

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BLOOD

The Blood Transfusion Service visited the Works in December, and seventy-five volunteers came forward to donate blood to the Blood Bank.

The Unit will visit us again in the near future.

WILL YOU HELP TO BRING THE
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS UP TO
100?

*Signing-up forms are available in the
Personnel Department*

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Chance COMMENTS



FEBRUARY — MARCH 1961

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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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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Some six hundred children of our employees enjoyed Christmas parties held in the Canteens and the Recreation Club.

This month's cover picture shows sheer joy, and this is the only expression of appreciation asked for by the many voluntary helpers.

Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry

THE Museum of Science and Industry has been established in the Newhall Street premises since 1950. The first section to be opened to the public was the Arms Gallery, housed in the old show-rooms which the previous owners of the buildings: Messrs. Elkington & Co. Ltd. used to display the silver plate made in the adjoining workshops. The construction of the Gallery exhibits features of architectural interest, dating from the middle of the last century. A collection of Arms, representative of the workmanship of early German, Italian and English makers is on show, together with a group of Japanese Armour and Turkish, Indian and similar oriental weapons.

Leading from the Arms Gallery is a group of workshops reconstructed as replicas typical of those to be found in industries in Birmingham and the near vicinity. The brass foundry is modelled on a Smethwick Master Brass-founder's shop. By pressing a button a series of illuminated panels can be seen, showing the various implements within the shop and their uses. A similar scheme has been followed for coopering, silversmithing, gunmaking, nailmaking and brass turning. In the silversmith's shop a description can be heard on a tape recorder.

Examples of silver and Sheffield plate by Mathew Boulton of Soho are shown in a small gallery which takes the visitor from the Arms Gallery over the Birmingham-Fazeley Canal, towards the Engineering Hall. From this gallery may be seen locks which form part of a set of thirteen known as Farmers Bridge Flight, which lifts the canal from a low level near Summer Lane up to the high Worcester level at Cambridge Street

Wharf behind the Birmingham Civic Centre buildings. Occasional boats may be seen working the locks.

After leaving the Boulton and Watt display, the visitor proceeds via a long passage down to the Engineering Hall, which houses the Museum's collection of prime movers and other large objects.

The first exhibit encountered is a fine tandem compound steam engine with Corliss valve gear. This engine was constructed in 1909 and at present is run at intervals by an electrically operated drive. Possibly the most impressive item in the hall is the Longstone Lighthouse optic, made by Chance Brothers in 1873. This is a first order optic rotated on the old system by a weight driven clock with the optic itself supported on a roller track. Disposed round about the optic are one or two examples of electric generators for light-house use, made in the latter part of the last century.

Almost adjacent to the optic is an historic piece of apparatus concerned with glass making, in the form of a set of hand driven iron rolls used by George and Edward Chance in their early efforts to produce a rolled plate glass. The metal was scooped from the furnace in a cast iron ladle (also exhibited) and poured on to the roller table, from whence it was fed through the rolls which were turned by hand capstan wheels. This machine dates from 1884 and was presented to the Museum by Chance Brothers in 1954.

The Aveling-Porter Steam Roller, which was made in 1892 is a firm favourite with children.

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The Museum is fortunate in possessing a number of working Steam Engines. The Amos Beam Engine of 1864 has beautifully proportioned Corinthian columns to support the beam and is run from time to time under its own power.

A later example of note is an 80 h.p. horizontal Uniflow engine of 1926. The smooth running of this engine can be seen by a penny balanced on the crank case. Visitors never fail to be attracted by the tilt hammer, a large device constructed of massive iron castings and dating from the mid-eighteenth century. This machine was used for the production of gardening and agricultural implements.

Passing from the Engineering Hall the visitor enters the Machine Tool Section. Worthy of note in the section are a Centre Lathe, Vertical Drilling Machine and a Shaper by Joseph Whitworth & Co., all manufactured about 1850.

A large Planing Machine produced in 1817 was the work of Strutt of Belper who, at the time he was working with Sir Richard Arkwright, was unable to purchase machine tools to make parts

for his cotton spinning machinery. A Centre Lathe with provision for turning 14 ft. between centres is the work of the same man and the bed form, with one vee slide and one flat, is remarkable for the time. These two machines are exceptionally early examples in the machine tool field.

