

BIG MONEY
FOR
BIG IDEAS!

AN EXTRA £50

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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.

Contents

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed	
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
	R. TURTON
Process	S. STOCKIN
Making	A. SUTTON
Warehouse	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying and Stationery	MRS. M. CANTY
Cost Office	MISS J. HEATH
Export	F. TAYLOR
Flat Glass	
Making and Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	R. PALMER
Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
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Maintenance and Construction	
Boiler Shop	R. TIMMINS
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Garage	H. F. COSNETT
Gas Plant	J. WHEATLEY
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Mixing	N. GREEN
Optical	MRS. E. HOLLYHEAD
Pyrometry	N. WALKER
Traffic	MRS. K. FELLOWS
Typists' Pool	MISS M. VICKERS
Wages, Pensions	A. E. CARTWRIGHT
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS	
Glasgow	A. C. THOMSON
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St. Helens	K. W. APPLFTON

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

The charming lady is wearing sun glasses fitted with Chance Crookes "B" lenses. This glass is neutral in colour and ensures excellent protection against glare in very bright light. It also has considerable absorption in the infra red and ultra violet.

VOL. 9, No. 3

JULY—AUGUST, 1956

LOCATING THE ENEMY

Our part in anti-germ warfare

WHILST reading the article on hypodermic syringes by F.J.W. in the last edition of *Chance Comments*, I was reminded of that phrase of a well known military figure, "Don't fire until you can see the whites of their eyes." We can all appreciate that, in land warfare, sight of the enemy is all important and armies in both the past and present have spent tremendous effort in effectively locating the enemy so that their fire is not wasted.

But locating and identifying the enemy is just as necessary in germ warfare—the daily, even hourly attack that the medical profession is launching against germs of all shapes and sizes that seem to spell disaster to the human body.

If we examine any of the success stories of the medical profession the campaign against the enemy is generally the same, first, isolate and identify the enemy who is causing the trouble; secondly, find the ammunition he dislikes most; thirdly, mass all the doctors together with the syringes (a better sight is obtained if Chance Interchangeable syringes are used) and let 'em have it.

We have read how Chance Brothers have made their contribution to the third task, but perhaps we are not quite so aware of our efforts for the first and second phases.

The Microscope

The most necessary instrument to the backroom boys of the medical profession engaged in these facets of the campaign is the microscope and, here again, Chance Brothers have played, and are still playing their part.

We are all aware of our Company's eminence in the optical glass field and every microscope depends upon optical glass for doing the magnification, but few of us appreciate that the microscope, by itself, is only part of the story.

So that a specimen, may be of blood, can be examined on a microscope—sight of the enemy, it is put on a small flat strip of glass called a slide. This simply acts as a carrier but because it is made of clear glass, it enables the specimen to be illuminated from underneath when placed on the microscope.

Another very thin piece of glass is then placed on top of the specimen, this is known as the cover and it's purpose is twofold. As it's name implies, it acts as a cover and helps to preserve the specimen from dirt and deterioration; it's other use can best be explained by reference to an old trick many readers may have used when on holiday on the coast and have wanted to get a clear view of under the sea. The rough surface of the water is very difficult to peer through due to all the odd reflections but if an open-

topped box with a glass bottom is placed onto the water, the sea bed can be seen very clearly. The thin glass cover acts in an exactly similar way and offers a flat unreflecting surface to the lens or eye of the microscope. Because the glass of the cover is magnified by the microscope, it must, of course, be very clear and free from blemishes, and since it is necessary, if very large magnification is required, that the lense of the microscope should be very close to the specimen, very thin glass is required.

At the 1851 Exhibition

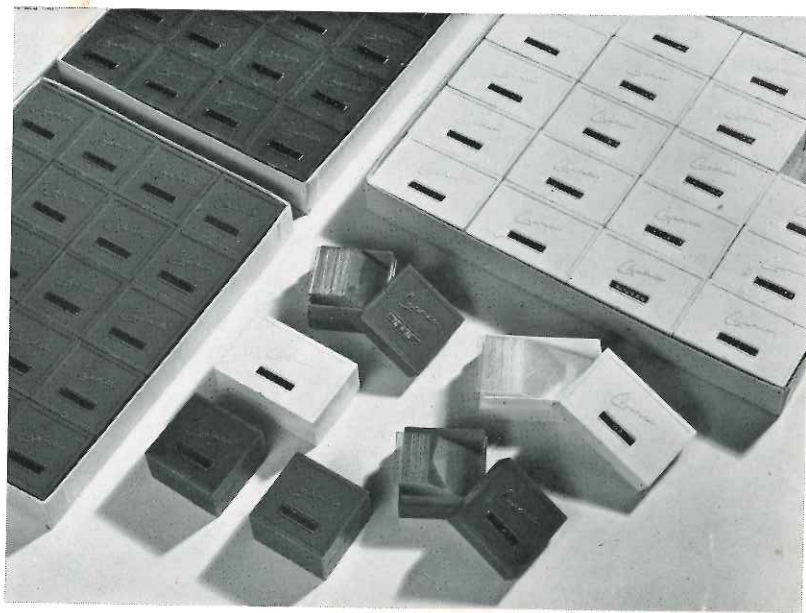
Men of science in the past would, no doubt, have continually demanded from the glass manufacturers a thinner and clearer glass and it is interesting to note that it was recorded in the reports of the Great Exhibition of 1851, that our

