it pointed towards the New Gate entrance!



To Dennis Binfield of the Blown & Pressed Division and Gladys Lowe of the Optical Division, who have attained their majority.



Patricia, the seven year old daughter of Maurice Sandel of the Fitting Shop, has been awarded the I.T.D. Bronze Medal for tap dancing and a Certificate for ballet. Her photograph appears on page 21.



The results of recent charity collections in the works were: Poppy Day, £41.19.9 Birmingham Mail Christmas Fund, £17.3.6 — a record in each case.

INDIA

by Dr. W. M. HAMPTON

I WAS quite excited at the prospect of going to India, because although I have travelled to many parts of Europe and America I had not previously been to the East. I expected, and found, that it was quite a different world from any I had previously experienced. I was to go and return by air, and in fact I was back in the works 15 days after leaving, which is approximately half the time it takes a ship to sail from London to Bombay. I had hoped to go on the Comet but this form of transport is so popular that it was impossible and I had to travel by the relatively slow Argonaut. This takes about 27 hours flying time from London to Calcutta, whereas the Comet is doing the same journey in about 16 hours. However, 27 hours is a fairly short time for a journey of some 6,000 miles. This flying business can become a little trying, as one leaves London in coolish weather (October) and arrives practically the next day in near-tropical heat. I thought the tweed suit I was wearing would not be too bad, but when I got to Calcutta I realised that it was like wearing a winter overcoat on a hot English summer day.

The first thing I had to get was some thin clothes, and it is interesting to note that I was measured for 2 pairs of thin white drill trousers at 5 o'clock on the night of my arrival, tried them on next morning at 9 o'clock and had them delivered



Street scene in an Indian city.

to me ready to wear by 3 o'clock in the afternoon, i.e. less than 24 hours after I tried to buy them. Buying these trousers also brought me straight into the very different idea of buying and selling which the East uses compared with us. In the East no-one expects or is expected to pay the price originally asked, and a system of haggling ensues. The nett result was I bought the clothes in the end for rather less than half the price at which the discussion started.

My first reaction to Calcutta was twofold (1) the swarming crowds of people on the streets day and night, and (2) the almost incredible degree of poverty among the poorer sections of the community. The population of Calcutta has very nearly doubled in the last few years and is now near to 5 millions. This is due very largely to the separation of Pakistan from India, together with the repatriation of thousands who were in the portion

of the country ceded to Pakistan. Refugees were still coming into Calcutta while I was there, at the rate of between 2,000 and 3,000 a day. These people come with virtually nothing more than the rags in which they stand, with no money, no friends, and nowhere to go. They usually "squat" in the station and on the railway lines, and when the station gets too full the police clear them all out to make way for the next lot. They then proceed to live, literally, in the gutter. It is standard in Calcutta for there to be rows of people sleeping on the pavements, on doorsteps, and in gardens, just because they have nowhere else to go. For food they have to manage on what they can beg or what is given to them, and from their appearance it is a very poor sort of life.

This is not the sole reason for the crowding into the streets in India. As in most countries, there is a steady trek from villages to towns, and the present



Dr. Hampton plays golf on a flooded course.

Indian Government is making a very determined effort to improve the amenities of village life so as to decrease this tendency.

The climate of Calcutta is something for which I was not prepared. The temperature during the day was round 90°F and at night did not fall below 80°F, and the humidity was so high that clothes were damp even before putting them on, and literally wet shortly after putting on. I slept at night immediately under a fan, but since the windows have to be kept shuttered to keep out insects such as mosquitos, all the fan does is to move round rather stale air and does not seem to benefit the sleeper at all. While I was there the monsoon was still persisting although the time of year was such that normally it would have finished. Monsoon rain has to be seen to be believed. The rain comes down in such quantity that in a second or two one is soaked to the skin. One day while I was there, there was a storm lasting 2 hours which flooded many parts of the city to a depth of up to 4 ft. But fortunately this rain is warm and it therefore does not seem half as unpleasant as the equivalent of it in this country. It is of course a fact that it is always warm enough for people to live in the streets.

Later in my trip I went to Delhi where the day temperature was high but the night temperature was lower, and the humidity was very low. The result of this was that conditions were extremely pleasant; one scarcely perspired and at least one could sleep comfortably.

