

## Success of Manweb's New Type Showcar



An exterior view of the Manweb Electricity Showcar.

Specially constructed vehicles which act as mobile Electricity Service Centres have been successfully employed in North Wales for some time. Recently a larger type of vehicle has been introduced for use in No. 1 Sub-Area, and these have already proved their worth.

Inside they carry a representative selection of appliances

(suitably secured for travelling) and residents of housing estates, etc., can now choose their cookers, washing machines, etc., from their own doorsteps.

The entrance door is at the rear, where steps and a porch are quickly unfolded as soon as the vehicle halts.



Inside is a good range of appliances, and literature. The smaller items on the shelves fit into recesses so that they do not move when the Showcar is in motion.

# Contact



SANTA CLAUS AT LOVE LANE

*The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside  
and North Wales Electricity Board*

JANUARY, 1956



THREEPENCE

## Manweb Helps Father Christmas

A FEW days before Christmas the following letter was received in the Southport District from a consumer living in Birkdale:

"I am writing to you to enquire if you could possibly tell me or give me any idea as to when your department are going to change over our electricity supply from D.C. to A.C.

"We have just purchased a Train Set for our little boy as a Christmas present and now find it is for A.C. mains only and there is nothing we can do about it but await your future changeover, and am afraid if it is not soon forthcoming, there will be big disappointments.

"Hoping for your immediate reply."

In view of the circumstances, a careful investigation was made, but as a number of other premises were concerned, it will not be possible for the changeover to be carried out for some little time, and the consumer was advised to this effect.

Meanwhile, a small DC/AC convertor was located, a relic of

a previous changeover, and it was decided to loan this convertor to the consumer for the short period pending the changeover.

Mr. J. Ridge (Commercial Department) called on the consumer on Christmas Eve, installed the convertor and got the train set running. The following is a copy of a further letter received from the consumer expressing his appreciation of our efforts.

"My wife and I feel that we must write a few lines of appreciation to you for sending our little boy the motor which provided him with the means of operating his train set very successfully.

"Believe me, Santa Claus could not have timed it better or even sent a bigger surprise.

"It is most pleasing to know that a person as busy as you must be, in your capacity as Manager of so large a body, can find time to see to these small things.

"So once again my wife and I and the little chap thank you. We are very grateful."

### EXCELLENT SERVICE

Writing from Wem, Shropshire, Mr. F. Steward Neale, M.B.E., has sent the following New Year greeting to the Board:—

"My wife and I would like to take advantage of this occasion to compliment and thank you for the excellent service your organisation has given us throughout the year and particularly yesterday, Christmas Day, when the most adequate power enabled us to enjoy a perfectly cooked dinner.

"With the season's compliments and good wishes for 1956."

### STUDY PRIZE WINNER

On 1st December Mr. A. D. Hegan (Crewe District Manager) made a presentation to Mr. N. G. Bell of books, slide rule and tools to the value of £10, awarded under the Board's Study Prize Scheme.

Mr. Hegan congratulated Mr. Bell on his success and said that he hoped that the event would be an incentive to others and that they would all realise the exceptional opportunities for young people within the Manweb organisation.



# Contact

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### EDITORIAL

## Still Expanding

IF figures relating to electricity consumption give a reliable guide to industrial and other activities, then the area supplied by the Board has just concluded a prosperous year.

In the year 1955 sales of units increased by 12 per cent over the previous year to a record total of 4,000 million. This increase—due largely to additional industrial activity in the area—is considerably higher than the national average.

The greater purchasing power of the public was reflected in the Board's sales of electrical appliances, which rose by £500,000 to nearly £2 millions.

During 1955 some 30,000 new premises were connected. This figure includes approximately 1,700 farms and 26,000 private houses. To provide new supplies and in reinforcing existing

networks, Manweb laid 839 miles of new mains and commissioned 1,426 new sub-stations.

These figures were referred to with satisfaction by Mr. Kendon, our Chairman, when he thanked all employees of the Board for the good work they had accomplished during the year (see p.18).

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# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED

## Reports of Manweb Parties

### AT HATTON GARDEN

THERE was an attendance of 130 staff and friends at No. 1 Sub-Area Headquarter's Christmas party on 16th December, when there was tea, a whist drive, games and dancing.