An important exhibit of scientific interest is also housed in this Section. This is the cylinder and liquifier used by Sir James Dewar in his pioneer work at the Royal Institution, early in this century, on the liquefaction of hydrogen gas. Dewar was the originator of the vacuum walled flask, which was produced to contain his liquified gases and to keep them in liquid form. Amongst other items housed in this area is a 600 ton hydraulic press used for the production of extruded brass sections and believed to be the first machine of its kind. Here the visitor can avail himself of a taped description of the press operation. The first still used in this country for making bakelite resin is also on display. To interest lady visitors, there is a machine made in 1938 for knitting nylon material. Examples of the fabrics produced are displayed nearby.

Proceeding into the Transport Section from the Machine Tool Section, visitors are confronted by a number of early cars. To mention but a few, there is the 10 h.p. Lanchester of 1901 with tonneau body and independent suspension to the front wheels. There are Benz Dog Carts of 1900 in 3½ and 4 h.p. sizes, a 6 h.p. Panhard Levasseur of 1903 and other early cars of English, French and German manufacture. From a more recent era there is a super-charged 6 cylinder Alfa Romeo Sports Two-seater with a body by Lazato and made in 1932; a 2.3 litre Bugatti driven by the late Dick Seaman and the Jaguar XK120 Coupé, which established a world record by travelling at 100 m.p.h. for 100 hours.

It is, perhaps, important to realise that the Napier Railton Special powered by 2-12 cylinder Napier Lion aero engines was driven by the late John Cobb in 1947 to establish a world land speed record of 394.196 m.p.h. which has yet to be broken.

There are also on display various engines and a range of motor cycles which includes a 4 cylinder F.N. of 1907 with shaft drive and forgotten makes such as Wearwell-Stevens and Saltley-Villiers.

The bicycle display shows the development of cycles from the penny-farthing, Starley's Safety of 1887, the bone-shaker, the Coventry Semi-Sociable of 1880, the Singer Tricycle of 1879 and others. Of great merit is a bicycle made entirely of wood which was fashioned by a native of Nyasaland about 1900. The drive is a knotted raw-hide rope which passes over a wheel fastened to the cranks and a pinion on the rear wheel with teeth fashioned to suit. The wheels are of bamboo strips, wound into a circle and bound with raw-hide strips. The boy copied it from a cycle which belonged to the Governor of the colony, by whom he was employed.

Proceeding up the stair-case from the Transport Section the visitor is led to the Science Section. Here is to be found a scale model of Britain's first atomic pile, made at Harwell in July 1948. Various equipment concerned with the telephone service is arranged as working demonstrations. Here too, the visitor can see the selector system working on a small automatic telephone exchange and by

dialling a number be connected, through the exchange, to an adjacent telephone.

Some principles of Physics are arranged as working demonstrations; for example, speed control of a D.C. electric motor is shown with push buttons for the visitor to operate. Two small oscillators show how radio valves are used to produce oscillating currents in a circuit, one works at radio frequency where a loop with a bulb attached picks up the waves from a coil and the bulb is caused to light up, the other produces audible sounds in a loud speaker.

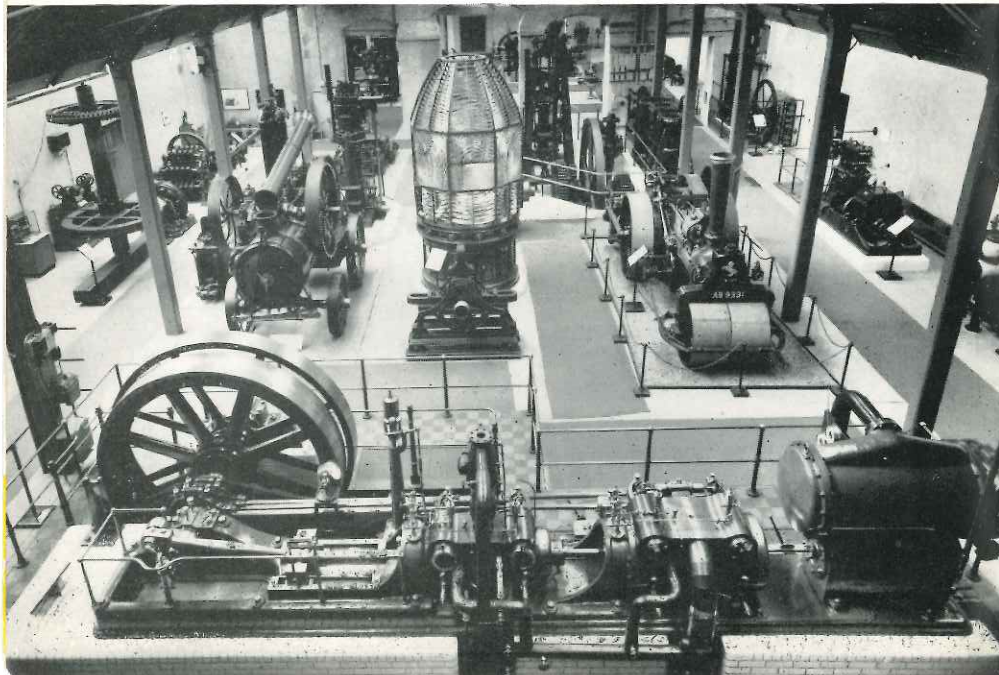
An early tape recorder the size of two office desks, can be seen. This machine is the Marconi-Stille apparatus made for the B.B.C. which uses reels of steel tape.