It usually seems to be my fortune when on a foreign trip to include some period of National Holiday ; this happened in India. One day while I was there was The Feast of Dewali ; this apparently means the Children's Festival, and the nearest Christian equivalent is Christmas. The result was that all the factories and shops were shut and parties were out with their children all over the place. They get up about 4 o'clock in the morning, have a ceremonial bath and clean clothes, and then go and let off fireworks. They certainly let off plenty of fireworks on this occasion because I was roused early in the morning by the noise of the explosions. Following this they have a good breakfast and are all set for a good day's enjoyment. I took this opportunity of driving in a car placed at my disposal by our Indian Agents, from Delhi to Agra in order to see the famous Taj Mahal. This building, which is really a shrine erected by one of the Emperors about 1680 to preserve the body of his young wife, is built completely in white marble with inlays of coloured stones done in the most beautiful and intricate manner. Like various other famous places, one has seen so many photographs that the actual place itself does not come as a surprise as it turns out exactly as one expected—but it is really a most beautiful building. I found in fact that the journey there and back was rather more interesting. The various Indian villages that lay along the route, with their mud walls and swarming children and animals, including numbers of monk-



Water carrier.

eys, squirrels, and—not so pleasant—a flock of vultures. At various places along the road there are wells at which the women who come to get water stop to gossip, and these women in their brilliant coloured saris, with water jars on their heads, made groups that were reminiscent of the pictures which illustrated the Old Testament stories in our childhood books. I also saw a number of herds—or should it be flocks—of camels, one particularly amusing memory being of a camel at least 12 ft. high being led by a rope held by a small boy who could not have been much more than 2 ft. The normally disdainful expression on a camel's face seemed in this case to be most appropriate. Although the country is generally quite flat and only covered with low scrub, there are a number of water holes and as it was a holiday the water buffaloes, which

are normally working in the fields, were enjoying themselves immersed up to their eyes in this muddy water. Although the pools were not very attractive to me there were a number of people swimming in them, with the buffaloes. I returned at the end of the day having been driven some 300 miles, very hot, covered with dust, but with the feeling that I had had a thoroughly good time.

The Indian Government is making a tremendous effort to industrialise the country since the raising of production is the only way of raising the standard of living of the people. It is because of this that they are so anxious to obtain British co-operation in starting new factories and industries, and I was told—and everything I saw confirmed the statement—that the prestige of the British is higher now than it ever was. The key men in the Government, which is situated at Delhi in the centre of India, are of a very able type and are imbued with the urgency and importance of their work. The danger, it appeared to me,

was that owing to the shortage of people in India with adequate training (some 90% of the populace is illiterate) those who are capable of taking the lead generally get overloaded, and there is a marked tendency to excessive concentration of power in the central administration. This is a feature which I guess time will show has to be altered. We may rest assured that India is going to become industrialised and is going to become a much richer country for the majority than it has been in the past. Whether the Indian population is going to be patient and let this take place sufficiently slowly is a matter which is open to doubt.

I find that I have come to the end of my space without mentioning many of the very interesting sights I saw, without mentioning the incredibly beautiful temples—many of them now ruined by age—which decorate the countryside, and without mentioning many little things which provided amusement wherever one went. These are matters which will have to wait for some other time.



*Ancient and Modern !
Sacred cows
in a street in
Calcutta.*

MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



ERNEST BLAGDEN

ERNIE BLAGDEN joined the Company in August 1948, having completed his education at the Oldbury Technical School. He has received training in the Drawing Office, and the Machine and Fitting Shops.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week and is studying for the Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. His ambition is to become a Mechanical Draughtsman.

Ernie is a very keen member of the Oldbury A. & C.C.C. and specialises in long distance running, preferably cross-country. In 1952 he won the Mrs. Morrison-Wells Trophy when finishing first in the Smethwick Youth Race, an event organised by the Smethwick Harriers. He is also keen on dancing.

HOWARD JELBERT

IN September 1952, Howard joined the Company as a Trainee Glass-maker in the Blown and Pressed Division. His home is in Penzance. After completing his full-time education at Lescudjack Secondary Modern School, he commenced training as an Apprentice Plumber. Unfortunately, due to a depression in business, his apprenticeship terminated after two years training. He became interested in glass-making as a career through a visit to the Local Youth Employment Office.

Howard finds the West Midlands a contrast to Cornwall but is settling down to his new surroundings. He is very keen on fishing, football and swimming.

When asked what he liked in life, he replied, "the sea." He dislikes people who are sly.



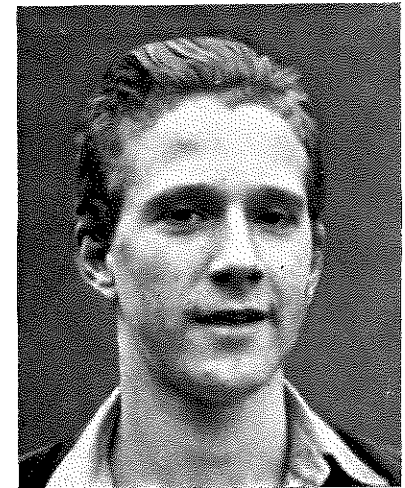
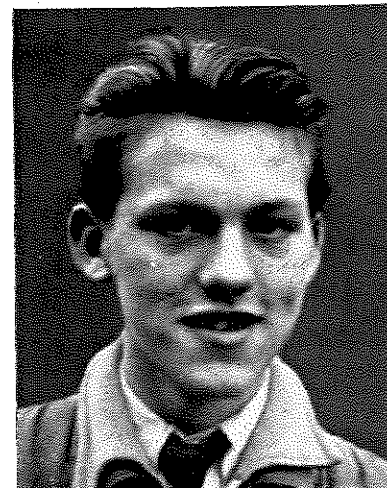
DENNIS EMMS-MOSS

DENNIS EMMS-MOSS joined the Company in September 1951, having completed a five-year course at the James Watt Technical College. He has since received training in the Lighthouse Machine and Fitting Shops and attends the Chance Technical College where he is studying for a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. His ambition is to become a Mechanical Draughtsman.

