

SAFETY BOOTS AND SHOES TO BE SURE

Statistics prove that the number of lost working hours due to foot injuries has declined —thanks to the wider use of safety boots and shoes.

The General Stores keep a stock of various types for men all of which are fitted with internal steel toe caps and are indistinguishable from normal footwear.

For ladies, the Personnel Department carry stocks of shoes and bootees in attractive colours and designs.

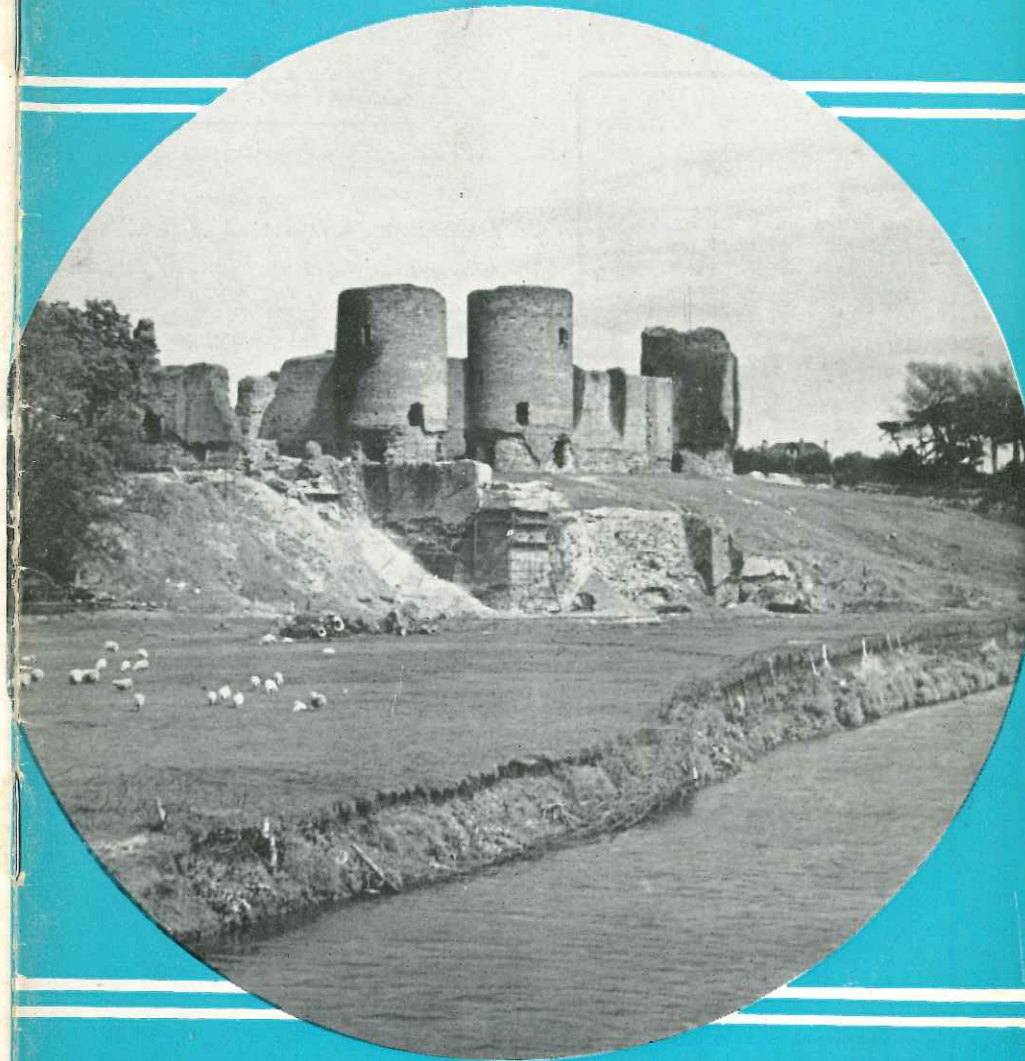
If desired, these may be purchased by weekly installments deducted from wages.