Company had succeeded in supplying very thin glass, more than 200 to the inch, since 1840 and by its use microscopes of very far higher power than otherwise could be produced.

Crown glass metal and the glass-makers who made Crown glass were used at this time to make both the slides and the covers and in catalogues the name is still preserved as Crown Microscopic Glass and the section of the Seven Storey department that we know today as the Micro was the Crown department and many of our long service members still use this name.

The methods of manufacture, however, are now vastly changed, but the original hand blown method survived until after the last war, when it was replaced by a mechanised process that was

Microscope Cover Slips—a Chance Speciality. Packing in coloured plastic boxes for certain overseas markets. Plastic boxes protect against humidity and attack by insects.



developed by our laboratory, a very worthy success.

Though automation has proved so successful at the glassmaking stage, we still have to rely on the dexterity of human hands to handle the cutting of the glass into the small squares and circles and a fine example of the skill of "the girls on the top shelf" (some of whom appear on the centre pages) was shown when a customer asked if it were possible to obtain circles of an eighth of an inch in diameter in glass five-thousandths of an inch thick. Samples were promptly supplied and an order obtained and satisfactorily completed.

Five thou!

The majority of the thin cover glass is sold in the thickness of five-thousandths of an inch and in pieces less than one inch square. These small pieces are packed in very small card or plastic boxes that hold half an ounce, that is about seventy squares. It is recorded that during the last war, Ernie Courtney, who retired this year, but who was then in charge of the Seven Storey, used to report that five tons of glass were on order. Readers may amuse themselves by calculating just how many pieces that represented.

Over many generations, Chance Microscopic Glass has been accepted throughout the world as the standard against which others have been compared and, as the sun never set upon the British Empire so it was with our product, but the sun of the British Empire appears low down in the sky in some areas of the world these days, but the sun is at its zenith for Micro.

Our export business in 1955 in Micro glass squares was fifteen

times as great as in 1938. I am sure our economic troubles would be over if such a figure could be applied to the products of British industry as a whole. Our business at home is five times the 1938 level and we are, of course, virtually the only suppliers in this market.

Dollar business

For over half a century, we have supplied the new glass, ready for cutting up into squares, to the United States of America and we hold this business still to-day, in fact in 1955 again we sent four times as much glass as in 1938. We all know the importance of any dollar export business and we are proud of our contribution.

The world-wide extent of the business brought with it many problems. Some of the glass goes to places with very different climates to the one with which we are familiar, some of these are very hot and damp and when glass is kept in these conditions the surface deteriorates and goes milky. When the covers were made by hand-blown methods special metal was used and we claimed our glass was the most resistant in the world. To-day, though the glass is produced mechanically, we have maintained the quality to resist attack.

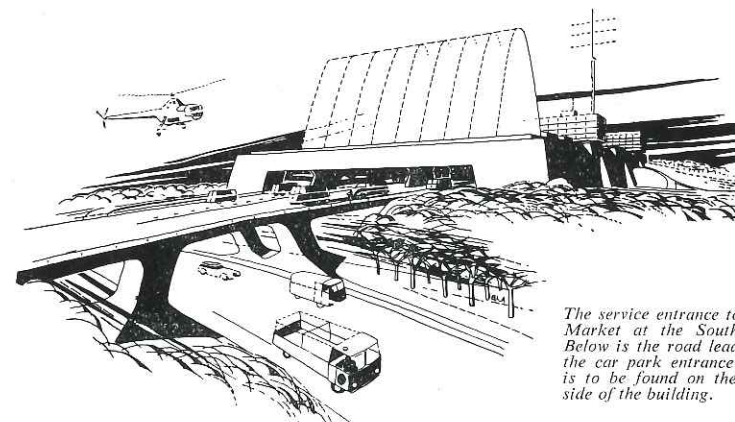
Tradition is a tremendous help, but care must be taken against complacency. When hand blowing was the only way available, our tradition and our strength in the craft stood us in great stead, but to-day, with mechanical methods, the past skills are not so important and we must rely more than ever on the technical skill of staff and works to keep our head in front of all possible rivals.

