

Spend Summer leisure at the **RECREATION CLUB**

Fourteen acres of pleasant green space is attached to the works for the enjoyment of employees and their families.

The Summer programme includes cricket, tennis, bowls, netball.

After a game the bar offers good refreshments in good company.

Saturday night is dancing night.



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Chance COMMENTS



MAY — JUNE 1957

3^D

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.

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EDITOR A. OGDEN

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Warehouse	A. SUTTON
	MRS. A. KEYS
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Mixing	N. GREEN
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Skyport One, the third project of the Glass Age Development Committee, sponsored by Pilkington Brothers Ltd., was featured several times in B.B.C. programmes. Here Richard Attenborough discusses the subject with designer James Dartford (left), in his T.V. programme "Talk of many things."

SKYPORT ONE

THE Glass Age Development committee was convened by Pilkington Brothers Limited in 1954 to propose architectural means of answering the planning requirements of the year 2000. In previous years the committee has published dramatic proposals for the future development of London's Soho

area and a Midlands community shopping centre termed High Market.

Now comes "Skyport One," designed by James Dartford, A.R.I.B.A., to provide a form of city centre air terminal suited both to the foreseeable pattern of tomorrow's air operations and to the likely pattern of tomorrow's towns.

This dramatic artist's impression shows Skyport One at night, when giant searchlights shine down from beneath the flight deck and under-water lights in the circular piazza provide illumination.



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New structures of extraordinary shape and vast size will soon dominate most of the countryside; in cities tall commercial and domestic structures are already eclipsing the traditional skyline of church and civic building.

It was with a view to tackling the problem of the strange new shape of prodigious dimension, and to prepare the mind for things to come, that the committee selected as their third subject a project that would force attention upon the relationship of structures to the historic cities of London and Westminster. Before fifty years Londoners will have become fully air-minded and it is foreseen that planes will use the air above the roofs as taxis and cars use the streets today.

The context is 2000 A.D. This date was chosen for a good reason; forty-odd years is far enough ahead to free the imagination from the immediate, and often ephemeral, limitations of today. But at the same time the project is capable of being built today.

So far as location was concerned, it was decided that in view of the scale of the structure being so huge, and the scale of historic London so small, it could not form part of the immediate landscape. To place it adjoining the city, for instance, would make a toy of St. Paul's. But one place has fascinated

planners as an uncompleted focal point for over a century. This is St. George's Circus in South London, the centre of the arc of the historic north bank of the Thames, and set in a local environment manifestly open to change.

The skyport consists essentially of a 500 feet high landing dock, supported by three shafts—finned drums encased in an outer cylinder of glass. In addition to providing all the necessary equipment and facilities needed for the handling of aircraft and passengers, this superstructure accommodates a restaurant for the general public. Inside the shafts, highspeed (and visible) lifts serve the superstructure from a new Bakerloo Line underground railway station and basement bus station.

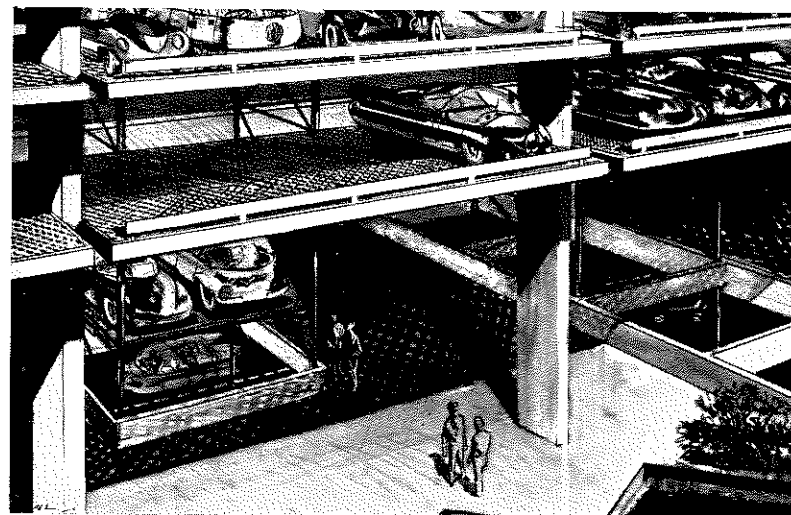
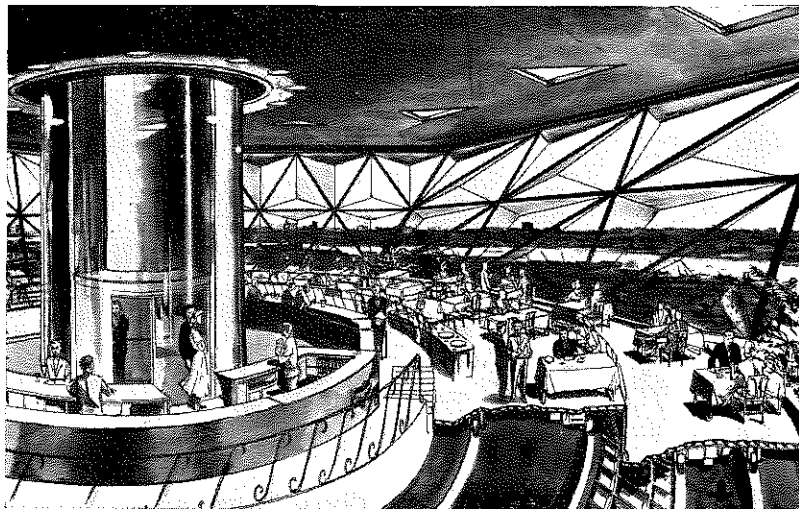
The three vertical shafts straddle a triple-wing building, with a subsidiary landing deck on its roof for the use of private aircraft and non-scheduled flights.