**SAFETY SHOES ARE NOT EXPENSIVE
—BUT ACCIDENTS ARE!**

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Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street, London, W.C.2. on behalf of and in collaboration with Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick.

Chance COMMENTS



FEBRUARY — MARCH 1959

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Chance

COMMENTS

The MAGAZINE of Chance Brothers Limited, 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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Blown and Pressed

Inspection F. O'CONNOR
Pressed Making W. GLOVER
Pressed Process S. STOCKIN
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Vello O. MCKENNA
Warehouses G. GRIGG

Flat Glass

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Rolled Plate and Coloured R. E. EVANS
Rolled Plate Warehouse MISS W. WALKER
Seven Storey A. FARDELL

Laboratory

MRS. W. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction

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BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

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London J. C. PERKINS
Malvern MISS D. CLARE

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COVER COMPETITION

Five shillings will be awarded to the sender of the first correct identification of this month's cover photograph. Send your entry to the editor c/o Personnel Department.

VOL. II, No. 6

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1959

Sheet, Plate and now

... Float Glass

Pilkington process puts Britain ten years ahead of the world

A new type of high quality glass called FLOAT has just come on to the market.

What is Float? Think of Plate glass, used because of its lack of distortion, mainly for mirrors, shop windows and motor cars. Then think of Sheet glass, with its brilliant fire-finished surface, used for windows in houses, offices and factories.

Float combines the best qualities of both.

Float glass is the product of a revolutionary new process invented by Pilkington Brothers Limited, of whom Chance Brothers Limited is a Subsidiary Company, and it puts Britain far in advance of world competition. For the time being the new glass will be sold in limited quantities at Plate glass prices. Eventually, when output rises, the more economical Float process will have a favourable effect on both the price and quantity of high quality glass.

Seven years of concentrated and patient development work have been

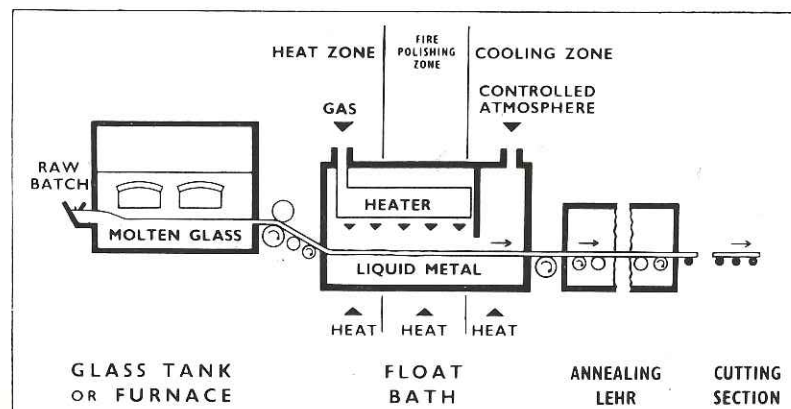
required to bring Float glass to commercial success. The process has been fully patented, but it is still in its early stages and many details of its operation must be kept secret.

Pilkington Brothers have, however, taken an early opportunity of telling employees and public about a British discovery which is of importance to everyone using glass.

Sheet Glass

The first way of making flat drawn sheet glass was invented by a Belgian—Fourcault—in 1904. By this and the Pittsburgh method, which Pilkington

● The Float Glass Process in simple diagrammatic form.



Brothers have used since 1931, continuous sheets of flat glass with a controlled width, are drawn vertically from a pool of molten glass and passed through an annealing chamber.

The surface of the resulting glass has the true "fire finish" on both sides, but it is not free from distortion, not even absolutely flat. It is, however, good enough for normal housing and horticultural purposes.

Plate Glass

This is the better quality glass used in mirrors, cars and shop windows.

For a long time, rough cast plate glass could only be manufactured in sections of limited length. In 1920 the Ford Motor Company evolved, and Pilkington Brothers developed a continuous process for rolling a ribbon of glass out of a furnace.