N.K.H.



LONDON OFFICE

Three pictures taken at our new office in St. James's Street. 1. The entrance lobby. 2. Conference Room. 3. An exhibition of some Chance products.



The service entrance to High Market at the South End. Below is the road leading to the car park entrance which is to be found on the other side of the building.

HIGH MARKET PROJECT

points the way to shopping in 2000 A.D.

FORMED to suggest new and practical solutions to the future problems of town and country planning, the Glass Age Development Committee commissioned two young English architects, Gordon and Eleanor Michell, to design a super shopping centre, four storeys high, covering a million square feet, to cater for Midland housewives in the year 2,000 A.D. We give readers a brief resumé of the plan.

Although the centre, which is known as High Market, is imaginary and intended only as the sort of development that might take place by the year 2,000, all the proposals made are practicable possibilities.

It is called High Market because it is sited on high ground, commanding a good view of the surrounding country. Circulation is divided into four sections.

There are four entrances for the higher of the two parking levels and two for the lower. The lower one is also for buses which go in one side and out the other. (Access would be provided by

road and rail, perhaps supplemented by the adoption of some monorail system and by helicopter).

There is a one-way circulation all round the service floor with entrances at each end of the building at hill top level. Goods are unloaded at individual stores below each shop. Employees park their cars on this level. The two department stores have good lifts with unloading bays in the centre of the building.

Customers take the lifts nearest to their car parking lot or the bus station and are carried to the general shopping level above the service floor. On this level, movement is entirely pedestrian, supplemented by a platform moving continuously in both directions all round the outside of the building.

Those seated on the platform would see on one side a spacious view of the countryside and on the other shop windows, with occasional glimpses into the central area of the building. At intervals along this, seats would be placed. As the platform moves very



slowly, it would be easy for customers to walk over to reach the six glazed observation terraces over the entrance.

On getting out of their car or bus, customers obtain a colour token to correspond with the parcel pick-up station nearest to their lift, and an individual number. Their purchases through the High Market, except those bought in the covered market and the closed arcades are marked with their colour and number and placed in the shop's own vertical parcel chute. This saves considerable labour in delivery. The parcels are taken down the chutes in continuous bucket lifts and land on a conveyor belt which moves the whole way round the building. At eight points on this belt, which are exactly above the pick-up stations in the car park, an attendant takes the appropriately coloured parcels off the belt and puts them into the chutes for the pick-up station below. There they are sorted into numbered pigeon holes and collected by the customers as they return home.

The aim of the High Market project is to make shopping easier and much more of a pleasure than it is now, and it is all perfectly feasible. Sitting on the top of its two hills it overlooks the whole

area from which its customers will come, and whilst they will come primarily to shop, they will also find facilities for dining and dancing, the cinema, exhibitions and recreation.

The object

High Market would be an out-of-town shopping centre of the American Country Market type which people of the surrounding areas could visit once or twice a week to find a large range of goods. Existing shops in the area could have branches there. This is a logical economic solution of existing congestion and would ease the pressure of traffic in the cities and restore leisure and pleasure to shopping.

The Locality

Sited on the high ground formed by Turner's Hill and Darby's Hill between Dudley and Oldbury, it is proposed to serve the population of Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Smethwick and Oldbury. Since this is a project for fifty years' hence, it is fair to assume that transport conditions and indeed the means of transport will have improved. High Market is, therefore, approached by helicopter or high speed mono-rail, and



Articulated platforms move continuously around the building in opposite directions. Seats are placed at intervals, and from these can be seen views of the industrial Black Country, the shop windows, and occasionally the central area of the building. As these platforms move very slowly it is quite easy to walk over them to reach the six glazed observation terraces over the entrance.

at the same time roads have been modernised so that several high speed and wide main highways link the centre to the trunk road network running through the Black Country.