A group of early electric motors, cases of historic electrical measuring instruments, models of ships, steam engines and gas engines etc. can also be seen. Of particular interest is a small section containing lathes for engine turning and a fine example from the private workshops of Louis XVI of France dates from 1760; the workmanship is superb and all working parts are hand wrought in iron and brass. The Holtzapfel Lathe of 1870 is a good example with a very complete set of tools, which enable all forms of ornamental turning to be practised. The most weird exhibit is a fully automatic machine for making the shanks for pearl buttons. This is a truly Heath-Robinsonian device with hand forged flat springs and cams and shafts all over it. It is almost too much to believe that it could ever function, but it did until two or three years ago and had done for more than a century.

All these things and many more are on show and the Museum is open on each week-day from 10.30 a.m. (10.0 on Saturdays) until 6.0 p.m. and on Sundays from 2.0 to 5.30 p.m. No one can fail to find a visit interesting and most visitors having been once, usually return.

Note: This article was kindly contributed by Mr. Geoffrey Wilding, assistant Keeper of the Museum. The Keeper is Mr. N. W. Bertenshaw who, prior to this appointment, was a member of Chance Brothers staff.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE ENGINEERING HALL



FASHION IN DANGER

FASHION may rightly or wrongly decree that stiletto heels are it; but honestly, it is not common sense to wear them at work.

Take the advice of your representative on the Safety Committee, and if you do wear this type of footwear you should change your shoes when you arrive at the Works to a more sensible form of footwear.

You could not do much better

than buying safety shoes. These are available in an attractive range at a reasonable cost, and Mrs. Joyce Taylor has a display of the safety shoes that are available in her office in the Welfare Department.

Our model for this series of photographs was Miss Undene Pickering of the Personnel Department, and the photographer was Mr. Ron Moore of the Laboratory.

LIFE IS FUN AT CHANCE BROTHERS—LOOK AT THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE SEVEN STOREY BUILDING.

WHAT'S THAT? AND WHO ARE YOU TO COMMENT UPON THE KIND OF HEELS I WEAR?



Page Four



I CAN LOOK AFTER MY OWN ANKLES THANK YOU—OUCH!



.....AND I SAID TO HER I SAID...



.....OH! IT'S YOU AGAIN. YES I KNOW STILETTO HEELS ARE DANGEROUS AND I PROMISE TO WATCH MY—



STEP—OUCH!!! STILETTO HEELS ARE DANGEROUS AND THEY DON'T LOOK SO ATTRACTIVE AS NEATER, MORE SENSIBLE HEELS.

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More Ideas & More Ideas

by L. G. Barton, Secretary of Suggestion Scheme

There exists in some peoples mind the misconception that ideas are the monopoly of some specialised group. Such thoughts are wrong and this can be substantiated by the fact that in 1960 employees at Spon Lane, Glasgow and Malvern combined; Sent in 420 suggestions. Had 202 accepted. And received £391 in tax free awards.

This is commendable, but not quite good enough, and we can do better. Let us see if we can send in more suggestions during 1961, and include some really good ideas.

At all times the Company welcomes suggestions which help to:—

Improve productivity.

Reduce losses.

Stock tidily, leading to utilisation of working and storage space.

Improve layout to lead better flow of work.

Reduce maintenance and operating costs.

Improve design of tools.

Make jobs safer and encourage good housekeeping.

Improve working conditions.

Reduce clerical work.

Improve security arrangements.