Then, in 1925, Pilkington Brothers developed a machine that ground and polished sheets of glass continuously, first on the top and after turning over, the bottom surfaces. This entailed double handling.

Twelve years later experts solved the problem of eliminating these two operations when they developed "The Twin." It was a triumph of ingenuity. The ribbon of glass passes between grinding heads above and below it, so that its two sides are worked on simultaneously.

The "Twin" was not the final answer. Perfect fire-finish has been the dream of the world's glass industry for a long time. Now Pilkington's have solved the problem. It is the Float process.

Float Glass

Put simply, the continuous ribbon of glass passes from the furnace to float on the surface of a molten metal at a controlled temperature. It emerges

with a brilliant, lustrous finish on both sides, grinding and polishing being completely unnecessary, and combines all that is best in sheet and plate glass.

Four millions spent in five years

To produce something of high plate glass standard without the expense of grinding and polishing had always been a major headache, yet the Board of Pilkington Brothers felt that Mr. Alastair Pilkington's idea for Float glass, which came to him while he was washing up at home one evening after dinner, was different.

In December 1952 the first series of tests was begun. Results showed that both sides of the glass could be fire-finished, and special plant was built and a twelve-inch ribbon of glass successfully treated. Then a chemical difficulty threatened to cancel out everything. The full resources of Research Department were called upon and with a further experiment in July 1954, samples of glass made by the new process began to show promise.

Surely this was it. But then came another setback. New equipment brought in for the fourth experiment failed. The faith of the Board was unshaken. A £50,000 plant was completed capable of a thirty-inch ribbon of glass. A different way of getting the glass to the surface of the molten metal in the Float bath got the go-ahead.

So came April 1955 and the time for a momentous decision to commit Pilkington Brothers to a full-scale production unit. Since then work on Float has been carried on day and night.

That all this should be accomplished in seven years, for this was a revolution in glassmaking, reflects glowing credit on the team. Everyone connected with Float has plunged whole-heartedly into the struggle and altogether hundreds of

employees, both at St. Helens and Doncaster, have played their part in the triumphant creation of Float glass. We at Chance Brothers offer very sincere congratulations.

An important element of the Float process has been used in the manufacture of "VITROLITE" at Doncaster for more than a year.

For Pilkington Brothers Limited the bill has been a heavy one. Four million pounds spent during five years, quite apart from the cost of earlier fruitless experiments. Manpower and plant

have been diverted from day-to-day production requirements; other processes being explored have had to give way to Float; the Sales and Research Departments had to reorganise their schedules.

As Mr. Alastair Pilkington puts it: "The development of Float glass has been very much on the lines of a battle, and several times we have been in danger of losing it. Much of the work has been hard, grim and disappointing—but there has also been the excitement and thrilling satisfaction of success."

How it Developed

Although glass has been used for many centuries, important developments in its manufacture have been few.

Milestones in the history of flat glassmaking, leading to the discovery of the Float process are as follows:—

2,500 B.C.

Glass was discovered in Egypt, where deposits of natron (an impure natural carbonate of soda) helped to melt the silica.

50 B.C.

Small panes and tiles were made by the Egyptians and Phoenicians by direct casting. The invention of the glass-blowing tube led in time to the manufacture of Crown glass.

250 A.D.

Crown glass was made by the Syrians.

1,100 A.D.

Cylinder blown glass is first mentioned by the monk Theophilus.

1687

The casting and rolling process of making plate glass was invented in France by Bernard Perrot.

1910

The Cylinder method was mechanised and a process of drawing cylinders up to 40 feet long from a melting tank was devised in America.

1913

Fourcault, a Belgian, developed a method of drawing flat sheets of glass direct from the tank.

1920

The continuous flow process of plate glass manufacture was invented in America and developed by Pilkington Brothers.

1925

The continuous grinding and polishing machine for plate glass manufacture was invented and developed by Pilkington Brothers.

1937

The Twin grinding and polishing machine was invented and developed by Pilkington Brothers.