The Aim

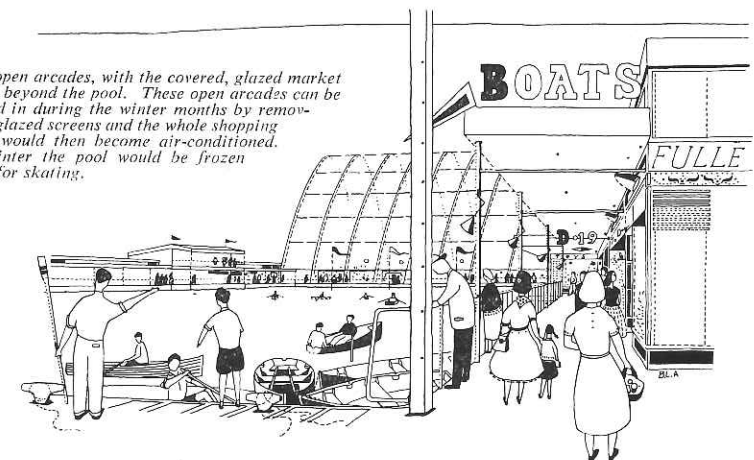
The imaginary High Market will be 2,000 ft. long, 400 ft. wide and its four storeys will contain shops, cinemas, a bathing pool and an exhibition centre in addition to service departments (packaging, delivery, etc.) and parking space for 3,500 cars, lorries and helicopters.

Recreation

Recreation is afforded by the existing golf course on the west side of the

building and the rest of this plateau would be laid out for football, cricket and other games. Under the plateau the Netherton underground canal runs straight for 1½ miles, and it is proposed to connect this to the flooded quarries, thus linking them with the whole canal system to the north of the building. On the other side, as the nearby quarries become worked out, they would be flooded and the edges planted, and an exciting landscape would be created for walking and boating. This whole area would be accessible by car with car parks concealed in lower quarries and by a miniature railway which would start from an underground station below the central car park entrance.

The open arcades, with the covered, glazed market place beyond the pool. These open arcades can be closed in during the winter months by removable glazed screens and the whole shopping area would then become air-conditioned. In winter the pool would be frozen over for skating.





WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

£57 for Thirteen Ideas

Malvern Fitter receives £25

A manufacturing problem on hypodermic syringes was the making of side nozzle barrels from one piece of tubing instead of welding a length of capillary tube to the barrel. The technical staff experimented with an idea for several months without success but recently J. Poole, the Malvern works maintenance fitter succeeded in making it work. Although the overall success must be considered a joint effort, Jim Poole's ability and the manner in which he stuck to the job was the main spring in achieving success and the Suggestions Scheme committee awarded him £25.

£10 5s. 0d. for H. Mann

H. Mann of Rolled Plate wrote to the Suggestion Scheme committee as follows, "There have been several cases of sills breaking when the machine is put to the furnace. I believe this happens when extra gas is put into the forehearth to bring the metal to a temperature. I suggest that if a strip of asbestos, the width of the sill, is put on and removed

just before the stopper is taken out, most of the trouble will be overcome."

This suggestion was used during a recent difficult period when the sills were burned too hard causing breakage and the idea earned £10 5s. 0d.

Two awards of £5 5s. 0d. each

Two people who solved problems each received £5 5s. 0d. M. Fox of Mixing recommended that a rubber extension be fitted on the side of the skip hoist bucket to prevent excessive waste of mixing materials. This resulted in an improved seal between the skip and the dust cowl on the liner mixer.

A. Pitchford of Maintenance and Construction had an effective filter fitted to the exhaust system on the cathode button spraying plant and this not only reduced excessive dust but also resulted in a recovery of an expensive process powder. Eventually a special filter arrangement will be fitted but the suggestor dealt with a temporary but urgent problem.

An idea from Glasgow

P. J. MacAtamney of the Glasgow works put forward a suggestion to eliminate the use of bricks on which the top lip of the furnace rests by the use of a piece of mild steel. Trials proved that the idea would save several hundred bricks a year and £2 15s. 0d., was the award.

B. Bagnall Earns £2

One of Bert Bagnall's jobs is to clear rubbish dumps with a mechanical shovel and he noticed that due to uneven surfaces the shovel blades were often damaged. He asked that the dumps should have a concrete base and the adoption of his idea is certain to reduce the cost of repairs to the shovel. £2 was awarded.

Handling Cullet

G. Hadley and T. Davis of Rolled Plate put their heads together to work out a safer and more efficient way of handling cullet in the Rolled Plate warehouse and £2 was awarded.

There's always a better way

Here is a summary of other suggestions which have been adopted:—

F. Parkes, Optical, £1 2s. 6d., for an idea for a steel frame in place of double doors on the optical arches.

D. Parry, Maintenance and Construction, £1 2s. 6d., for a suggestion to prevent the crane coming off the track on the Rolled Plate runway.

J. Ward, Optical, £1 2s. 6d., for a method of cullet control.

Three employees received 10s. 0d., each for minor yet helpful ideas, namely, B. Bagnall, Transport; N. Penn, Traffic; and T. H. Smith, Rolled Plate.