Foster good customer relations.

and many more things which are activities which could either be eliminated or be subject to improved methods.

Everyone can help with ideas and suggestions and normally awards are made for those adopted, but there are some employees whose day to day responsibilities include the improvement of working methods and conditions and these are not eligible for awards through the scheme. If in doubt ask your Manager.

You will find suggestions forms either inside the top portion of the Suggestion boxes or they can be obtained from Gatekeepers. Your Supervisor or the Secretary of the suggestions scheme will if necessary help you fill it in. It can either be posted in the box or sent direct to the Secretary.

Perhaps the following rhyme may stimulate your interest in developing new ideas.

I keep six honest serving men
They taught me all I know
Their names are What and Why
and When
And How and Where and Who
These serving men pay me for work
To you that may sound strange
They help me to eliminate
Combine and re-arrange
And finally they help improve
The tasks I can't abide
My job is safe and easier
Because it's simplified.

★ MAINTENANCE
★ AND
★ CONSTRUCTION
★ DINNER



HAPPY KIDS ▶



... *HAPPY KIDS*



... *HAPPY KIDS*





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

We extend sincere best wishes to Nellie Clark and Adelaide Smith who retired recently. Each had served the firm for some fifteen years.

Flat Glass

In recent weeks several young ladies have joined the firm to increase the strength in the Seven Storey building, and we hope they will be happy working in Spon Lane.

The Division is giving some thought to the development of social activities, and the Recreation Club pavilion has been provisionally reserved for each Friday in April—more about our plans later.

Glasgow

The Recreation Club held their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, 17th December, when 152 children enjoyed games and a film show before receiving a gift from Father Christmas.

A large number of members and friends attended a very successful Dinner Dance at the Rob Roy Highland Motel, Aberfoyle, on the 14th January.

We extend a warm welcome to newcomers Jos. McGuire and Robert McFarlane.

To William Hardy who was recently married we offer our best wishes.

The following sums have recently been distributed by the Firhill Glassworks Charity Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Kilmun Convalescent Home	10	0	0
Glasgow District Coast			
Homes—Saltcoats	10	0	0
Convalescent Seaside Homes			
—Dunoon	10	0	0
Scottish Council for Care of			
Spastics	5	0	0
National Fund for			
Poliomyelitis Research	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Nat. Lifeboat Institution	5	0	0
Salvation Army	5	0	0
Little Sisters of the Poor	5	0	0
Mission to the Outdoor Blind	5	0	0
Glasgow Branch of Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Assoc.	5	0	0
Scottish National Institution for War Blinded	5	0	0
St. Andrew's Ambulance Assoc.	5	0	0
British Empire Cancer Campaign	10	0	0
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	5	0	0
	90	0	0

Laboratory

The Laboratory staff congratulates Gillian Payne and Jim Salt on attaining their majority. Congratulations are also expressed to Bernard Cumberlidge and his wife on the birth of a daughter on January 23rd. Alice Anson has left us to take a position at Wolverhampton Hospital, and we hope she will be happy there.

London

We are pleased to welcome a new Fiesta glass demonstrator for our display at Selfridges. Miss Mote, who has joined us, is an experienced saleswoman, and has already had several years in one of Selfridges' departments. She is therefore on home ground and we are expecting big things from her.

Malvern

The Annual Dinner and Party was held at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern on Saturday, 7th January, and a very enjoyable time was had by all. We were very pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Newman, and Mr. and Mrs. Barrett among the very many guests from Birmingham and Malvern. During the

evening two young ladies, Mrs. Diana Spencer, and Miss Freda Dawe, were chosen to represent Malvern at the Gala Ball on Friday, 10th February, to compete for the title of Chance Glass Queen. We wish them both the best of luck. Mrs. Phyllis Powell and Mrs. Mary Hodgetts recently attained their majority and we would like to offer our congratulations. A coach party has been arranged by the Social Committee for members and friends to attend the Coventry Pantomime on January 31st.

Maintenance and Construction

The Planned Maintenance Section welcomes newcomer Carole West, and Howard Beech is welcomed back to the Millwrights on completion of National Service.

Vic Bereford has left the Drawing Office to take a post elsewhere, and we wish him success.

Offices

The following are welcomed as newcomers in various office departments:—Christine Short (Costs), Loraine Ainge (Accounts), Albert McInnes (Sales), Dennis Stanley (Sales), Robert Chatwin (Wages), Sidney Biddle (General Office), Judith Jones (Accounts) and Jeanette Challenor (Personnel).