The wings of the building could be readily adapted to many purposes—in the case of "Skyport One," they are used as (i) transit hotel, (ii) an office block and (iii) a multi-storey park for private aircraft and cars.

Air travel develops

Air passenger movements in and out of the United Kingdom have increased over twelve times since 1939, internal

The walls of this slowly revolving restaurant in the sky are of glass fitted in a steel and titanium metal framework of cube formation. Light in weight, yet of great strength, this method of construction enables the maximum amount of glass to be used, many facets of which would be coloured, the whole forming a magnificent example of the use of glass in a unique form.



One wing of the building straddled by Skyport One is a 21-floor multi-park of the "Autosilo" type, designed to accommodate both motor vehicles and small private aircraft. For reasons of ventilation maintenance and economy, the floors are open to the air. This view from slightly above ground level shows one of the seven two-car lifts delivering newly parked vehicles to their appropriate bay. Control is entirely push-button, the cars being automatically parked by sliding dollies attached to the lift cages. Similar arrangements exist for parking aircraft landing on the lower roof and the average time to retrieve a car or plane is two minutes.

The parking bays are double cantilevered open-mesh steel slabs spanning between structural fin walls of concrete. They are capable of accommodating 924 vehicles.

air movements even more. "Skyport One," although eventually only one of several similar airstops in the London area, would be the chief inter-city terminus serving the heart of the capital.

We must be prepared too for jet-lift vertical take off and landing aircraft, whether or not in combination with rotors. They will be capable of operating independently of visibility, flight conditions and wind, and will be fitted with skids or air-inflated floats (which act as low-pressure tyres and reduce point loads) and retractable ground-handling wheels only. They will in fact be "air-buses," seating between twenty and forty passengers, and will operate on stage-lengths of up to some three-hundred miles.

Flight deck

The landing deck has been designed as a triple-turn-around air stop. It forms the floor of a 500 feet high approach "cone" to which aircraft are directed by automatically-operated homing beacons, descent being guided by electronic landing beams located under each of the three pads.

Precision timing permits an aircraft landing every two-and-a-half minutes

each aircraft remaining on deck seven-and-a-half minutes before taking off again. Assuming the aircraft carry thirty passengers, this schedule means that the skyport can handle a peak traffic of 720 passengers per hour.

Sub-deck

The sub-deck under two of the pads accommodates all the technical services, administrative offices and passenger reception areas. Under the third, and quite separated from the other two, is a public "restaurant in the sky." The lower two of the restaurant's three tiers revolve slowly to give constantly changing panoramic views over London through large triangular windows.

Lower roof

The main role of the 200 feet high roof of the triple-wing building is to provide a landing stage and take-off pad for private rotocraft and air taxis, which will land and take off at shallow angles. These two-to-six seater aircraft, no larger than the present day car, will have folding rotors for easy parking.

Typical floor

The multi-park illustrated on page 3 provides in this instance 924 parking

spaces spread over twenty-one floors. The accommodation in the transit hotel and office block is on fourteen floors and would conform to the particular client requirements. Much of the office space might be let to the airlines operating from the skyport. The facades of these two wings are for the most part clad in glass curtain-walling of various colours.

Ground level

The triple-wing building is fifteen feet above a pedestrian piazza, 575 feet in

diameter, formed of triangular paving slabs in free pattern over water. A triangular entrance lobby, repeated at basement and sub-basement levels, is centrally located under the building. Floodlights are concealed at strategic points on the piazza, and these, with diffused lighting effects under the water, light the skyport and triple-wing building from below at night. From above powerful searchlights shine down from the outer inter-sections of the deck.

The design of the Skyport superstructure, framed in steel or light alloy, lends itself to the use of helicopters or jet-lift vertical take-off and landing aircraft in erection. Clusters of deck units are here shown being lifted into the sky and lowered into position above previously formed platforms.



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

The Blown and Pressed division congratulates E. Parkes of the Inspection section and his wife on the recent birth of a daughter.

Best wishes are extended to Bill Severs of the Cathode section who has left us to emigrate to Canada, and to Mrs. Green of No. 8 offices who has left to return to Germany, her native country.

At the time of going to press Ken Gibbens and Mrs. J. Lavell are away ill and we express hopes for speedy recoveries.

There is, of course, much excitement in the division consequent on the decision to introduce the manufacture of certain types of Fibreglass and production is expected to commence by early August.

Flat Glass

Shift foreman Fred Whale and his wife are congratulated on the birth of a son, Kevin, on 6th April.

Congratulations are also extended to Henry Mann on his appointment to a supervisory position.

The Rolled Plate department has honoured the editor of *Chance Comments* by electing him as an honorary member of the Loyal Order of Cullet Melters. This unique Order entitles the holder to wear an insignia under certain conditions.

A party from Rolled Plate making, warehouse and Fiesta had their usual jaunt to Stourport on 12th April, and enjoyed a pleasant meal.

It is good to have Lil Ellithorne, despatch office, back in harness after her recent illness.

The Coloured department bade good-bye to two good friends last month. Bill Morton retired after fifty-seven years service, and Samuel Tinsley retired also after fifty-seven years service. Life in the Coloured department will not be quite the same without

Samuel Tinsley



Bill Morton



these two stalwarts. They each have a wealth of reminiscences and perhaps they can be persuaded to tell some of their experiences in a future issue of *Chance Comments*. On the day of their retirement, each received a gold wristlet watch and a sum of money presented on behalf of the Directors by Mr. C. J. S. Newman. These photographs were taken on the occasion of the presentation.