1952

Pilkington Brothers invented the Float glass process.

Seven years later . . .

Pilkington Brothers announce the Float Glass Process.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS



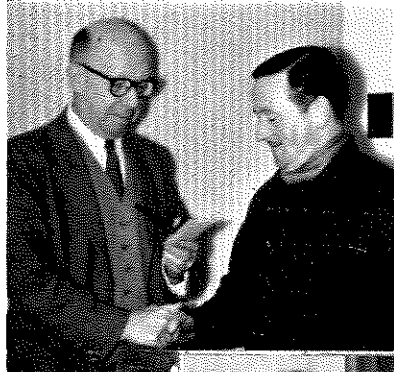
TO mark twenty-five year's service the Managing Director, Dr. W. M. Hampton makes presentations to:—

● **Left:** *Leonard Hill, Technical Development.*

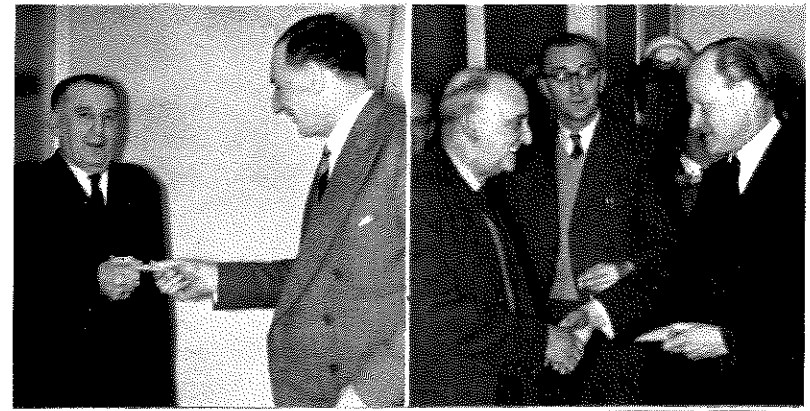
● **Right:** *Frederick Bolton, Blown and Pressed.*

● **Below, right:** *Walter Whitley, Blown and Pressed.*

● **Below:** *Bertram Bagnall, Internal Transport.*



● **Right:** *Artie Astle and Horace Botfield, Blown and Pressed.*



● **Top, left:** *Richard Ingram, Security, receives a retirement award from Mr. C. J. S. Newman.*

● **Top, right:** *Arthur Taylor, General Office, receives retirement best wishes from Mr. H. Fulton.*

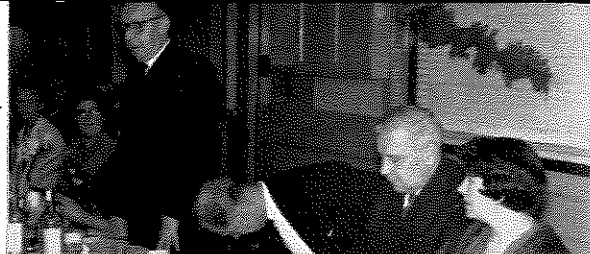
● **Above:** *Mr. W. E. Barrett makes a retirement good wish to William Crawford, Gas Plant and Boilers.*

● **Left:** *The time comes for Ernest Edwards, Coloured Department, to clock out for the last time.*