He is a very keen playing member of the Warley United A.F.C., and in April of this year represented his Club in the Aston Villa Challenge Cup Final, played at Villa Park. His Club won this trophy by 4-0.

He has also represented the Birmingham Youth League in a match against Nuneaton. Dennis is a keen cricketer and was a member of the Chance First XI during the past season.

He dislikes people who have a jealous nature.



REGINALD ELLIOTT

ON leaving Ludlow Senior Boys' School, Reg joined the Company in February 1952 as a trainee glass-maker. He became interested in glass-making as a career after hearing a lecture given by a representative of the firm at his school. He much prefers town life to the quiet country life and has settled down very well in his new surroundings.

He attends Stourbridge School of Arts and Crafts on one day per week for practical lessons in the art of glass-making. His ambition is to become a fully skilled glass-maker.

Reg is very keen on football and cricket and is a member of the Malt House Youth Centre.

He likes people who are "good sports" and can take a defeat as well as a win.



PERSONAL MESSAGE TO EACH MEMBER FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS is a personal appeal to you as members of the Recreation Club from the Officers and General Committee asking for your help to enable advantage to be taken of a very generous offer by the Company.

For some years, despite the hard work of many members, the Club has not "made ends meet" financially. Last year the Company made us a large grant, but still income was not enough. It will not be again this year.

The ground and pavilion are now in better condition than they have been for some time, and our activities are growing. If this improvement is to continue—and it is the policy of your Committee that it shall—we must increase our income.

Membership subscriptions are still the same as they were twenty-six years ago when the Club was founded—2d. for men and 1d. for women—despite the very great increase in the cost of running the Club and the many increased facilities now available.

I am pleased to be able to say that the Company has made a very generous offer of help for this year and next year.

It will make a grant to the Club, the amount depending upon the amount by which we increase our income by our own efforts. It is up to us.

Will you please agree to make a weekly voluntary donation to the Club equal to your present subscription—2d. for men, 1d. for women? This will enable us to take advantage of the Company's offer and to maintain and improve the amenities. Whether or not you are able to use the facilities available, it is hoped very much that you will be willing to help, since the more money we raise by these voluntary donations, the more money we shall receive from the Company.

You will already have had an individual copy of this message. If you have not yet completed and returned the authority slip which was attached, will you please do so NOW?

J. W. Chance

President, Chance Recreation Club

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The President's wife (Mrs. J. W. Chance) again presented the prizes at the Annual Prize Distribution on Friday, 12th December, 1952.

Entertainment was provided by Barry Burton (comedian), Edward Jones (tenor), Gremlin (illusionist), Rosemarie (soubrette), with Allan Wardle and Doug Sandin at the piano.

ARCHERY

The Section held a very successful dance in the Pavilion during November. It is proposed to run a further dance in March.

BADMINTON

The Section's new Secretary (J. Taylor, Export), would appreciate it if interested members would contact him. Club nights are Mondays and Thursdays.

CHORAL

The holly-decorated Cinema Room was an appropriate setting for the Section's Christmas Concerts (December 10th, 11th and 12th). The

programme included well-known and modern carols, and vocal solos by Irene Uffen (soprano), Thelma Swene (contralto) and Barry Lingard (baritone), whilst the performances were ably accompanied throughout by Jacqueline Sandin.

Under Arnold Heath's direction, the Choir is maintaining the high standard set by its earlier presentations, and it is hoped that the Section's next Concert will draw the larger attendances merited by the hard work which is being put into rehearsals.

DARTS

Although the Ladies' Darts Team have completed their League programme, a series of friendly matches has been arranged until the season re-opens in March. Interested members should contact Miss W. Davies (Teleprinter Operator).

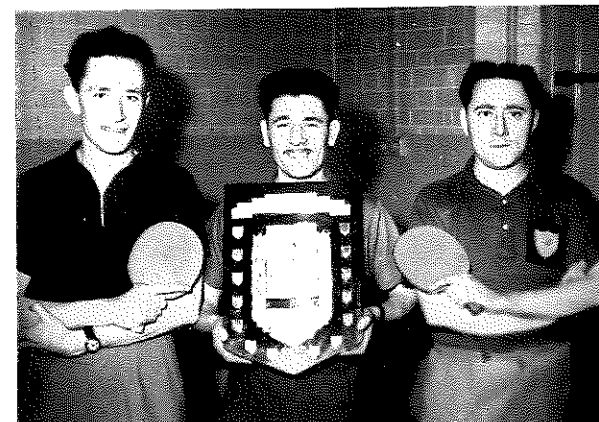
FOOTBALL

The Section is still as a whole doing well, and the outstanding team appears now to be the second, which has reached the Semi-Final of the Wilkinson Cup and has registered five successive victories. The first team seems to have settled down during the past few weeks, and we hope they will now hold their own.