It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of Mr. Bert Tandy on 17th April. Mr. Tandy retired from the position of Making superintendent just three years ago and his death followed a long illness. Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Tandy, her daughter and daughter-in-law.

Glasgow Works

The recreation club at Glasgow works held an outing to the Dutch House at Monckton recently where a small party enjoyed a dinner and dance. The organising committee were, however, disappointed that so few people attended the outing.

On the recreational side, the table tennis team finished its programme of matches at the end of March.

The annual bowling competition for the Newman cup is being planned and it is expected that a large number will participate this year.

The works extends best wishes to Alex McCallum who has emigrated to Canada.

We were all very sorry to hear of the death of George Milwain of the producers who died after a very short illness. Sympathy is extended to his niece.

Laboratory

The laboratory staff welcomes Roy Stanton, a sampler, and Ron Moore, a laboratory assistant. Prior to taking up this position, Ron was an apprentice in the mould shop, but a long and serious illness necessitated him changing his occupation.

Congratulations are offered to Mr. W. C. Hynd who on the 1st April, was appointed to the position of glass technologist with the status of manager. Mr. Hynd will control the development laboratory building with staff which has been allocated to him.

The works, and the laboratory in particular, were very sorry to learn that Mr. C. E. Gould has, on the advice of his doctor, decided that he must retire from active work. Mr. Gould has been absent for a considerable period owing to illness. In announcing this, the Directors placed on record their appreciation of his work for the Company over very many years.

London Office

Friends of Mrs. Salter (Pat) will be pleased to hear that she now has a son, and quoting the hackneyed phrase, "Mother and son are doing well."

Miss Gillian Birch has taken over the duties of receptionist/telephonist and we welcome her. This is her first experience of telephonist work and she has settled down very quickly.

Miss Ruth Kracko has written from the U.S.A., and is thoroughly enjoying her trip. She has asked if she can have her job back on her return to England. There's no place like home!

Malvern Works

At the time of going to press, Fred Banks of the grinding section is ill in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

As previously reported in *Chance Comments*, the Malvern works are keen supporters of the National Savings Movement and in the first three months of 1957 the amount of National Savings in the works amounted to £361 15s. 0d. This is outstandingly good having regard to the fact that membership of the Savings fund is approximately forty.

Maintenance and Construction

The Maintenance and Construction division welcomes Phillip Burrows and Mrs. P. Lowe.

Congratulations are offered to Charles Lowe and Harold Lloyd who have been appointed to the position of electrical rectifier and mechanical rectifier respectively, with staff status.

Jim Smith and Mrs. Hood are welcomed back to work after their recent illnesses.

The boiler shop was sorry to lose Harry Parkes who retired earlier than he intended owing to his wife's continued ill health.

Frank Whitehouse of the millwrights retired on 3rd May. Frank first joined the Company in April 1904 and prior to going to the millwrights he was a glass maker in the Rolled Plate. He intends to spend his leisure in his garden and greenhouse, which he loves very much.

Offices

Newcomers to the offices who are welcomed are:—Miss B. Nicklin, supervisor of the typing department; Miss R. Turbott, typing department; Miss J. Rollason, typing department; Mrs. Gallagher, wages office and Mrs. Atton, wages office.

We were sorry to lose the services of Dorothy Poulson of the typing department.

Alethea Chester of the telephone exchange was married to Fred Jones on 16th March, at St. Paul's church, Smethwick, and Lois Reeve, also of the telephone exchange was married to Edward Moore, on 9th March, at St. John's church, West Bromwich. We publish photographs of these happy people.

We also publish a photograph of the wedding of Mrs. M. Canty to Mr. E. R. Flook whose marriage was reported in our last issue.

Optical

George Fox is welcomed to the staff of the Optical division.

At the time of going to press the son of Mr. A. Jones is in hospital after undergoing an operation and we hope he will soon be well again.

Sheila Rigby has left us to take a post nearer to her new home and whilst we are sorry to lose her we hope she will be happy.

Transport

Ernest McMahon of the internal transport department, retired on 13th March, at the age of seventy-two. Ernest had been employed by the Company for twenty-one years. We wish him a well earned rest.

Mr. & Mrs. Moore



Mr. & Mrs. Flook



Mr. & Mrs. Jones



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

Works Consultative Committee Election

SIX CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR

THE Works Consultative Committee has now entered its sixteenth year and the elections for workpeople's representatives held on 26th April, resulted in six changes.

The following is the constitution for the committee year 1957/58.

The newcomers are marked with an asterisk:—

Group 1—Coloured, Seven Storey, Fiesta, Micro ...	J. E. Saul
Group 2—Rolled Plate	*G. Sherwood
Group 3—Optical	*Mrs. J. Bloomer Deputy—G. J. Halliday
Group 4—C.R.T. Fabrication and Warehouse No. 11 Furnace	F. W. Davies
Group 5—Nos. 8 and 9 Making and Warehouses ...	*E. Burford
Group 6—Pressed Process, Fluorescent Warehouse, Despatch	*C. McCarthy
Group 7—Millwrights, Electricians, Machine Shop, Mould Shop, Stores	*L. Bradley Deputy—W. Bick
Group 8—Building, Carpenters, Plumbers, Crate Yard, Vehicle Repairs	H. F. Cosnett
Group 9—Boiler Shop, Gas Plant, Boilers, Power Plant	*R. W. Timmins Deputy—J. F. Wheatley
Group 10—Mixing, Pot and Clay, Transport, Traffic, Cleaners, Gatehouses	H. Sedgley

Changes have also been made in the Management representatives and this year the following will serve:—

Mr. C. J. S. Newman (Chairman)	Mr. L. Gorman
Mr. W. E. Barrett	Mr. S. W. Shaw
Mr. H. Fulton	*Mr. J. R. Cheetham
Dr. R. E. Bastick	*Mr. R. E. Evans
Sister Jones	*Mr. O. McKenna
Mr. A. Ogden (Secretary)	

The first meeting of the new committee was held on 1st May, when much of the time was taken in the setting up of sub-committees for Blown and Pressed Production, Optical Production, Flat Glass Production, Maintenance and Construction, No. 10 Group, Safety, Suggestions and Canteen.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU ?