Traffic

Mr. William Standley retired from his position as Traffic Manager on December 9th, 1960.

Mr. Standley had been with the firm for over 51 years, and had been Traffic Manager since 1922.

He started at Spon Lane as a gatehouse boy in 1909, and after a period of training in clerical work he joined the army at the outbreak of the First World War. He was invalided out in 1915, and on his return to the firm he took charge of the coal department and internal transport.

In 1920 Mr. Standley visited docks in various parts of the country and in Antwerp to investigate freight rates, and this was one step which led to his promotion as Traffic Manager in 1922. When he took over the department we had only four lorries. Now we have a modern fleet of nearly forty vehicles.

Mr. Standley was, and is, well respected by everybody at Chance Brothers, and in the various fields of transport, and we all wish him a well earned rest.

He had a farewell party in the Pavilion on his last official day at Chance Brothers, and his many friends presented him with a portable typewriter and a portable radio.

MR. WILLIAM STANDLEY'S RETIREMENT PARTY.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

A NEW WELFARE SERVICE

For most jobs good sight is essential, both in regard to efficiency and the health of the persons employed.

To encourage our employees to care for their sight, arrangements have been made whereby they may have their eyes tested in the Works Medical Centre at Smethwick, and if they so desire, have spectacle prescriptions made up under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

On frequent occasions an Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner visits the Works to make eye examinations, and a Dispensing Optician is in attendance at the same time.

Employees wishing to take advantage of this service should make appointments through the Medical Centre.

EMPLOYEES' CHARITY FUND

The Employees' Charity Fund was formed in 1958 with the object of affording the employees of the Smethwick Works the opportunity to contribute in a modest way to charitable organisations and local societies in particular.

The Scheme operates by employees voluntarily agreeing to have one penny a week deducted from their wages or salary, and the money thus collected is distributed by a Committee appointed annually by the members of the Fund.

In the first year, namely 1958, twenty-five charities received grants to a total of £168; in 1959 £190 was distributed amongst forty-two charities, and last year the total distributed was £257 and forty-six charities received help.

Each of the charities wrote in to thank the employees for their generous support, and the following are extracts from a selected number of letters of appreciation received.

From the West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped.

"We should be very glad if you would convey our most sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who have been concerned in sending this very generous

donation to us, and which we will expend in the best way possible on behalf of our physically handicapped friends."

From the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Children.

"Sympathy and understanding mean so much to them, and the assistance you have given will help us to bring more happiness to their dark world—thank you so much."

From the British Legion Haig's Fund.

"I hope that you will have the opportunity of conveying to all those contributed to this generous donation, my thanks and gratitude for this evidence of their interest in the Appeal. Such support gives us added encouragement in our efforts and will prove of the utmost benefit to those for whom we are privileged to appeal."

From the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick.

"Thank you all very sincerely for sending us this most welcome donation again this year. Coming as it does at a time when we are struggling to open new Homes in many parts of the country, in order to house a few more of the many patients in need, it is very very welcome. Will you so be so kind as to pass on a message of very warm thanks to all connected with your Charity Fund."

From the Friends of the Birmingham Accident Hospital Association.

"It is most encouraging for the Friends Association to continue to receive this support in their work of providing amenities for the patients and nurses at the Accident Hospital. Please convey our sincere thanks to all concerned."

From the Imperial Cancer Research

"We are deeply grateful to all who contributed for their continued interest in, and support of, our urgent work. Their help is the greatest possible encouragement to the doctors and scientists working in our laboratories."

COMMONWEALTH TECHNICAL TRAINING WEEK

In the week May 29th-June 4th a Commonwealth Technical Training Week will be held throughout the country.

The idea of Commonwealth Technical Training Week was born in Australia. It was there that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh saw a State Apprenticeship Week in operation and felt that here was a conception which could be immensely valuable throughout the Commonwealth, varied no doubt to suit the circumstances and needs of individual territories. In London the idea found ready acceptance, and a meeting was held at Buckingham Palace in May 1959, at which His Royal Highness presided in his capacity as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute. The meeting was attended by High Commissioners, members of Her Majesty's Government and representatives of the local authorities, and various national and industrial organisations.

The aims and objects of the week are to stimulate awareness of the responsibility of the community towards young people entering employment; to stress the importance of schemes of induction and training, both for the benefit of individual firms and in the interest of the young people themselves; to give increased opportunity to young people to learn of the opportunities available for training and education; and generally to emphasize the significant place of the younger worker in society.