Mr. S. Herd was the whist prize winner, and Mrs. P. Bregazzi (wife of the Sub-Area Manager) presented him with a bottle of sherry.

Mr. Joe Ince (Central District) and his Mayfair Dance Orchestra provided music for dancing which concluded a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

### AT RHUDDLAN

ABBAY House staff of the Clwyd District Manager's Office had their Christmas festivities at the Marine Hydro, Rhyl, on the Friday before Christmas Eve, when there was Yuletide fare, and games and dancing enjoyed by all.



Mrs. P. Bregazzi presenting a bottle of sherry to Mr. S. Herd, who won the whist drive at the Hatton Garden Christmas Party.

### AT OSWESTRY

PROFESSOR Humo, described as a "ventriloquist magician", and a Punch and Judy show were the highlights of this year's Children's Christmas party promoted by the Oswestry District Sports and Social Club at the Plaza, Oswestry, on 19th December.

There were 48 children of Manweb staff present and the efforts of the Professor in producing live rabbits, guinea pigs, white mice, birds, and other small animals from thin air, was a source of huge delight.

Following the entertainment Father Christmas, complete with sack of presents, arrived and distributed one to each child.

The adult members of the Club had their Christmas party in the Queen's Hotel, Oswestry, on 16th December, when some 100 members and guests had an enjoyable evening of games, dancing and refreshment. The Sub-Area Manager (Mr. R. N. Pegg) and Mrs. Pegg were amongst those present during the evening.

### AT THINGWALL ROAD

NEARLY 400 children of the Board's staff from all Districts of No. 1 Sub-Area attended a Christmas Party at the Thingwall Road Sports Club on 10th and 11th December.

So great was the throng that Father Christmas (Mr. J. McMinn Chairman of the Sports Club) had to attend on two separate days to present each child with a present from the Christmas tree, an orange, apple and bag of sweets. There

was also a tea and film show with Mr. F. Blower as projectionist.

Mr. W. L. Doodson, the Thingwall Club Social Committee, and a willing band of lady helpers were responsible for the arrangements and are to be complimented on their efforts to give the kiddies such a memorable weekend.

The Sub-Area Manager (Mr. P. Bregazzi) and Mr. M. M. Parker (Board Secretary) were amongst those who attended the function.



Father Christmas (Mr. J. McMinn) distributes prizes from the Christmas Tree to children of No. 1 Sub-Area at the Thingwall Road (Liverpool) Sports Club.



An attentive audience photographed during the film show.

### AT CREWE

**B**BRITISH Railways Concert Hall at Crewe was the scene of a merry Christmas Party for 150 children of members of the Crewe District Staff, on 29th December.

Father Christmas, in the guise of Mr. Burgess, was given an uproarious welcome when he appeared with his bulging sack, and each child received a handsome present from the laden Christmas tree.

The proceedings opened with tea, to which the children did full justice, and then there was community singing led by Mr. A. Cutler (on the piano accordion) and Mr. A. Emmett (at the piano). Then came cowboys and Indians and Mickey Mouse cartoons in a film show, with Mr. E. Bottom as projectionist.

Committee members responsible for the arrangements were Messrs. E. Leighton (Chairman), A. T. K. Knott (Secretary), J. Burgess (Treasurer), A. Cutler, W. Jones, E. Pegg, E. Leighton, E. Hollinshead, G. Brookfield, W. Dockerey, T. Watthey, W. H. Evans, J. Moulton, and Miss Baxendale.



A happy group ready for the fray at the beginning of the Oswestry Children's Christmas Party.

### AT CHESTER

**C**CHESTER District's Christmas festivities were on a more modest scale than usual this year and took the form of a dance at the Assembly Rooms, on 23rd December.

Mr. H. Oldfield (New Crane Street) was M.C. and music was provided by Dave Wilson and his Band from Liverpool.

A number of spot prizes were awarded and refreshments were served to a company of about 150.

### AT SOUTH DISTRICT

**T**HERE was a large attendance of members of the staff, their wives and friends at the South District of No. 1 Sub-Area Christmas Party, held at Thingwall Road on 21st December.

Organised by Messrs. A. Milington, E. Taylor and R. Adams, games and dancing were interspersed with frequent refreshment, and there were the usual novelty and spot prizes.