Careers for Young People

FOR a boy or girl setting out to find a job, there are three main questions which demand an answer—What do I want? Is it within my reach? If it is how do I set about getting it?

Help and advice can be obtained on the last two questions from Juvenile Employment Officers and Personnel Managers. The answer to the first question is not so easy, which is a pity, as his or her future depends on finding the right answer. If, as time goes on, one can look both backwards and forwards and say that on the whole the choice has been a good one, it will mean that the ingredients have been mixed correctly. A few of the items necessary for any satisfying job are:—

That the work itself is worth doing; that it makes proper use of the abilities one possesses; that it is done for a good firm and in congenial company; that it provides opportunities for advancement; that its due reward is not stinted.

There are few companies that are able to offer young people such a wide choice of interesting careers as those covered by the Chance Training Scheme. Boys are engaged as trainees to such trades as electrical and mechanical fitters, sheet metal workers, blacksmiths, carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers and garage mechanics. The age of entry is 15 and 16 and the main qualification is that the boy should be keen to take up the particular trade bearing in mind that he will spend most of his life working at it. The apprenticeship period is from the 16th to 21st birthday and during these years apprentices are given practical training in the works. In some cases a period of training is undertaken at other works where specialised knowledge can be acquired. Theoretical training is obtained by attending technical college for one day each week.

The programme for technical apprentices includes training as engineers, physicists, analytical chemists and electrical instrument technicians. In these kinds of training the main requirement is that the apprentice must be able to take a qualification roughly of the standard of a degree at technical college

or university, e.g. a higher national certificate or diploma in technology.

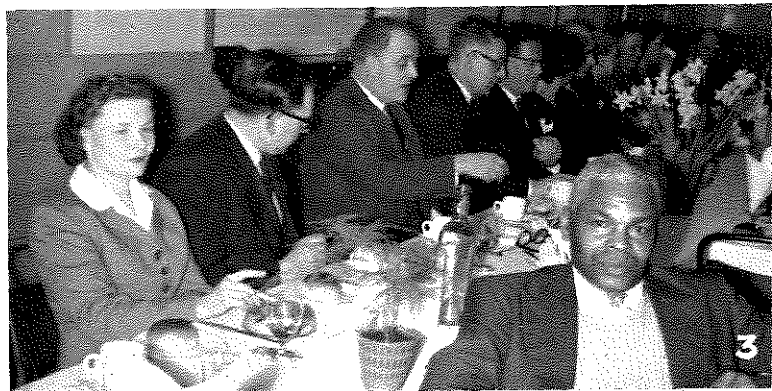
It is necessary therefore, that successful applicants should have shown aptitude at school for this kind of advanced scientific and technical work. It is felt that to have any hope of success the trainee must have at least four ordinary level G.C.E. subjects including English and one science subject—in the case of engineers it should be Mathematics; physicists should have Mathematics and Physics and chemists should have Chemistry. These are minimum requirements and it follows that applicants with better qualifications, particularly those with one or more subjects at advanced level, would be given preference.

Trainees who are offered places at university for a degree course or at a college of technology for a diploma sandwich course are encouraged to take them. Those who take external degrees or other comparable qualifications through the system of one day per week attendance at college are encouraged to apply for grants enabling them to take their final year full time at the college.

It is not possible to foresee what job a young man will ultimately do at the time he is enrolling for an apprenticeship. Suffice it to say that the prime aim is to obtain for him a basic qualification at the highest level of which he is capable. He can be sure that providing he works hard and gets his qualification he will be offered employment at Chance Brothers which will make adequate use of his knowledge and training.

The experts say that this year and for the next four or five years there will be a large increase in the number of school leavers and there will be competition amongst boys for apprenticeship places.

Chance Brothers gives preference, so far as is possible, to sons of the Company's employees. Recruitment takes place during May and June and it is important that any parent who wishes to take advantage of this should make early application to the Personnel Department.



Chance SNAPSHOTS

1, 2, 3, and 4. The Blown and Pressed Vello Section held a dinner at the Recreation Club.

5. Sister Jones in her attractive new uniform.



6. Miss N. Tranter, Secretary to Mr. Newman.

7. The Company has purchased a new mower for groundsman Rod Cooper.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

The Birmingham Traders' Road Association has re-elected our Transport Manager, Mr. W. A. Standley, to the position of chairman. This is the fourth year that Mr. Standley has held this appointment. He was vice-chairman for the previous ten years.

Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons Limited, the publishers of *Chance Comments*, have entered the magazine in the National House Journal Competition to be held at Harrogate on 11th May.

Walter Johnson, supervisor in the D.R.M. shop, attended Birmingham Town Hall on 23rd March to receive a medal from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to mark the fact that Walter had given fifty pints of blood under the Blood Transfusion Scheme.

Mr. L. G. Barton delivered a lecture recently to the Work Study Society. He presents a bouquet to the laboratory for the excellent slides which they prepared for him.