RETIREMENTS

*Blown and
Pressed Dinner*



*Malvern
Works*

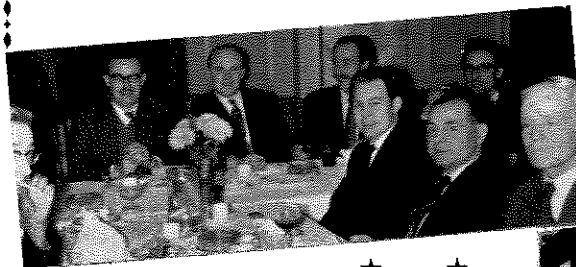


*Dinner
and
Dance*





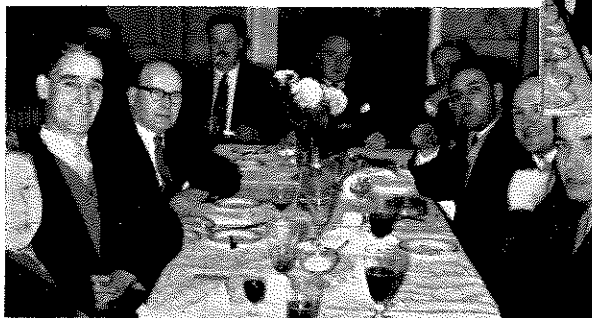
Maintenance and Construction Department Dinner



★ ★ ★



★ ★



★ ★



**Maintenance and Construction and No. 10 Group
★ CHILDREN'S PARTIES ★**



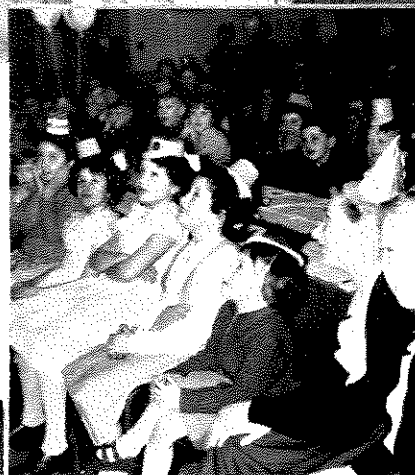


Blown and Pressed Division
CHILDREN'S PARTY



★

★



Flat Glass Division's Children's Party

★ ★
★





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

The division's party season is over. The programme was a dance on 12th December, the children's party on 3rd January and the annual dinner on 10th January. These three events were held in the Recreation Club Pavilion.

All members of the division wish to express sincere appreciation to the organising committee.

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments*, the Vello section had an initial run on the manufacture of lead glass tubing. This was an entirely new production and the results were most encouraging.

The division learned with profound sorrow of the death of Joseph Forsyth on the 4th January at the age of seventy-one.

Joe retired from his position of foreman in November, 1952.

At the time of going to press, Ellen Hunt of Pressed Process is away ill, also, Sam Clive of the Warehouse. All the personnel of the division wish them a speedy recovery.

Flat Glass

The two children's Christmas parties organised by Flat Glass division on the 6th December and the 13th December were a great success and the parents of the children who attended express their thanks to the organising committee and the employees who generously contributed to the cost.

Rolled Plate department were pleased to learn that Bill Chataway is now out of hospital and Mr. R. E. Evans has

returned to work after his serious illness.

The division looks forward to 1959 with confidence as by early February the three Rolled Plate tanks at Spon Lane will be in full production.

The Seven Storey are sorry that Hettie Belt has had to leave to go into hospital. Hettie has had bad health for the last three years and we hope that full recovery will result in the near future.

Glasgow

Congratulations to William Christie and his wife on the birth of a daughter and Hugh Mack and his wife also on the birth of a daughter.

The Glasgow works held their annual Christmas party in the Canteen on Saturday, 13th December, when 150 children spent a very enjoyable afternoon watching films.

The Recreation Club organised two very successful Dinner Dances during December when a large number of employees and their friends attended.

Congratulations to the table tennis team who have had a very successful season so far, and are at present in the semi-final of the House of Harris Cup.

London

Although we are on the spot, tickets for "My Fair Lady" are just as difficult to obtain and we had to be satisfied with seeing "Expresso Bongo" for our office Christmas party. Needless to say the younger members of the staff were "sent" whilst the "squares" suffered

in tolerable silence! Next year we will play safe and see Cinemascope or some other moderately "safe" amusement.

Maintenance and Construction

The Maintenance and Construction Department's annual Children's party was held in the Canteen on Saturday, 13th December.

Howard Beech left the Millwrights department on 15th December to start his National Service in the Royal Air Force and we wish him well.