Amongst those present during the evening were Mr. W. J. Forster (Sub-Area Commercial Officer) and Mrs. Forster, Mr. G. J. Bulmer (District Commercial Officer) and Mr. Ivor Davies (District Engineer).

## Scenes at the Crewe District Children's Party



Father Christmas (Mr. J. Burgess) almost submerged by a crowd of eager kiddies.



A group of Committee members responsible for the arrangements.



Community singing in progress under the direction of Mr. A. Cutler.

## At Rhostyllen

THE No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters Children's Christmas party was held in the Canteen at Rhostyllen on 21st December, when more than 250 kiddies sat down to a tea prepared by the canteen staff.

Father Christmas (Mr. R. W. Newcombe) distributed presents and entertainment was provided by members of the Sports and Social Club and a local conjurer.

The party was organised by a specially selected committee with Mr. G. H. Parry as Chairman and Mr. J. L. Thomas as Secretary.

On the following evening the annual Christmas staff dance and party attracted some 150 members and friends to the canteen.

Organised by the Social Section of the Sports Club, Mr. K. Daniel was M.C., and music for dancing was provided by Johnny Burke and his Orchestra.

An excellent buffet supper was served by the Canteen Supervisor and her staff.

To provide funds for the Children's Christmas Party, the Variety Section of the Sports and Social Club put on a concert in the Rhostyllen Canteen on 14th December. A well varied programme gave excellent entertainment and those taking part are to be congratulated on their efforts.

All Departments at the Headquarters were represented in the cast which included: Peggy Crewe, J. Cooper, Morfen Edwards, E. Griffiths, C. A. Price, G. Jones, E. Lewis, H. Evans, E. James, T. R. George, G. Rowlands, J. Clegg, J. G. and R. G. Roberts, D. F. W. Davies, B. C. Roberts, R. Piercy, M. B. Jones, D. Barrett, N. Ellis, M. Griffiths, H. Hughes, A. D. Quarmby, J. W. Roberts, L. Murphy, J. Wright, G. Parry, J. G. Williams, H. W. Edwards.



## Rhostyllen Children's Christmas Party

Top and Centre: More than 250 kiddies sat down to tea, but the canteen staff coped splendidly.



Below: We've all been waiting for him, and here he is—he must be clever to have travelled so far on that sledge!





Members of the St. Helens staff in festive mood at the Rocklands Hotel.

#### AT BOOTLE

THE Service Centres of Liverpool North District held a joint Christmas party at the Bootle Service Centre on 22nd December.

A lively party was held, and during the evening Mr. W. Wallwork (District Commercial Officer) presented Mr. J. Brock with an electric toaster on the occasion of his departure from the Board's service.



At the Liverpool North District Service Centre's Christmas gathering, Mr. J. Brock received an electric toaster on the occasion of his departure from the Board's service.

#### AT ST. HELENS

THIS year the staff Christmas party was held at the Rocklands Hotel, Rainhill. All the members of the Commercial staff were present, including Mr. H. R. Johnson, the District Commercial Officer.

After a Christmas dinner, games and dancing were organised by the ladies and a most enjoyable time was spent.

#### AT PWLLHELI

THE Staff Children's party at Pwllheli was held in the Penmount C.M. Chapel on the Thursday before Christmas.

A splendid tea was organised by the female staff of the Pwllheli office, following which the youngsters were entertained to a film show.

Linesman W. Williams made an admirable Father Christmas, and presented each child with a gift from a beautifully illuminated Christmas tree, together with chocolates and fruit.

Mr. E. W. Griffiths (Caernarvon District Manager), deputising for Mr. R. N. Pegg (Sub-Area Manager) was present and expressed his best wishes for its success.

#### AT RUTHIN

THE Commercial Department at Ruthin held their annual Christmas Party on the 17th December at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Ruthin.

After an excellent Christmas dinner there were games and dancing which were enjoyed by members of the staff, their wives and friends.

Messrs. G. Jones and T. Field were responsible for the arrangements and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. E. J. Grosse.