The Week is intended to cover all forms of training for employment. It would, for instance, include training for apprentices and learners, operative training, training for commerce, for agriculture, for the professions, and induction training.

Chance Brothers will take full part in the programme in Smethwick, and our apprentices have already started on making samples of their work which will be displayed in some form of apprentices' exhibition.

GLASS QUEEN COMPETITION

By the time this issue of *Chance Comments* is published, Chance Brothers' Glass Queen will have been elected, and we shall know who will represent us at the Pilkington Brothers Competition to be held at the Winter Gardens Ballroom, Blackpool on March 10th.

We are all keeping our fingers crossed in the hope that McDonald Hobley, who will be the compere, will pronounce that Chance Brothers have the most attractive girl in the P.B. Group.

The previous issue of the magazine showed photographs of certain departmental finalists. Here are two more departmental entries:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Blown and Pressed:</i> | ... | ... | Beatrice Price and Gillian Horton |
| 2. <i>Malvern:</i> | ... | ... | Diana Spencer and Freda Dawe. |

MALVERN: DIANA SPENCER AND FREDA DAWE.



BLOWN AND PRESSED: BEATRICE PRICE AND GILLIAN HORTON.



It's a Woman's World

EDITED BY JEANETTE CHALLENGER,

Personnel Department

How would you remove the following stains from your clothes?

1. *Candle Grease, with:*
 - (a) bicarbonate of soda.
 - (b) borax.
 - (c) benzine.
2. *Whitewash, with:*
 - (a) vinegar and water.
 - (b) salt and water.
 - (c) olive oil and water.
3. *Shoe Polish, with:*
 - (a) methyl alcohol.
 - (b) lactose.
 - (c) methylated spirits.
4. *Nail Polish, with:*
 - (a) carbon tetrachloride.
 - (c) acetone.
 - (c) household ammonia.

Answers below:

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| (b) 4 | (c) 3 |
| (c) 2 | (c) 1 |

Seville Orange Marmalade

Now is the time to make your own marmalade. Try this simple recipe. The family will love it.

- 5 large or small Seville oranges (about 2 lb)
- 4 pints water
- 1 lemon or $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful citric or tartaric acid
- 4 lb sugar

Wash the fruit and cut it into shreds. Remove pips and put in muslin bag. Put fruit, pips and water in a basin and leave overnight. Put the contents of the bowl into a deep saucepan or preserving-pan, bring slowly to boiling point, add the acid, if used, and simmer gently until

the peel is soft and the contents of the pan reduced almost by half; this will take about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Remove bag of pips and add the sugar, stir until dissolved, and then boil rapidly until a good set is obtained when a little marmalade is tested on a cold saucer. Allow to cool a little, and pour into hot, sterilized jars. Cover at once with waxed circles and then tie down.

Spring Fashion

Shoes with pointed toes will be out, instead, if we want to be in vogue, square and rounded toes are the thing, and cuban heels will replace the stilettoes, which one must admit, have had more than a fair deal in the fashion world.

Black accessories, the shinier the better, will be top of the bill. Black patent leather or plastic belts and handbags will be very popular.

Hem lines are already down to knee-level; and our first hair trim of the Spring must be a really good trim. As long as it is short we are at liberty to choose our favourite style or try a new one, of which there will be many.

Skirts are full, swiny and pleated. Whether you want to look gay for leisure hours or smart for work, there is a skirt for you, and in the colour you want.

For our summer dresses and blouses the tables are turned, and the emphasis is on striped patterns, and checks are definitely OUT! Patterns are bold, and the favourites will be on a white background.

For evening wear velvet and other thick fabrics will give way to organza, silk and lace.

This year we have every opportunity of looking very feminine and very attractive, and this year fashion experts are bearing this very much in mind. *

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Thomas Slimm, Flat Glass—45 years on 18th October, 1960 (Watch).

George Badderley, Carpenters—25 years on 27th December, 1960 (Watch).

James Collins, M. and C.—25 years on 1st January, 1961 (Cash).

Horace Simpkins, M. and C.—25 years on 2nd January, 1961 (Watch).

* * *

Note: Matthew McGirr, Glasgow, also completed 25 years on 23rd January and received a watch.



GEORGE BADDERLEY



JAMES COLLINS



HORACE SIMPKINS



THOMAS SLIMM