Although the third team has slipped a little during the past few games, they are still in the running for Cup and League.

* *

The Table Tennis Team.





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SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



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- ★
1. *The Malvern (Engineering) Dinner Dance.*
 2. & 3. *Happy Groups at the Malvern (Optical) Dinner Dance.*
 4. *Mrs. Hampton receives a bouquet at the St. Helens (Optical) Dance.*
 - 5 & 6. *Groups at the Recreation Club's Gala Ball. (Further photographs will be published in the next issue).*
 7. *The Optical & Special Glass Division Dinner.*
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From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

WE congratulate Dr. H. B. Gibson on his appointment as General Manager of the Blown & Pressed Division.

Joe Forsyth retired at the end of November after 44 years' service with the Company, and we all wish him a well earned rest with improved health. His many friends presented him with an electric fire.

Belated, yet sincere, congratulations are offered to Ronald Lowe of the Auto-Tubing Section and Rose Groves, late of the Globe Process, who were married recently.

There have been many happy events reported amongst the Division's personnel, and we congratulate the following:—Mr. & Mrs. J. Morris on the birth of a daughter; Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Webber, a son; Mr. & Mrs. R. Cammies, a son; Mr. & Mrs. L. Cammies, a son; Mr. & Mrs. P. Hickman, a son; Mr. & Mrs. G. Humphries, a daughter, and Mr. & Mrs. R. Turton, a son.

Bill Perry has become engaged to Eunice Lappage, and Diana Turton to W. Colley.

Dennis Scargill has temporarily left us for National Service.

We welcome Rosemary Donnelly, who has joined the staff as Secretary to Dr. Gibson.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Division Staff held a most delightful Dinner Dance at the Red Cow Hotel on December 19th.

The Fitting and Machine Shops welcome Tommy Dawes, who has

returned after several years elsewhere, but were sorry to lose Peter Curry, Jack Flanagan and C. Dicken.

The Sumo Shop welcomes as newcomers Dorothy E. Biddulph, George T. Ellis, Harold R. Riopedre and James C. Stephens. The Shop extends congratulations to Horace Walters on his recent marriage to Margaret Williams.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of Sidney Pickering on the 10th December, at the age of 50. Sidney, who was chargehand of the Sumo Repair Department, first joined the Company in 1936 and he was exceedingly popular with all with whom he worked. We extend deep sympathy to his wife and daughter.

New-comers to the staff of the Division are Tom Green, Sumo Sales, Alan Jesson, Drawing Office, and Joan Barrett, Drawing Office.

Esme Hadley has left the Sumo Office consequent on her marriage, and Harry Poole has left the Planning Office to become a teacher.

LABORATORY

Russell Taylor and John Bennett have now started their National Service.

We welcome as student apprentices Peter Egginton and Colin Rigg.

Congratulations to Richard Copland, who married recently, and to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andrews on the birth of a daughter.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Roland Tabbener of the Millwrights' Shop retired in November at the age of 69, and we all wish him every happi-

ness in his well earned rest. Roland first joined Chance Brothers 45 years ago.

Douglas Hale of the Millwrights has now completed his apprenticeship, and has left us temporarily to serve his period of National Service.

The M. & C. Annual Dinner is always a grand affair, and this year the party was held on January 5th at the Blue Gates Hotel, when the principal guest was Dr. W. M. Hampton.

The Boiler Shop congratulates Mr. & Mrs. Hargreaves on the birth of a daughter.

OFFICES

A sincere welcome is extended to Mrs. Lillie MacKellar, who has joined the Company as Supervisor to the Glass Works Typing Pool, and to Royston B. Smith, who has joined the Export Department staff.

We were, however, sorry to lose Barbara Fox, Typing Pool, Lucy Barrett, Stationery, Audrey Hadley, Cost Office, George Johnson, Export, and William Ward, Cost Office.

OLD HALL

George Bernard, Fuel Efficiency Engineer, left the Company at the end of November and his many friends in the Old Hall wish him every happiness in his new sphere.

John Hickman, also of the Fuel Economy Section, has left to serve his period of National Service.

Harry Miller resigned from the Pyrometry Department, and we welcome as his successor Kenneth Titley.

OPTICAL

The Optical Division organised a very happy Dinner and Social at the Spon Croft Hotel on January 2nd, when the principal guests were Dr. & Mrs. Hampton. They were particularly pleased to welcome a representative party from the St. Helens Works.

Congratulations are offered to Mary Etheridge on her engagement to G. Evans.

PERSONNEL

The Christmas post brought news and greetings from three old friends. Joan Beer, now Mrs. Saxton, is still in Malaya and here is her photograph with her son Clive; another happy event is expected in February.