In his capacity of Councillor, Frank Guest of the Blown and Pressed was presented to The Queen and Prince Philip on the occasion of the Royal visit to Oldbury on 23rd April. Both The Queen and Prince Philip had a long talk with Frank about his work for the Civilian Disabled Persons' Organisation which he founded some years ago.

BRICKBATS

Last month's cover photograph showed the loading of Rolled Plate glass at our Glasgow works. Several readers commented that it is really unexcusable for a glass works to publish a photograph showing three broken windows in the loading bay!

Harry Sedgley and Joe Saul attended an industrial week-end course at a college near Ripon, Yorkshire, last

month. Their instructions were to change at Sheffield on to the Ripon train, but for some reason or other, they arrived at Durham, which was seventy miles from their true destination. They ultimately arrived at the college five hours late.

CHANCE BROTHERS WIN THE SAVINGS TROPHY

In March, the Mayor of Smethwick, Councillor W. G. Mason, presented the Smethwick Local Savings Committee trophy to the firm for having the best percentage increase in membership of the savings group over the half year ended last September. In presenting the trophy, the Mayor thanked Savings workers in Smethwick industry and mentioned that it is a difficult task to obtain and maintain interest in savings and the recognition for Savings workers is small.

Mr. A. Moore, the secretary of the works Savings Group and Mr. A. Ogden, Personnel Manager, attended the presentation ceremony.

It is certain that this achievement is due to the success of Mr. H. Newey, who temporarily set aside his civil defence duties to tour the works to tackle practically every individual to encourage them to save by deductions from wages.



CLICK INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Attention all photographers—this includes those of us whose only excursion into photography is with a box camera at holiday periods. We are holding our third holiday photograph competition and we want as many of you as possible to enter. Dozens of photographs are taken every summer by holidaymakers on a variety of subjects and we want you to submit what you consider to be your best effort. The rules are simple:—

- Photographs submitted should have been taken by employees during the year 1957.
- Entries should be sent to the Editor before 30th September, and each entry must be clearly marked on the back with the sender's name and department.
- Entries will be judged in three groups.
 - Landscape
 - General
 - Personal

The best photograph from each group will be awarded 5s. 0d., and will be published in *Chance Comments*.

At the end of the competition, all entries will be judged together and the best photograph in the whole of the competition will be awarded 1 guinea.

OUT OF THE PAST

Mr. W. A. Standley has unearthed this interesting photograph taken many years ago when one of our lorries was

delivering an order to Mr. T. E. Friswell a merchant in Coventry. How many of our readers can accurately place the make and year of this solid tyred vehicle?

SAFETY COMPETITION

With six of the twelve months period for the Safety Competition having been completed by the end of March, there is no little excitement as to which section of the works is likely to win the £50 prize.

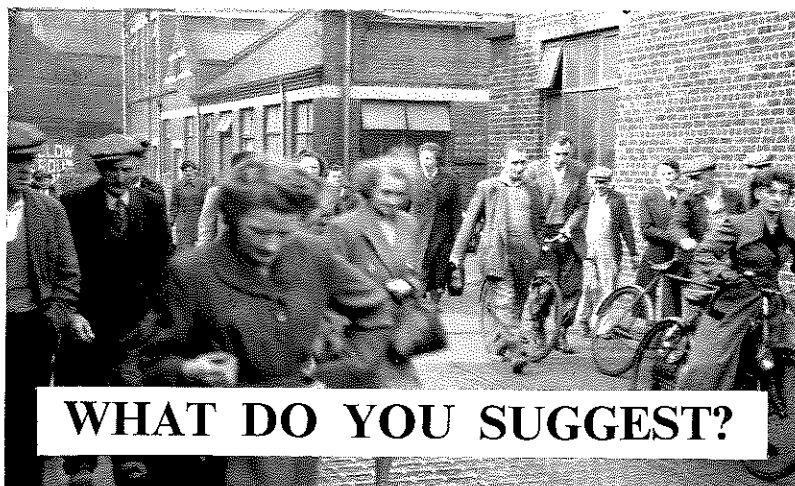
The important thing is that this competition is proving successful towards reducing the number of accidents. In the year ended 30th September, 1956, the works suffered 43 lost time accidents and, related to the total hours worked, the frequency rate was 1.39. During the past six months the number of accidents was 17 and the frequency rate was reduced to 1.04 which is 25% better.

The league table at the end of March showed that the following sections had improved their own record:—

Coloured, Seven Storey and Fiesta.
Pressed Process and Cathodes.
Electricians, Machinists, Fitters and Boiler Shop.
Building, Carpenters, Boilers.
Pot and Clay, Mixing, Traffic.

The remaining sections are "in the red" but during the coming six months, each, with the exception of Vello, could put themselves into the green coloured part of the progress charts.





Awards in March and April

M. Jaciw receives £15

The highest suggestion scheme award in the last two months was one of £15 to M. Jaciw of the Vello department. He designed a wire cradle for lifting long lengths of Vello tubing from the hot cut ramp for conveying to the bogies. The value of this suggestion is that the risk of breakage and damage by scratching is reduced and in addition it ensures a safer means of work for the operators.

15s. 0d., plus £4 10s. 0d.,—£5 5s. 0d.

In August 1956, T. Lloyd, Millwrights, received 15s. 0d., for an idea which reduced the building up of tar on Nos. 7 and 8 gas producers. Last month he asked the committee to reconsider the amount of the award and an investigation showed that his idea had resulted not only in the improvement of the operation of the fume extraction plant but it had also reduced maintenance costs as previously it was

common for electric motors to be burned out. The appeal resulted in an additional award of £4 10s. 0d.