#### AT MARSH LANE

A SUCCESSFUL whist drive and dance was held in the new Liverpool North District offices at Marsh Lane on 21st December, when 150 members of the staff, their wives and friends were in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gore were M.C.s for dancing to the music of Mr. Joe Ince and his Mayfair Dance Orchestra, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Moore won the special spot dance prize. Miss J. Moore, Mrs. E. Bell, Mr. H. Turner and Mr. W. Wallwork were the whist prize winners.

The guests, amongst whom were Mr. K. Helliwell (Sub-Area Engineer) and Mrs. Helliwell, and Mr. W. J. Forster (Sub-Area Commercial Officer) and Mrs. Forster, were welcomed by Mr. W. Wallwork (District Commercial Officer) who also paid a special tribute to Mr. H. Turner (Welfare Officer) and Mr. E. Bell (District Senior Clerk) for their organisation of the event.



Mr. E. A. Colter (Establishments Officer) maintains a tradition by serving Christmas dinner to the canteen staff and helpers at Love Lane.

## Winning Windows

**I**N previous years the task of judging the Manweb Christmas Window Display competition has been comparatively easy, because many of the winners were outstanding in their respective classes. For the 1955 competition however, the top markings were extremely close.

The Eccles Shield for the large Service Centres went to Chester, who dressed their double window with a striking "space ship" theme which stopped quite a high percentage of pedestrians in Northgate Street. Santa Claus was seen as the pilot of one ship, and small electrical items were displayed floating down on parachutes.

Chester's previous success was in 1949 (when the Shield was first presented). They thus draw level with their old rivals Northwich, who won in 1950 and 1952.

Widnes took the Oliver Shield with a particularly bright presentation in the medium-sized Service Centre class, and the Rankin Shield went to Knutsford, who thus win for the second year in succession.

The judges were Mr. T. R. Smith and Mr. L. St. Germier (of Board Headquarters), and Mr. John D. Smith (of Messrs. S. C. Peacock Ltd., the Board's advertising agents). The winning display at Chester Service Centre is pictured below.

## BREVITIES

Featured in the B.B.C. Television Newsreel last month, **Mr. H. Evans** (Chairman of the Consultative Council) was caught at his seat by the T.V. camera on the occasion of the first Liverpool-London run of the Shamrock, new Deltic diesel-electric locomotive.

**Mr. Hywel Williams** (Commercial Assistant, Rhuddlan) has been presented with a son.

**Miss P. G. Stubbs** (private secretary to the Purchasing Officer at Board Headquarters) has assumed command of the Mersey Division of the W.R.N.V.R.

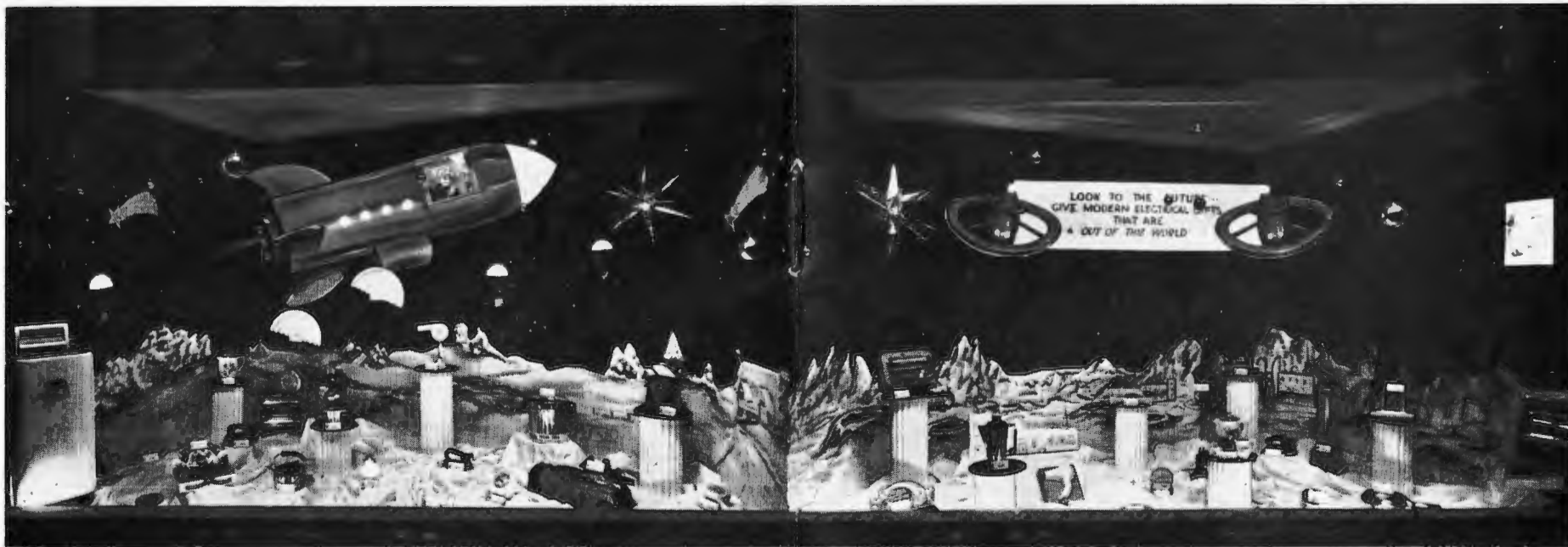
**Mr. Frank T. Fairhurst** (Engineering Draughtsman at Love Lane) has passed the final of the City and Guilds of London