Sadie McMahon sent greetings from Australia; she appears very happy at Hastings, near Melbourne.

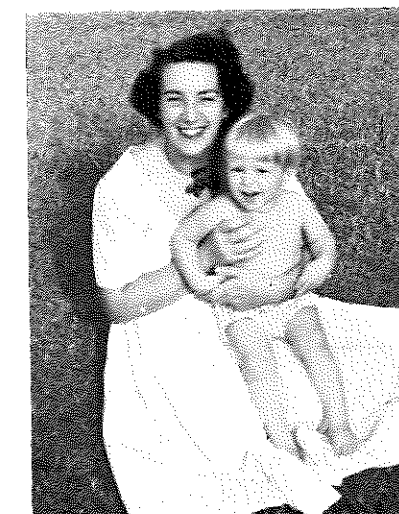
Vera Nickless, who is now Mrs. McNeel, sent very best wishes to all at Spon Lane from her home in New York.

TIME STUDY

We extend a welcome to new staff during 1952 including George Bonelle, Eric Smallwood, Ronald Potter and Diana Penn.

Valerie Lowe has changed from Shorthand Typing to Production Engineering, and we hope that in due course she will be the first girl at Chance Brothers to obtain a National Certificate in Production Engineering.

We congratulate Jack Cassons, our Time Study Engineer at the Optical Division Works, St. Helens, who succeeded in obtaining a National Certificate.



Joan Saxton and Clive.

News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

● GLASGOW

The FIRHILL EMPLOYEES CHARITY FUND held their annual meeting on December 22nd in the Canteen and approved of the distribution of £162 to various institutions, per list exhibited in the Gatehouse. In addition a parcel value 30/- will be delivered to:—

Ralph Shearer — Glassmaker
J. Hutcheon — Warehouse
E. Davie — Engineering
with best wishes from their fellow workers for their return to health.

The balance carried forward is £19 14s. 10d. which sum is held in reserve, to meet such emergency calls as may be approved by the Committee.

The Recreation Club held their second Whist Drive on the 26th November. The next Whist evening is arranged for 28th January, 1953.

At the Childrens Christmas Party, held in the Canteen on Saturday, 20th December, over 100 attended.

● LONDON

We are sorry to report that Eric Stallard, Sumo Sales, has left us after six years at London Office, to take up another appointment. He has joined a firm at Ipswich who are one of Sumo's most important distributors and will therefore remain in touch

with his old Company. We wish him great success in his new venture.

Miss June Staddon, Flat Glass Sales, recently celebrated her 21st birthday. Her colleagues in London Office presented her with an evening handbag to mark the occasion.

Glass Coronation souvenirs made by the B & P Division, having gained certificates of approval from the Coronation Souvenirs Committee, are now on show at a special exhibition of Souvenirs arranged by the Council of Industrial Design. They will also appear at the Fancy Goods Fair, Harrogate, in February.



Old Ben the gardener at the Malvern Works.

● MALVERN

The Optical & Special Glass Section held a successful Dinner Dance at the Park Hotel, Colwall, on December 16th. The guests included Dr. & Mrs. W. M. Hampton, Mr. S. Pickering and Mr. A. Ogden.

Dorothy Clare proposed the health of the guests and Mrs. Hampton replied.

After an excellent seasonable dinner, Brian Austin organised dancing and party games. We at Malvern are very sorry that Brian will be leaving us soon consequent on his transfer to Smethwick, and eventually to St. Helens, and we wish him every happiness in his new sphere.

We welcome John Brazier, who comes to us from the Laboratory at Smethwick, also Josephine Roach, a local girl.

Congratulations to Arthur and Mary Bayley on the birth of a son.

The Malvern Engineering section held a most successful Dinner and Dance at the Abbey Hotel in December, and we were especially pleased to welcome many guests from Smethwick.

Mr. L. G. Harding, as Chairman of the Organising Committee, made a very amusing speech on the birth of the "B" Pump. He said that a year ago a weak and ailing child was born at Smethwick, and its parents decided that the benefit of Malvern air was essential. The "B" Pump is now a healthy growing child, and he felt sure that this time next year it would become a full-grown man but, unfortunately it would still be a "B" Pump.

We welcome the return of Mrs. P. Warwick, and the following newcomers:—Mr. Williams, Mrs. Rathbone, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Tandy, Mr.

Evans, Mr. Gittings, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Smale and Mrs. Capell.

We offer condolences to Mr. C. Langford on the sad loss of his wife.

● ST. HELENS

We commence this month's notes by sending New Year greetings from St. Helens to Chance Brothers' employees everywhere.

The Annual Dance took place at the St. Helens Town Hall on Friday, 12th December, and once again was an unqualified success. We were very pleased to welcome Dr. & Mrs. Hampton and other friends from Spon Lane, one of whom delighted us all with an impromptu recital on the piano during the band interval. Thank you, Mr. Turner. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Hampton by Miss R. Burt, and one to Mrs. Pickering by Miss J. Ford.