If any suggestor considers that particular awards are insufficient having regard to the success of an idea, he should not hesitate to appeal and this can be done by writing to, or seeing, the Personnel Manager.

Saving on tank repairs

F. Bodley, a teazer at No. 1 Rolled Plate, wrote "I suggest that new splay bricks should be cut with a bigger chamfer so that a larger clay seal could be made whilst the tank is cold." The adoption of this brain wave resulted in a definite improvement and an award of £1 17s. 6d., was made.

An idea for Flashed Drawn

The first suggestion submitted in connection with the Flashed Drawn

process was received from H. Link and S. Kerr of the D.R.M. shop. This concerned the use of an easy fitting key in the lower rollers to facilitate roller changes and at the same time ensure that no end-play will take place by the fitting of a keep plate. This received an award of £1 15s. 0d.

Christmas Savings

For many years a personal holiday scheme has been running. Employees can authorise the wages office to deduct a regular amount from wages each week and the amounts thus saved are paid out at summer holiday time. Last summer the amount of £10,574 was saved by this means. W. Short of the Mixing department put forward his recommendation that this method of saving should be extended to cover Christmas and in future members of the scheme may make withdrawals at a fixed date early in December, provided ten days notice is given. This idea resulted in W. Short receiving £1.

Safety on suction plant

E. J. Gardner of the Millwrights department drew attention to unsafe conditions on the top of the suction plant and he asked that the trap door which was in a bad state of repair be renewed. This safety idea earned Jack £1.

Storage of ladders

F. A. Clifton regularly submits ideas to the suggestion scheme and a successful one was that a new ladder store should be provided for the tool stores following the departments move to new premises. The award made was £1 5s. 0d.

Three small awards

Three awards of 10s. 0d., each have been made. E. Dunne, Rolled Plate, drew attention to the poor condition of the roof on the straw shed. A. Whitehouse reported on the state of the roof on the suction plant and A. G. R. Talbot received a merit award for an idea which was rejected but which had been well thought out.

These suggestions are under consideration

52035	E. Waldron	No. 3 Rolled Plate
53536	J. E. Downes	Pressed Moulds
53591	W. Chrimes	Clay Mill
53570	W. R. Ball	Rolled Plate
53592	B. Jones	Rolled Plate
53620	A. Jones	Optical
53639	J. Bodley	Rolled Plate
53646	R. Dickens	Millwrights
53648	C. E. Burford	Blown and Pressed
53665	R. J. Allmark	Rolled Plate
53666	J. Walker	Pressed
53668	A. Whitehouse	M. & C.
53669	D. G. Botfield	Millwrights
53670	G. Catchpole	Rolled Plate
53672	F. Hayfield	Crate Shop
53673	B. Moody	Rolled Plate
53674	W. Hollyhead	M. & C.
53675	A. A. Whitehouse	M. & C.
53676	F. A. Bodley	Rolled Plate
53677	L. E. Nicoll	Rolled Plate
53678	J. Ward	Optical
53679	H. Link	D.R.M.
53680	J. Woolley	Rolled Plate
53681	W. T. Harper	M. & C.
53682	C. Page	Traffic

Protective Clothing

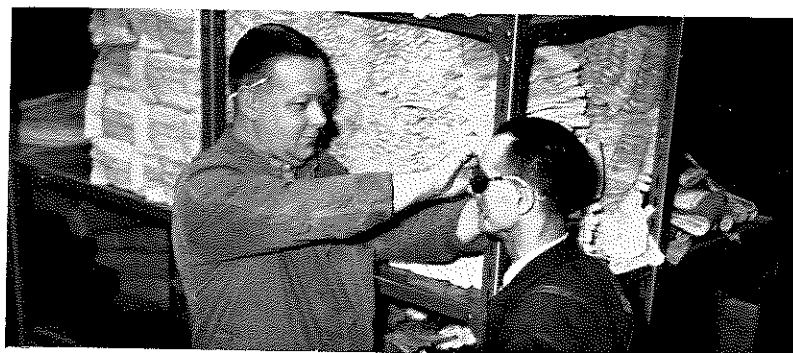
IF a simultaneous glance could be obtained of the whole of our employees during working hours one would be impressed by the variety of protective clothing and the extent of its use. Some would be found to be using one or two articles—say safety shoes or an apron, or goggles and gloves—whilst others would be protected from crown to sole. Problems concerning various risks and suitable forms of personal protective clothing are considered frequently by the works Safety committee. It is appreciated that the use of protective clothing does not add to the physical comfort of the wearer and it is introduced only where a real need exists. There is no form of protective clothing which can be said to be universally popular. Gloves and safety shoes have perhaps the lowest percentage of objections and, rather strangely, on account of the importance of the organ to be protected by them, the use of goggles is generally very unpopular.

Why do people boggle at wearing goggles? Everyone employed on a job in which eyesight might be endangered is given a special issue of protective glasses and let's be in no doubt about this, it is a costly business and certainly not just a fad of the management. The number of injuries treated at the Medical Centre alone amount to over one thousand a year. Agreed these are not

all due to direct misuse of protective equipment, as a large number of attendances are for the removal of dust, but the figure could be drastically reduced if everyone co-operated. Most of the goggles we supply to our employees have two pieces of glass in each eye piece, one of them being laminated. Experience has shown that even if the ordinary glass shatters, the laminated piece will stay intact. The Safety committee prefers laminated glass to toughened glass because it has been found toughened glass shatters with a dicing effect which makes it opaque, whilst the laminated glass is not subject to this dicing and can be seen through even when it is broken.