These suggestions are under consideration

53422 R. Cammies	B. & P.
53507 L. Baker and G. Hadley	Rolled Plate
53493 F. Bodley	Rolled Plate
53509 H. Edge	B. & P.
53494 W. I. Robinson	Fiesta
53515 H. Mann	Rolled Plate
53557 J. Poole	Malvern
53498 D. Nunn	M. & C.
53545 H. Price	Vello
53553 C. Lowe	M. & C.
53555 H. Edge	B. & P.
53559 J. Hughes	Traffic
53560 F. Timmins	B. & P.
53562 L. Collett and R. Ferris	Rolled Plate

Big Money for Big Ideas !

AN EXTRA £50

A SPECIAL AWARD OF £50 WILL BE PAID FOR ALL SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY 30th SEPTEMBER, WHICH RESULT IN AN ANNUAL SAVING OF £1,000 OR MORE. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL AWARDS MADE FOR ACCEPTED SUGGESTIONS.



Chance
SNAPSHOTS
TAKEN IN THE
SEVEN STOREY



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Flat Glass

The Flat Glass division have two retirements to announce. William Bird of the Rolled Plate Warehouse retired on 25th May and Archibald Richards of the Seven Storey retired at the end of June. We wish them both a well earned rest.

The Old Anchor at Stourport must offer some attraction to the Rolled Plate department as since the last issue of *Chance Comments* three separate parties at weekly intervals have been there. The first two parties enjoyed the traditional chicken supper but the last one favoured fish and chips.

The staff of the Rolled Plate department had a party on 1st June and it was good to have as guests Mr. Jack Braden and Mr. Bert Tandy.

Laboratory

Last year Alan Giles, Robert Suhr and Kenneth Price obtained London University Degrees and consequent on their achievements they recently attended the Presentation ceremony held at the Albert Hall in London and were presented to H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Bernard Cumberlidge was married to Barbara Hitchman on 9th June and the laboratory staff offer them congratulations and best wishes.

HALF A CENTURY

Walter Whitley (Pot and Clay) has now completed 50 years service.

Edward Gowans is welcomed to the chemistry laboratory staff and Mary Eccles has joined this department as an apprentice.

Maintenance and Construction

The Old Hall welcomes to the drawing office Ron Bragger and Paul Latham and the Boiler shop welcomes apprentice Garry Watton.

The personnel in the Boiler shop were very glad to see Joe Nicholls when he visited the works recently. Joe has been away from work for many months with a serious illness and we hope he will soon be back with us.

The division is very glad to have Mr. W. E. Barrett back after his recent illness.



Offices

The Typing department staff spent a very enjoyable evening at the Theatre Royal in Birmingham recently to see "The King and I."

This department was sorry to bid farewell to Hilda Silvester who left us to take up residence in the South.

The notes from the Export department correspondent include the statements that many of our regular cricket enthusiasts are distinguishing themselves in one way or another and the hope is expressed that the ducks will not feature quite so largely as in recent weeks. The Export office, also hope to offer their congratulations both to John Gordon and Alan Cowles in respect of achievements in other fields but they must not anticipate.

Newcomers to the staff who are welcomed are Jean Smith, Typing department; Kathleen Benson, Wages office and Mr. A. T. Goodman, Export.

In the annual cricket match between the office staff and the National Provincial Bank the visitors won in the last over. This was the Bank's first success against Chance since the war. The match was played on our Recreation Ground.



Some friends of the Vello Warehouse cat "Jennifer."

The editor regrets a wrong announcement in the last issue of *Chance Comments* concerning the marriage of Doreen Pedley of Purchase Accounts section. Doreen is now, of course, Mrs. Wilkes.

Optical

At the time of going to press, Mrs. A. Cliff and Joe Hill are away sick and we hope they will soon be well and back.

Mrs. Withers retired from the department recently and we wish her well.

Shirley Clorley was married to Mr. F. Onions on 2nd June and a few days later on 15th June attained her majority.

THE RECREATION CLUB

will hold a

SWIMMING GALA

at

WEST BROMWICH BATHS

on

FRIDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Recreation Club was held in the canteen on 29th May. The elected officers and committee are:—

President: G. H. Gordon

Vice-President: J. Crawford

Secretary and Treasurer: J. McCusker

Committee: Sister Duncan, Welfare; I. Blakey, Engineering; W. Elliot, Offices; A. McKnight, Garage; W. Sutherland, Rolled Plate Warehouse.

A bowling tournament is at present being played with thirty-four pairs taking part.

The table tennis team have not been very successful this season and have been relegated to the fourth division of the West of Scotland league.

Harry Woods of the Export section left the Company at the end of June and his help in providing the band at social evenings will be greatly missed. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

We welcome Margaret Durham who recently came to us as a Sumlock operator.