Mr. Pickering, in a short speech from the stage, brought to everybody's notice the untiring work of Mr. T. Hodgson in organising these dances, and we in these columns second this statement. Judging by the round of applause which followed Mr. Pickering's vote of thanks, so does everybody else.

Our congratulations to Mrs. G. Ashton, ex Packing Bench, on the birth of a son. Our best wishes go also to Mrs. E. Hine, Inspection, who left recently, and to Mrs. F. Ashall who retired at Christmas.

We were rather surprised to observe in the last issue of *Chance Comments*, that the notes on the Suggestion Scheme made no mention of St. Helens. Up here we are justifiably proud of our record in the Company's Suggestion Scheme, and we award one large "brickbat" to the Editor.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

IN CASE OF INJURY

A number of our Works Security Staff have been trained in, and are qualified to give, First Aid treatment and the following arrangements now apply for rendering treatment in case of injury :—

MEDICAL CENTRE Telephone 321

Mon. to Fri. 7.0 a.m. to 10.0 p.m.
Saturday 7.0 a.m. to 12 noon.

OLD GATE Telephone 252

Each night : After 10.0 p.m.
Saturday After 12 noon.
Sunday All day.

HANDWRITING

O wretched the debtor who's signing
a deed !
And wretched the letter that no one
can read !

We were reminded of this quotation from *Ruddigore* when the Optical Division received the example of perfect handwriting reproduced below.

SUN BALLS

Sunshine Recording Spheres are a product of the Engineering Division, and are used to measure the hours of sunshine at various seaside resorts. But studio photographers have found a new use for these instruments, and this study (on opposite page) was taken by Photoworks Ltd.

A FEW REMINDERS

(a) Works Shop

The Works Shop is situated in the Old Thororoughfare and its purpose is to enable employees to buy the Company's products at very favourable terms. Anybody wishing to obtain sheet glass etc., should make their wants known at the Shop. Domestic



glassware is "rationed" to not more than 5s. 0d. worth a month, and employees must first obtain a buying voucher from their foreman or section leader.

(b) Safety Shoes

A study of the accident statistics shows that foot injuries exceed any other form of injury, and most of these are caused as a result of dropping articles. Safety shoes not only provide a good measure of protection, they are also excellent value. The General Stores keep a good stock of shoes for sale to employees.

(c) Works Visits

Conducted tours of the Works are arranged for employees and their friends on the second Saturday in each month, commencing at 10 a.m.

Application for such visits should be made to the Personnel Department at least seven days in advance. No children under fourteen years of age will be allowed to take part.

(d) Medical Certificates

The Works Rules provide that doctor's notes must be produced in a case of illness. To avoid the necessity of employees having to pay for medical certificates, the Company will accept the production of the National Insurance certificate as evidence of incapacity and fitness to resume work.

These State notes should not be sent to the Company through the post, but should be presented by the employee—or his or her representative—to the Personnel Department, where relevant extracts will be made and the note handed back to the employee or representative.

EXCHANGE & MART

This month CHANCE COMMENTS introduces a new service to readers. Any employee wishing to sell or acquire an article may advertise in this Column without charge. Particulars of articles for sale should be sent to the Personnel Department, who will arrange for any enquiries to be passed on to the advertiser.

Wanted

A collector of china lambs and glass paper weights wishes to acquire specimens.

Box J.1.

12" Table Model T.V. Set. Must be in perfect condition and not more than twelve months old.

Box J.2.

For Sale

Tennis Racquet. 13½ oz., in very good condition.

Box K.1.

Lady's cycle. Good condition. £6.

Box K.2.

Dear Sirs,

October 9 1952.

With reference to your notice in "Practical Mechanics" October 1952, I wish to inquire the prices of the following blanks for use in telescope making.

6" Pyrex, ^{or other low expansion glass} mirror blank, machined edge.
6" plate glass tool - machined edge.
12" blanks for mirror and tool to a similar specification

Yours faithfully,

KOREA - - -

WE are proud to welcome back to the Company Bill Horton, who has just completed his two years National Service with the R.A.S.C., twelve months of which he spent in Korea. Prior to being called up to the Forces, he worked in Sumo Repair Shop, for approximately four years.

When Bill was called up, he first reported to Aldershot, and afterwards was stationed at Blandeford, Shrewsbury, Lichfield, Stratford-on-Avon, and Rhyl, North Wales.

On the 17th September 1951, Bill was sent overseas and had no idea where he was bound for. After five weeks at sea, he disembarked in Japan and remained there for a fortnight. He was then transferred to Pusan in South Korea, where he became a member of the First Commonwealth Supply Division. It is interesting at this point to give an idea of the life in Korea.

Korea is even more different than it looks. Sons don't shake hands with their fathers, nor drink or smoke in their company. Their first marriages are contracted about the age of fourteen, and a man still may have as many wives as he feels he can afford. A Korean can tell a wife to "go home to mother" if he doesn't want her around any more. Even to-day in Korean families you find boys and girls being raised by women we would call their "step mothers" because their own mother has been dismissed from the household. Girls leave their hair down—either loose or in braids—while single. When married they gather it into a knot at the back of the head, held in place with a silver pin.