The Carpenters congratulate Brian Manison on attaining his majority and on his marriage to Elizabeth Axford, also Mandy McGroddy and his wife on the birth of a daughter. The Carpenters also extend a welcome to Paul Rose and they are glad to have Phillip Cartwright back after a period in hospital.

The Boiler Shop congratulates Des Viney on his engagement to Miss K. Halliwell.

Bill Bedford is welcomed back into the Drawing Office on the completion of his National Service. A newcomer to the Drawing Office is Trevor Dell.

Malvern

The Malvern Works' annual dinner and dance was this year held at the Feathers Hotel, Ledbury, on 3rd January. The principal guests were Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Hampton and several Managers and their wives from Spon Lane. The evening was indeed a happy one.

● Mr. and Mrs. Brian Manison.



Foreman Jim Pool has been in a Smethwick hospital for several weeks and he is now discharged and we hope he will be back on the job very soon.

Dorothy Clare is, at the time of going to press, still away ill and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Old Hall

Joyce Yair entered hospital on January 20th for an operation on her foot, and we wish her a full recovery.

Having used Spon Lane for nearly twenty-five years, Vera Hickling says that it has let her down (literally). Its icy surface caused her to fall and fracture her wrist. We are glad to see her back again.

The Technical Development Department extend a welcome to John Gaskell who joined the team in December.

Two members of the Work Study Department who attended the Malvern Works dinner January 3rd at Ledbury appreciated the kind offer from a very charming policeman of a night's lodging in a cell. In spite of the icy conditions on the roads and the promise of a substantial breakfast cooked by the policeman's wife, the offer was declined.

The staff of the Old Hall congratulates Len Hill on the completion of twenty-five years service.

A dance organised by the Pyrometry Department, held on January 9th in the Pavilion was very successful, eighty-four people attending. Mr. H. Mills was M.C.

Frank Guest has had an operation in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and is making good progress. We look forward to receiving him back in the Old Hall very soon.

Offices

On the 16th January, Mrs. Underhill of the Telephone Exchange organised a

party in the Pavilion for young people, under the title "Hepcats."

This party was a huge success and the highlights included excellent dance music by Harold Fisher and his friends and some charming singing by Mrs. Underhill.

We welcome Leslie Simmonds to the Export Sales Department as Overseas Sales Representative. Les, who hails from Brighton has expressed a few harsh words about the weather in the Midlands and we hope that an improvement will be seen in the next few weeks.

Congratulations are extended to Max Van Beek and his wife on the birth of a daughter, and the many friends of John Gordan who is now at St. Asaph will be pleased to hear that his wife presented him with a son.

The department is now wondering how soon it will be before congratulations can be extended to Alan Cowles, Jim Green, Doug Curry, Lawson Walton, Stan Butler, Bob Palmer and Brian Vaughan—five of them sitting in a row in the same office!

Arthur Taylor retired from his position as General Office Manager on the 24th December after fifty-one years service.

In his early years Arthur took a big part in Recreation Club activities, particularly in the games of cricket and snooker. His retirement was marked by a gift from members of the staff and it was presented to him at a sherry party.

Mr. Samuel Smith is congratulated on his position of General Office Manager in Mr. Taylor's place.

We welcome Amie Bunce to the Accounts Section and Sandra Glover to the Printing Department and Caroline Ward to the Hollerith Section.

Kath Fellowes has left the Traffic Office as she is expecting a baby and Irene Browning has left Purchase Accounts as she also is expecting a baby.

John Hayes has left the Cost Office in order to take a position elsewhere.



● Margaret Bailey becomes Mrs. Jones.

Optical

Our Department is very pleased to see and have Marjorie Berrill, Dorothy Hodgetts and Elizabeth Bowden working with us once more.

We also welcome a new junior, Gillian Delahaye in the Despatch Office. Mr. J. Stanley has been away ill for a short time, but we expect him back in the near future.

Personnel

The department congratulates Margaret Bailey on her marriage to Trefor Jones on 3rd January.

Margaret Westwood *nee* Wood had a daughter on the 22nd December.