● LONDON

Early in May, London office held an exhibition which we called "Glass for Gifts." Invitations were sent to sales managers, customers, export firms, suppliers, etc., and over two hundred visitors attended. There can be no doubt that the idea of giving Fiesta glass to their customers at Christmas had a definite appeal, orders were received at the exhibition and there will be many more later on in the year.

Swirl and Greco designs are on display among the well designed articles selected

by the Council of Industrial Design for inclusion in their permanent exhibition in the Haymarket.

● MALVERN

With the return of Dorothy Evans from the Outward Bound Mountain School, looking extremely fit, we now have two people who consider the hills at Malvern mere humps and who can walk the rest of us off our feet.

John Brazier who left us for National Service in the R.A.F. has announced his engagement to Elaine Kinsey, a well known former employee of this unit.

Malvern is a rather quiet place and tastes are quite subdued but June Phillips has changed this approach by having the new house she and her husband have just occupied decorated in highly contemporary style—black and blue ceilings, red, yellow and olive green walls to mention just a few of the colour schemes; most of us feel it must be quite restful for her at work with only the blue and cream Chance colour scheme to contend with.

● ST. HELENS

Personal news from the Optical division works at St. Helens includes the announcement that Tom Whieldon has become the father of a second daughter and Ken Appleton has a second son. We congratulate these two happy men and their wives.

Congratulations and best wishes are also offered to Joan Ellis on her recent marriage to D. Taylor.

At the time of going to press Tom Hodgson is away sick and we hope it will not be long before he is well and back again.

Recreation Club News

Football

In our last issue we reported on the success of the first XI football team in winning the Palethorpe trophy for the second year in succession and we now publish a photograph of the team and the trophy. It is strange to talk about football at this time of the year but the club has entered teams in two leagues and an appeal is made to employees to consider playing for the club next season. The chairman of the section, Bill Maybury in the Blown and Pressed division, would be only too glad to hear of any new possible members for the section.

Cricket

Last year the members of the section laid down a concrete wicket and it would appear that this innovation has shown dividends with the batsmen as is instanced in the fact that Ron Turley knocked up fifty-eight runs against the Old Hill Independents.

In the Midland Works and Business Houses League our two teams are holding their own in the premier division and the top reserve division.

More cricket is being played on our ground this year than ever before due mainly to the fact that the inter-departmental competition has developed into a league instead of the former type of knock-out competition. Practically every division of the works has a team in this league, the winner of which will receive the Foster Cup. It would be a brave man who tried to forecast the eventual winners. The competition remains very open and interest and enthusiasm is developing as the season proceeds.

Angling

By the time these notes appear the angling section will have completed their

first match which was at Bodenham on the River Lugg on 15th July. Future contests will be held at Lechlade on the River Thames on 9th September and at Mythe Farm, Tewkesbury, on 14th October. Anyone who would like to participate in one of these contests should contact Mr. Newey, the Civil Defence officer.

Ladies' Darts

At the annual prize distribution of the ladies' darts league held on 6th July, our team received runners-up prizes in the Alfred Cox cup competition. Mrs. Boden and her partner were runners-up in the knock-out pairs competition.

Swimming

The Recreation Club will be organising a swimming gala at West Bromwich Baths on the evening of Friday, 21st September. There will be competitive events for employees and the children of employees and entry forms can now be obtained from the gatehouses. In addition to competitive events, there will be an interesting display by the Birmingham Mermaids, together with an exhibition of diving and a water polo match between two well known local teams.

Our successful football team, see story above.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

Mr. F. J. White, Chief buyer to the Company, has been appointed purchasing controller of the Pilkington Group and he will accordingly move to St. Helens on 1st October.

* * *

Congratulations are offered to June Baker of the Blown and Pressed office on attaining her majority.

* * *

Jack Lune (a pensioner from the Millwrights) and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding on 2nd June.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAIN

The combination of sand and cullet is essential to good glass making. Unfortunately, there is another combination of sand and broken glass in Britain today which does not produce such a happy result.

The menace of broken glass on the beaches spoils the fun of many a holiday, especially where there are children. The dread of jagged edges of glass littered on the seashore will continue to haunt parents so long as there are irresponsible people about who persist in playing skittles with every empty glass bottle or container in sight.

The Red Cross are seriously worried but assert that to stop it needs nothing short of a crusade in which every healthy-minded public spirited holiday-maker or excursionist must co-operate to make it effective. More than a quarter of the beach injuries dealt with at one south coast resort last summer were attributed to broken glass, and in Lancashire this figure rose to 90%.