The Koreans number 28,000,000. Before 1945 there were no "North" or "South" Koreans—they were all Koreans. However, 1945 found 20,000,000 of them living south of the 38th parallel that became the dividing line between the American and Russian zones of occupation, and 8,000,000 north of it. Since then a further 5,700,000 have fled from the north into the already over-populated south.

Water in the country is not safe to drink, mainly because of bacterial and fungus growth in river and stream beds, but also because it drains from hills on which the inadequately buried



Bill Horton

dead are interred. Diseases such as dysentery, malaria and typhus are prevalent, as also are small-pox and diphtheria.

It is said that Koreans "don't value human life," that "they hold life cheaply." This is not true. They value it as we do. They are affectionate people, in friendship as in love, and the family is the basis of all their thinking. Sorrow and happiness in the family are shared by all its members deeply.

Since Koreans sit and sleep on the floor, their homes have a minimum of furniture and even a small room appears large. Under no conditions do Koreans wear shoes indoors or even on the verandah, the floor of which is normally polished too. Shoes are undone or slipped off and left under the verandah ledge or else in compartments provided indoors.

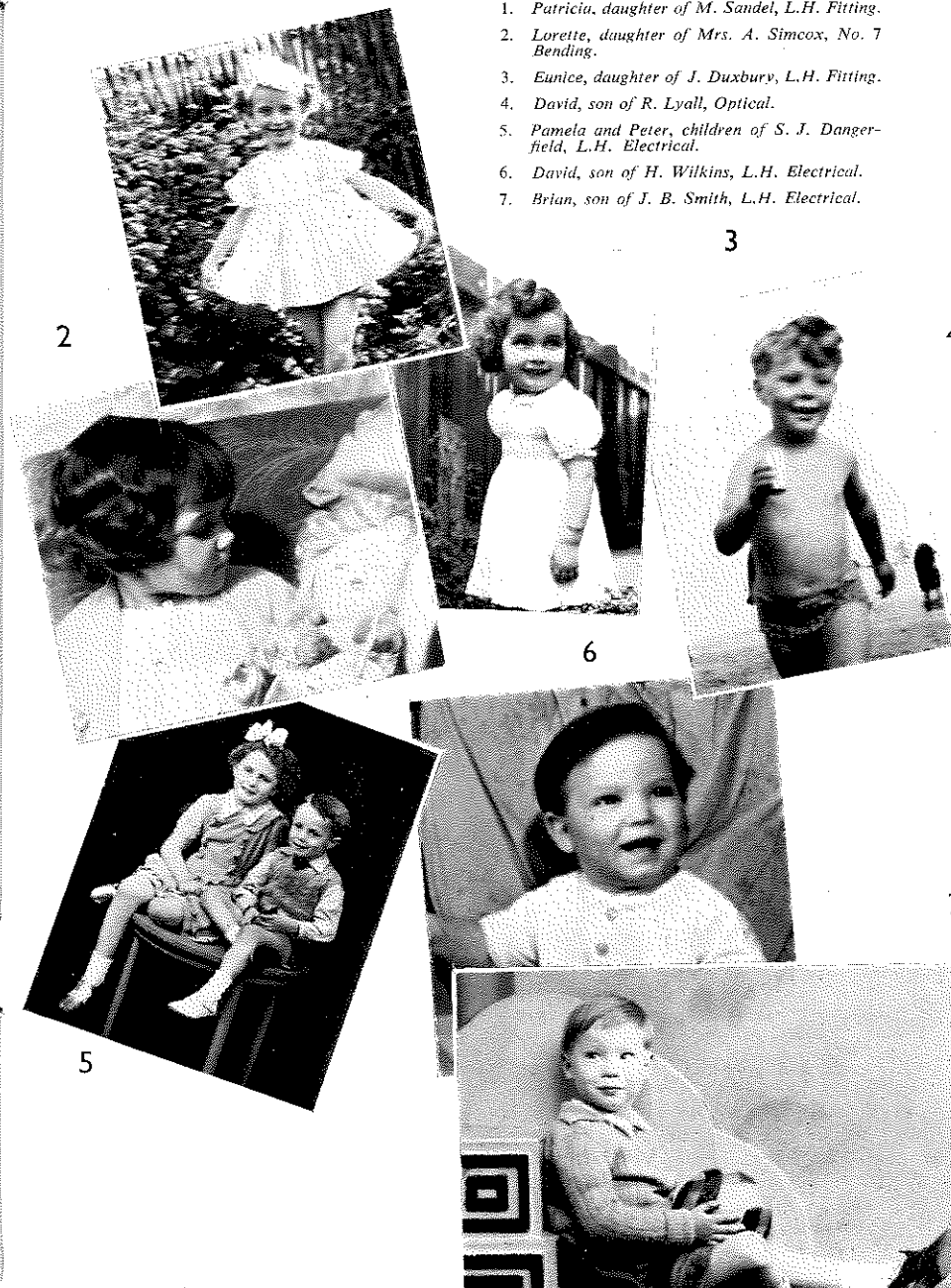
Farming is the occupation of two-thirds of Korea's working population. And although two-thirds of the people are members of farm households, most of the remainder too have their own garden plots and keep their own chickens. Some even keep a pig or two, even in the towns.