Security

R. Ingram retired as Gatekeeper on the 9th January after fifty-two years service with the firm.

Stores

It was with considerable regret that the General Stores Department heard of the death of their former colleague, Charlie Griffiths, early in January. Many will recall that ill health caused Charlie to retire about eighteen months ago. Sympathy is expressed with his sorrowing relatives. He will long be remembered for his cheerfulness and wit.

Editor's Note

Personal notes cover only the period up to 26th January.

What's Your Idea? — Let's have it!

The pursuit of a new idea is a most stimulating thing and the Suggestion Scheme encourages it. In the last two months fifty-one ideas were posted in the Suggestion Boxes. Of these, sixteen were rejected, twenty resulted in awards to a total of £27 15s. 0d. and the remainder are still under consideration.

Here is a summary of the successful ideas:—

			£	s.	d.
R. Stokes	Optical	Re-designed casting cradle	...	...	1 15 0
J. W. Francis	Sales	"Fire" labels for telephones	...	...	1 0 0
H. Holford	Boilers	Gauge Glass—Hotwell tank	...	...	1 15 0
H. Price	B. and P.	Use of B.A. Screws on jaws of Vello (appeal)	...	...	2 10 0
J. Horton	M. and C.	Shield on vibrator of frit hoist	...	...	1 15 0
S. T. Birch	M. and C.	Spillage of oil on batch feeders	...	...	1 15 0
R. Hinson	M. and C.	Alterations to ducting on sand drier	...	...	1 15 0
B. Bagnall	Transport	Safety—rubbish dumps	...	...	1 0 0
D. Parrott	M. and C.	Maintenance of Univector Heaters	...	...	5 0 0
J. Higgs	M. and C.	Preventing corrosion on conveyor tension screws	...	...	1 15 0
H. J. Gardner	M. and C.	Provision of ladder on telfer	...	...	1 0 0
M. J. Enefer	M. and C.	Maintenance on bottle washing machine	...	...	1 15 0
H. J. Gardner	M. and C.	Provision of ladder—Machine Shop crane	...	...	1 0 0
C. Salisbury	Transport	Safety—Telfer	...	...	1 0 0

The following suggestions were not adopted but merit awards were made:—

R. Stokes	Optical	...	...	...	10 0
F. W. Davies	B. and P.	...	...	...	10 0
F. A. Bodley	Rolled Plate	...	...	...	10 0

The following suggestions were not original but reminder awards were made:—

H. J. Gardner	M. and C.	...	...	...	10 0
J. Stringer	Security	...	...	...	10 0
S. T. Birch	M. and C.	...	...	...	10 0

Employees' Charity Fund

As a result of the contribution of a penny per week made by a number of employees of Chance Brothers Limited, it has been possible to make the following donations to Charities during 1958.

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham Mail Christmas Tree Fund...	10	10	0
British Red Cross Society	5	5	0
Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick	10	10	0
Cleveland Convalescent Homes	5	5	0
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	5	5	0
Imperial Cancer Research Fund	5	5	0
Infantile Paralysis Fellowship	5	5	0
Invalid Tricycle Association	5	5	0
Midland Regional Association for the Deaf	5	5	0
Midland Societies for the Blind	10	10	0
Midland Spastic Association	10	10	0
National Fund for Polio Research	5	5	0
National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	5	5	0
Oldbury and District Association for Civilian Disabled	10	10	0
Oldbury and District Citizens' Society	5	5	0
Save the Children Fund	5	5	0
Smethwick Cripples Outing and Welfare Fund	10	10	0
Smethwick Diocesan Moral Welfare Council	5	5	0
Smethwick Society for Mentally Handicapped Children	5	5	0
Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families Association (Smethwick)	5	5	0
St. Dunstons	5	5	0
St. John's Ambulance Brigade (Smethwick)	5	5	0
Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies	5	5	0
West Bromwich Committee for the Welfare of The Physically Handicapped	10	10	0
West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee	5	5	0
TOTAL	£168	0	0

Other charities could be added to the list if more employees joined the Employees Charity Fund which was set up in February 1958. If every employee joined, a total of £400 a year would be available for distribution.