Sunny weekends spell blood and tears to many of our voluntary first aid workers. Thanks to the callous selfishness of the few, the "holiday" for many a child becomes but a hobbling, painful and unhappy time.

In our daily work we are glassmakers. Let us resolve that in our leisure hours we do not become glass breakers.

OUTWARD BOUND COURSE

Dorothy Evans of the Malvern works recently attended an Outward Bound course in North Wales and she makes the following report:—"The Outward Bound course which I was lucky enough to attend was held at Plas-y-Brennin in North Wales.

My first impression on arrival was the beauty of the surroundings.

As I had never been away from home for as long as a month before, I thought my main trouble would be homesickness, but there were such exciting things to do, and it seemed, so little time to do them all in, I did not have much time to think about home.

Making friends was much easier than I thought possible. I knew most of them in the first week but remembering all the names was rather difficult.

When I arrived at the summit of my first rock climb, I had a great feeling of sense of achievement, but I thought rock climbing was rather frightening.

The films we were shown and the discussions and lectures were very interesting and enlightening.

I thought it was quite an achievement walking eighteen miles in one day, because the most I had ever walked before was three miles. I thought I would never do it.



At the Outward Bound Course.

One of the highlights of the course was the visit of Sir John Hunt of Everest fame.

I am very grateful to the Chance Education Trust for making this course one of the most memorable things in my life."

HOLIDAYS ARE EXPENSIVE

This issue appears at a time when the majority of our employees are on holiday or are on the eve of their holiday period. But holidays are frightfully expensive and fortunate are those who were provident by joining the Company's holiday savings scheme. In recent weeks, £10,574 has been paid out to members of this scheme, and since the fund was started in 1938, the sum of £105,791 has been saved. The fund will gladly act as bankers for holidays to be taken next year and all that is necessary is to authorise the wages office to deduct a regular amount from wages every week.

PROVIDENT SOCIETY

The accounts for the Smethwick Glassworks Provident Society for the year 1955 showed that members' contributions totalled £492 and benefits for sickness, death and convalescence amounted to £475.

TRAINING FOR REPRESENTATIVES

For the purpose of giving workpeople's representatives on the various works committees background knowledge of certain aspects of the Company's administration, a series of lectures was arranged during June. The subjects covered were, management organisation, Home and Export sales, buying, financial aspects and personnel services.

It is certain that this course will help representatives to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

SO WHAT?

Did you know that bifocal lenses were invented by Benjamin Franklin, and that among the first to wear them was George Washington?

... that more than 40,000 people a year die from snake-bites?

... that no place in England is more than eighteen miles from a railway line?

... that an ostrich can run at forty miles an hour?

... that an American has invented an electronic toothbrush? The motor is reversible and the device has a built-in 3 volt power supply!

... that a goldfish, left by itself, will become so lonely that it will end up a mental case? But the bloodthirsty piranna fish of South America are so frightened of each other that they fight to escape through the glass walls of the tank.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The second of a series of articles by H. L. Newey in which the voluntary service of Chance Employees is reported.

Frank Guest

A MARRIED man, with two daughters, and both legs amputated, Frank became the secretary of the Oldbury and District Association for Civilian Cripples in 1950. Since then he has worked hard to do all in his power for these people, who have now made the membership number for Oldbury and District to between forty-five and fifty.

Always interested in local affairs and meeting people and understanding them, he became a councillor for Oldbury in 1954, and serves on the following committees:—Education committee and two sub-committees, Housing and one sub-committee, Parks and Cemeteries, Baths and Public Halls, Watch committee and Stores and Purchase committees. During the last year, Frank was due to attend ninety-seven meetings and was present at ninety-five, being stopped from attending on one occasion by fog and on the other by snow.

He is conscious of the fact that the co-operation from Chance Brothers has helped him carry on with this work, which, now that he is in his third year as

a councillor, is becoming increasingly more important to him, and he realises that work like this, which is now taking up so much of his time (it is often between 8.30 p.m. and 9.0 p.m. before he gets home for his tea) is the finest thing he has found for making him forget his disability.

Frank Guest joined the Company in 1932 as a glassmaker; he is now in the Blown and Pressed offices.

Sydney Scriven

IN April 1953, Sydney Scriven of the Maintenance and Construction office, was appointed the Vicar's Warden at St. Paul's Church, Tipton.

With the rising costs and falling congregations, St. Paul's, like other churches, experiences difficulty in making ends meet, and the job of being a Vicar's Warden brought the responsibility of raising funds by organising sales of work, jumble sales, and anything in fact which would bring in money. In addition to this, the maintenance of the church buildings and seeing the church is properly heated and

cleaned, are other jobs a Vicar's Warden has to do.