Bill left Korea with mixed feelings, in as much he was very glad to be able to come back to England, but was very sorry to leave behind so many of his pals. During his stay in Korea Bill looked forward to letters from home and received copies of *Chance Comments* regularly. Although *Chance Comments* is typically a "house journal," Bill's friends were only too pleased to read it.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE . . .

Studies of our Employees' Children

1. Patricia, daughter of M. Sandel, L.H. Fitting.
2. Lorette, daughter of Mrs. A. Simcox, No. 7 Bending.
3. Eunice, daughter of J. Duxbury, L.H. Fitting.
4. David, son of R. Lyall, Optical.
5. Pamela and Peter, children of S. J. Dangerfield, L.H. Electrical.
6. David, son of H. Wilkins, L.H. Electrical.
7. Brian, son of J. B. Smith, L.H. Electrical.



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

BEING a workpeople's representative on a Committee is anything but milk and honey, but we at Chance Brothers have always been fortunate in having a number of men and women who earnestly desire to be of service to their fellow-workers, and willingly undertake the responsibilities of Committee work.

Some months ago, the suggestion was made at a meeting of the Works Consultative Committee—by a workers' representative—that the Company should arrange a training course for workpeople's representatives on the W.C.C. and its sub-committees, and such a course was held at the end of the year.

The sessions were outside working hours, yet 25 representatives enrolled. The matters studied included the constitution, objects and methods of the W.C.C., the management organisation of the Company, factory costing,

and welfare and employees' services. At the final session, Mr. John Raymond gave a talk on why he regarded the W.C.C. as important. A questionnaire completed by members of the course indicated clearly that the experiment was worth while, and there was a unanimous request that a further and more detailed course be arranged in the near future.

At a meeting of the Works Consultative Committee held early in December the Chairman, Mr. John Raymond, reviewed the position in regard to production in each Division.

Referring to the Engineering Division, he said that the production of 4" pumps at Malvern was going ahead quite well and urgent requests for more pumps were being received from America. On the Lighthouse side, we had recently quoted for nine light-houses for India and had just heard that an order for at least four would be placed with us. The Austinlite section continued to be very busy and had a full order book for many months ahead.

Turning to the Optical Division, the Chairman said that activity was high and spectacle business was slowly returning.

Sales in the Flat Glass Division had increased considerably, and difficulty was being experienced in dealing quickly with all the demands for Rolled glasses. There had been some improvement in production in the Coloured Department, but more orders were needed for the output of this section.

In the Blown & Pressed Division, the position as far as cathode ray bulbs was concerned was very good, but the order book for Chemical ware was not so satisfactory, one explanation seemed to be that customers were using up their stocks before ordering further supplies.

The volume of orders for domestic glass was also somewhat worrying, and here our business was being affected by large imports from foreign countries, such as Czechoslovakia. In this connection he had approached both the President of the Board of Trade and the Member of Parliament for Smethwick, but as yet without result. Much attention was being given to the problem of increasing sales of this type of glass.

Suggestion Scheme

The last two months have been a period of frustration for the Suggestion Scheme enthusiasts as whilst 29 ideas were submitted, 7 only were accepted, but 16 were deferred for trial or further investigations.

The highest award in the period was £2 10s. 0d. to Harry Vallender, of the Maintenance & Construction Department, who submitted a suggestion concerning feed water solution at the South Side boilers.

T. Yates, of the Blown & Pressed, was awarded £1 0s. 0d. when he suggested that an inclined ramp be placed at the entrance to the lehr so that the glass chimneys enter the lehr partially warmed and dried; this would apply a gentle drying heat before the chimneys met the annealing heat of the lehr.

17s. 6d. was awarded to L. Whitehouse, of the Pressed Mould Shop, who made an excellent suggestion concerning the insertion of protective felt in the points of the decorating lining machine.

E. Roberts of the Remoulding Section at St. Helens, also received 17s. 6d. for a suggestion for the use of an ellipse as an aid to palletting Optical glass.

T. Okell, of the St. Helens maintenance staff, put forward the idea that an induction fan be fitted in the Dark Room to allow currents of fresh air to circulate around the room, and he received 10s. 0d.

The Committee is always pleased to receive suggestions from our lady employees, and Cynthia Whitehouse of the Seven Storey Despatch Office received 7s. 6d. for an idea concerning a method of saving Ormig machine carbon paper.

A safety idea earned 5s. 0d. for J. Richards of the Rolled Plate.

**A GOOD IDEA
PAYS OFF!**