Will YOU contribute ONE PENNY each week and so help to give much comfort to many?

THE £50 SAFETY STAKES

A prize of £50 will be awarded to the section of the works which achieves the greatest percentage reduction in its own accident frequency rate during the year commenced 1st October, 1958. £10 is to be presented to any other group which reduces its frequency rate at all.

A quarter of the competition year has been reached and here are the figures up to the end of December. The Safety Committee is encouraged in that the works as a whole shows an improvement of 51%.

Departmental Group	Year ended 30/9/58		Quarter ended 31/12/58		Percentage Better or Worse
	Lost Time Accs	Frequency Rate	Lost Time Accs	Frequency Rate	
Pressed Process and Cathodes	2	0.67	0	Nil	100% better
Coloured, Seven Storey and Fiesta	3	0.95	0	Nil	100% better
Building, Carpenters, Boilers, Stores and Vehicle Repairs	4	1.19	0	Nil	100% better
Rolled Plate	19	4.30	0	Nil	100% better
Electricians, Millwrights, Boiler Shop, Machine Shop, and Mould Shop	5	1.09	1	0.88	19% better
Pot and Clay, Mixing, Masons, Security, Cleaners, Traffic Transport, Laboratory	4	1.04	1	1.10	6% worse
Optical and Malvern	2	0.78	1	1.43	83% worse
Vello, Pressed Making Teazers, Inspection	2	0.53	2	2.28	330% worse
Whole Works	44	1.53	5	0.75	51% better

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

GENTLEMEN GLASS BLOWERS

Did you know that glassmakers used at one time to be the most aristocratic of workmen? A French law passed under Louis IX allowed none but men of noble birth to establish glass blowing establishments, or even to work therein. For many centuries this was the only industry in which noblemen could engage without losing caste.

The art of glassmaking came to England from France, and in its early days in this country the workmen styled themselves "gentlemen glass blowers."

MARIA IS SUCH A SMASHER!

A story that appeared in a national newspaper recently has brought smiles to the faces of the glass salesmen . . . and trouble to a dark-haired girl from Tredegar, in South Wales.

Maria Provini is the girl and she works in her father's cafe. But it is proving an expensive business for Papa, for his daughter is having a bad effect on his glassware. Whenever she handles glass or goes anywhere near it, it simply smashes. Recently two heavy, heat resisting glasses shattered in her hand, and unlucky Maria had to have hospital treatment for a cut near her eye. And just to prove Maria's explosive powers, her father deliberately dropped a piece of this glass on the floor. It didn't even crack!

So far nobody has been able to explain why Maria is such a smasher. It occurred to us that no-one was better qualified to put forward explanations for these peculiar goings-on than you, the people of the glass industry.

What is more, we will pay half-a-guinea for the best answer to the puzzle. Address your replies to the Editor.

GLASS QUEEN

On Friday, 13th March, Ann Buckler of the Malvern Works travels to Blackpool as the representative of Chance Brothers employees in the Pilkington Group Glass Queen competition which will be held in the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens. It will be remembered that Ann was selected as Chance's Glass Queen at the 1958 Gala Ball. We feel sure that she will well and truly represent our young ladies and we keep our fingers crossed and wish her every success.

The all glass crown which will be placed on the head of the successful competitor will be made at Spon Lane.

WOW!

Paradise is what happens when your arm goes stiff.

What do you know of Henry VIII? I cannot answer this question as we do not take the Old Testament now.

The woman had her face lifted by a drastic surgeon.

They gave Wellington a glorious funeral. It took six men to carry the beer.

Letters in sloping type are in hysterics.

Volcanoes are ordinary mountains except that they omit palaver frequently.

A fugue is what happens in a room when there is no ventilation.

I think it was Shakespeare who called jealousy the green-eyed bolster.

What is quartz? A number of pints.

Cleopatra ended a remarkable life rather curiously. She was bitten by an aspidistra.