In May 1953, he was appointed Sequestrator during the Interregnum which lasted until September and during this period he was virtually in charge of the church and the arranging of services, weddings, funerals, baptisms and churchings, filling up all the registration forms pertaining to these functions, compiling records and dealing with correspondence which averaged about thirty letters per week. On top of this he edited the church magazine and arranged for the printing and distribution of over five hundred copies per month. The new vicar relieved him of this work when he took over in September.

Sydney is convinced that regular attendance to a church is the one sure way of attaining peace of mind in this modern age.

Norman Maybury

TWENTY-NINE years ago, Norman Maybury, Flat Glass Division, first joined Beeches Road Methodists. Twenty years ago he joined the Methodist Guild and has been with them ever since.

This Guild meets every Wednesday evening and has twenty members whose ages range from sixteen to sixty, and eight years ago Norman became the social secretary. At these meetings such things as Christian service, devotional studies and cultural works are discussed by the members.

Part of Norman's secretarial duties is the arranging and running of social evenings during the session, which runs from October to Easter, and four or five of these socials are organised. The social at New Year is a special one and all the other churches within the circuit are invited to send along their members.

The running and arranging of these socials takes up a lot of spare time and Norman's younger brother is called upon for help in this direction.

Stanley Titley

While Stan Titley of the cost office was still at a junior school he joined the Salvation Army and has been actively connected with it ever since.

At the age of eleven he learned to play the baritone, which is one of the larger types of brass instruments, and continued to play this in the West Bromwich band until he was fourteen.

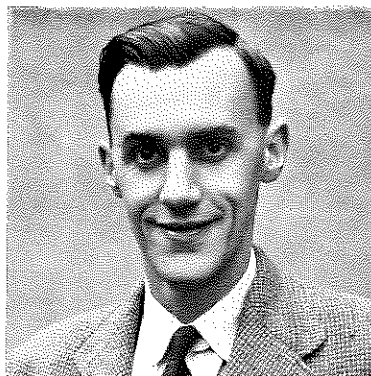
He then wanted to learn something else, so he took up the euphonium which he has played ever since, and from a little boy of eleven, Stan has risen to be the bandmaster of the West Bromwich Salvation Army band. He took over this appointment last April, succeeding one of our other employees, Jim Carter, who is still with the band.

The Salvation Army has played a big part in Stan's life and his keenness for the Band has given him sufficient enthusiasm to learn in addition to the baritone and the euphonium, the bass, the trombone and the horn.

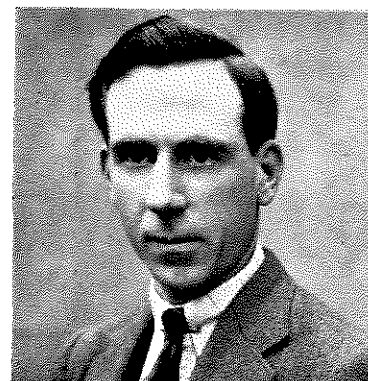
Frank Guest



Sydney Scriven



Norman Maybury



Stanley Titley



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



WE go to the Blown and Pressed division this month for a Gallery girl and here is Alma Keys who looks after the despatch of cathode ray tubes to customers. Alma, who has been with the Company for sixteen years, is the wife of Frank Keys of the Mixing department.

HOW IT STARTED

Medical Services

THE National Health services of to-day are so comprehensive that one finds it difficult to believe that in the last century there were no such facilities.

Chance Brothers, however, made every endeavour to look after the health of their employees and history records that the Company first employed a surgeon in 1843. His name was William Hammond and he was required to spend one and a half hours daily at the works for prescribing to the workmen, to attend their wives and families at their houses, to find all medicines and appliances, excepting leeches, and to report regularly to the Board on the state of the workmen's houses.

Eight months later, Hammond reported that more than two thousand cases had been treated at an average cost for medicines of ninepence each and he complained that the cost to himself was too great for him to continue, especially as he had worn out two horses

which had cost him £70. Hammond was replaced by a William Davies of Bristol who was engaged on a full-time basis to devote his entire time to the work and to undertake no private practice whatever.

A works notice dated 1845 announced that the surgeon was to be provided with a dispensary attached to the works for the benefit of workpeople "in consequence of our having information that many of them had incurred heavy bills for medical attendance, which they were unable to pay, and on account of which some of them had been thrown into jail. We are anxious that our workpeople, with their wives and families, might have the services of a surgeon of first-rate talent and education . . ."

Whilst the pattern has changed it is of interest to record that for one hundred and thirteen years the Company has employed the services of a medical officer.