As is to be expected in a glass factory, most injuries are cuts and most of the protective clothing which we hold in our Stores is designed to protect employees against such injuries. For many years the Safety committee has been endeavouring to find the most acceptable form of arm protection and at last it is believed that the answer has been found. When sheets of Rolled Plate glass are being carried, the sheets can, and do, break from several causes, and when this occurs the broken sheet is apt to fall on to the man's arms. Damage is caused not so much by the force of the falling glass but after striking the arm, the glass slides with a knife like

Storekeeper Arthur Rose fitting a pair of goggles.



action and this has caused accidents of a serious nature. Mr. Gorman, Manager of the Flat Glass division, recently experimented with a new type of arm protection, namely the use of wire springs of the sort made for shirt arm bands. After some stretching of these springs, strips were insulated with plastic and sewn into the sleeves of linen jackets. These reinforced jackets have been in use for several months and have proved not only successful in providing protection, but at last a garment has been designed which results in little, if any, discomfort to the wearer under any conditions.

Another form of necessary arm protection is that against heat and the most successful armlet is made of felt and asbestos. Felt gives the actual protection against heat and the function of the asbestos is to stop the felt from smouldering. Teazers and foundlers find that the most comfortable and effective body protection are loose fitting blue flannel shirts and closely woven cotton "molecloth" aprons.

There are various forms of hand protection, including types of cotton, rubber and other gloves. The simplest



The sleeves in these jackets are reinforced with steel springs.

hand protection is a pair of rubber pads with loops on the outside for the fingers. These are good when used for handling glass and provide good protection against laceration.

Full protection for Teazers against heat.



In certain jobs it is necessary to wear leather spats to protect the legs and insteps. Some of these are rather like Army gaiters whilst others almost resemble riding boots.

Steel toecapped safety shoes to protect the feet are available in all styles and these are sold from the Stores at cost price and, if required, by weekly deductions from wages.

Protection of the head against heat is provided by two principal forms of head gear. One is known as the "spaniel ears" hood which gets its name from the flaps that hang down on each side of the crown and the other is a white cowboy style felt hat, commonly known as the "ten gallon Stetson." Sometimes this Stetson is fitted with chemically treated cloth gauze which hangs down over the face and neck and is tucked into the collar.

For those who are required to work in dusty atmospheres, various types of comfortable and effective respirators are available.

In the General Stores, some sixty different types of protective clothing are stocked and except for safety shoes, the equipment is issued free. Some of the

clothing is very costly and in an endeavour to encourage employees to take care of their equipment, the Safety committee recently displayed photographs in various parts of the works showing the articles and the cost to the Company. Some of the protective goggles range in price from 2s. 6d., to £2 0s. 0d., per pair.

The four photographs shown were taken to illustrate an article which has been written by Paul Hastings, a journalist, for the Uniforms and Industrial Clothing magazine. Mr. Hastings visited our works recently to obtain material for a feature on protective clothing for the glass industry.

Having regard to all the circumstances the accident rate at these works is low and the number of accidents is steadily but surely being reduced. All possible precautions are taken to ensure that the chance of personal injury is extremely remote, but the consequences, should that remote chance occur, are likely to be so harmful that no risk dare be taken. If an employee is provided with protective clothing of any kind, including goggles, it is just crazy for him not to make full use of it.

A good form of leg and foot protection.



NOW WE MUST READ *FASTER*

by Martin Thornhill

SOUTHERNERS read faster than north country folk. This is confirmed by the more rapid book borrowings per person from the libraries of the south. There is, in fact, an increasing need for *everybody* to read at greater speed. Despite smaller newspapers, there is more to be read—more novels, more technical and other non-fiction books, more periodicals, more official documents to be studied and absorbed. And there are more people striving to add to their knowledge from the printed word, as well as many more students at the universities and colleges.

Inevitably this is having an impact in business spheres. There is a move to accelerate office work, and the general aim is to advance reading speed from 290 to 490 words a minute.

Average general reading pace is still round about 250. This, tests have proved, gives a man a weekly input of about 300,000 words—15,000,000 a year. It is made up of: morning papers some 120,000,000 words a week; evenings 60,000; Sundays 30,000; monthly and weekly periodicals, novels and other books, letters and miscellaneous, 90,000 to 100,000.



However, it is estimated that over twice this intake is attainable by practice and training based on the well tried rules of experts. Briefly, these are to eliminate whispering, pointing, and movements of the lips and hands, all of which retard the rate of reading. Instead of rivetting the glance tensely on individual words, one should relax the ocular muscles and try to see phrases, sentences, even short paragraphs, at a glance. Don't let the mind wander. For five minutes every day for a month force yourself to read a little faster than is natural. The most common causes of slow-down are vocalising, and the word-by-word technique.

Inputs which seem speedy and prodigious are generally the result of such practice. But sometimes absorption at high speed comes naturally and at an early age, without any conscious effort. Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, was reading from the Bible at three years old. Macaulay read avidly from that age onward, with the result that, as a man, he read a book so swiftly that he seemed to turn the pages almost without pausing. Yet he took in all that was in them.

A friend of Sir W. R. Nicoll, former editor of the *British Weekly*, wrote that Sir William would read a page while most people were absorbing a paragraph, and that he could gallop through about 20,000 words in half an hour, and average two books a day.

But even this velocity was paled by Lawrence of Arabia who, during his six years at Oxford, read 50,000 books. A book lover extraordinary, for this is
(Continued inside back cover.)

Recreation Club News

Cricket

The Cricket club will again field two league teams and after the gentle winter, the cricket square is in ideal condition. By the time these notes appear, the section will have completed six fixtures. The fixtures for the next few weeks are:

Saturday, 25th May
First A. Metropolitan
Second H. Salters

Saturday, 1st June
First A. Averys
Second A. Averys

Sunday, 2nd June
Combined H. Marlborough Yardley

Saturday, 8th June
Second H. Revo

Sunday, 9th June
First A. Post Office Stores

The annual match between the Chance Brothers offices and the Company's bankers will take place on the evening of Thursday, 20th June.

In addition to the two league teams, an interdepartmental knock-out competition will be organised during the season and the successful department will receive the Foster cup and a set of medals.

In the summer particularly, the recreation ground is a pleasant spot and we hope that the spectators this season will be more numerous than in previous years. Cricketers love the game. They play because they enjoy it. Even so, some encouragement from spectators is always appreciated and if any of our employees and their families feel inclined to spend a summer Saturday or Sunday afternoon on the playing fields in Oldbury Road, they will be assured of a pleasant day.

Netball

The ladies' netball team reopened its summer season with a fixture against the Y.W.C.A., on Tuesday, 16th April. This section generally plays on Tuesday evenings.

The recreation club committee has agreed to purchase a new set of uniforms for our lady players and in our next issue we expect to publish a photograph of the team in their attractive new attire.

If any young lady is interested in playing this excellent game, she should contact the section's secretary, Mrs. Crimes, in the Buying office.

Table Tennis

The table tennis section has had its most successful season ever. This is due in the main to the purchase of a new match table and the arranging of fixtures in the pavilion, where special lighting is installed. We claim, with justification, that playing facilities in our club are better than in any club in the league.

The section's first team, which played in the Smethwick league Division II finished in the second position in the league, having played 16 games, won 12, drawn 2 and lost 2.

The second team, which also played in the Smethwick league won the first position in the league table by playing 14, winning 11, drawing 1 and losing 2.

The outstanding achievement was that of Jim Peakman who played 32 games for the first team and won each one.

Tennis

In 1956 the playing of tennis on the recreation ground was almost impossible due to the broken down condition of the surrounds. The Company was generous in having new surround posts and netting erected in the late autumn and the two hard tennis courts will now provide tennis enthusiasts and even "rabbits" with excellent facilities to play. It is doubtful if a competitive team will be organised during the summer, but if there is sufficient interest, Joyce Nicklin of the Personnel department will be only too willing to organise an interdepartmental competition.

If any members and their friends wish to have an occasional game, they may do so for the modest sum of 6d. per hour for the use of the court.

Bowls

The crown bowling green is in excellent condition and it is certain that whilst there will not be a league team, the interdepartmental knock-out competition will be organised. It will be remembered that last year this competition was won by the Blown and Pressed division.

The bowling green is available to any employee or pensioner and their friends at a charge of 3d. per player per hour. There are three or four sets of woods available for those who do not possess their own. Now that the gate between the works and the Oldbury Road is open at midday, the suggestion is made that employees might enjoy spending their lunch hour on the bowling green.

Pavilion Entertainments

The Saturday night dances and the Sunday evening informal concerts which have proved so successful through the winter will be continued through the

summer. It is rather remarkable, but past experience shows that Saturday dances are more popular with our members during the summer than in the winter. One of the reasons for this, of course, is the fact that the cricket teams and their visiting teams like to finish up their fixtures with a social occasion.

It is a Long Way Off But—

Next year the recreation club's annual gala ball will be held at a new place and on a new date. The date will be Friday, 24th January, and the place will be Tube Investments Social Club, in Broadwell Road.

Now we must read faster — *continued from page 19.*

an average of some twenty a day. He liked to lie on a mattress on the floor so that he could, when he wanted, read on continuously, day and night, stopping only when sleep supervened. Field Marshal Smuts combined with his reading a prodigious capacity for recollection of it. It was said that he memorised the entire contents of his library of 5,000 books, could give the page number of any passage quoted, and proceed with the quotation from memory.

A reliable American source estimates that the vastly enlarged newspapers and periodicals of the United States pour out a minimum of some 3,000,000,000,000 words yearly. If you add to this the produce from Hollywood and broadcasting, American annual verbal outpourings account for an average of 700,000 words per minute for every member of the population. Yet there are over ten million American children of full reading age who have never even owned a book.

The world's higher literacy rate is enjoyed by Great Britain, an enlightened land with an educational system which has been running for the better part of a century. It explains why Britons, among all the nations, are the greatest lovers of the printed word. Over 300 million books are borrowed from public libraries by twelve million readers in a year. This is, however, surprising when

one recalls that a century ago nearly a third of this country's total population of 27 millions were almost completely illiterate.

Britain's position in the literary field has another interesting aspect. The Nazis destroyed most of Europe's best libraries and publishing houses, and these losses have now been almost repaired from British sources. Despite some years of acute paper shortage and other handicaps, the value of our book exports quickly rose to over £10,000,000 per annum. It might be said that the United Kingdom is almost "bookshop to the world." Newly-autonomous countries such as India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, have been placing large orders with London firms for technical, engineering and scientific works. Because English has the largest vocabulary (some 455,000 words), socialised countries like Scandinavia demanded from Britain fully translated editions of world classics in literature, philosophy, the humanities and the social and natural sciences, as well as standard fiction.

All of which adds emphasis to the general need of a speedier capacity for absorbing the written word. The few examples of British bookmen whom we have mentioned were exceptional or much practised readers. But there is no doubt that to work up our reading speeds to modest imitations of their level would help us to keep up with a world that wishes to be better informed, and must therefore proceed at a higher tempo.