Institute Structural Engineering examinations. He has also been awarded first prize and silver medal of the Institute, together with special prizes by the City Livery Company and the Reinforced Concrete Association.

**Mr. R. Strange** (No. 3 Sub-Area) has successfully completed the Salesmanship Training Course conducted by the British Electrical Development Association, and been awarded the E.D.A. Domestic Electricity Salesmanship Certificate.

**Mr. A. J. Carr** (Eversley) has left for an appointment with the National Coal Board.

According to figures issued by the Registrar General, a total of 685 people died in 1954 due to being gassed. Fatalities due to electricity totalled 112.



## AT LOVE LANE

**H**HEADQUARTERS staff celebrated Christmas in traditional style at their staff party on December 19th.

After tea a treasure hunt and wall games were arranged by Mr. S. G. Griffiths and then followed the stage entertainment. "The Board Alphabet," by Miss Ella Williams and Mr. N. E. Jones, got the programme going with a rousing start and other items were the song scene "Three Old Maids" by the Misses Maureen Stoops, Rita Dodd and John Hall, "Manweb Magic" by Mr. L. St. Germier, and "Love Will Find a Way" by Mrs. Leah McRobert, Mr. R. G. Patterson and Mr. E. Davies. The first half—which was compered by Mr. N. E. Jones—concluded with community singing with Miss Ruth Horner at the piano.

The final item on the stage was the pantomime "From Bard to Worse" described as a hitherto undiscovered play believed to be the work of William Shakespeare. "Immediately the flames of controversy are fanned" say the programme, "and the age-old question asked: 'if the authorship cannot be clearly ascribed to Shakespeare, could it have been Bacon or just some ham?'"

The play opened in pre-reformation England a year or two after the accession of Henry to the throne. These were turbulent times and the lords marcher, proud of their semi-independent status, were not wholly accustomed to centralised control. "Although in the play there are one or two coincidental references to nomenclature in use at the present day (says the programme) it is pleasant

to reflect that the undelved pages of a work written before the close of the sixteenth century cannot possibly contain any reference to persons existing now."

In spite of this explanation, the "coincidental references" were truly remarkable and it was only by use of great subterfuge that King Henry and Prince James avoided an attack on Love Lane Castle by the combined forces of Thomas the Beloved (Abbot of Chester), Count Bengehazi, Owen ap Rhostyllen and My Lord Sandiway. As other characters included Friar Joseph, the Laird Whulliegullie, Sir Peter Towel and the Lord Mayor, the timely discovery of the play will add to the status of Shakespeare, not only as a playwright, but as a seer.

The players who took part in this three-act masterpiece were the Misses Dorothy Black, Joyce McLellan, Jessie Perrin and Ella Williams, Messrs. E. Davies, H. T. Edwards, W. A. Gibson, R. Huyton, N. E. Jones, J. McDonald, R. G. Patterson, L. St. Germier, R. W. Smith, F. M. Taylor and D. Tomsett. The author was, in fact, Mr. A. P. Whyte, the Internal Auditor, who also produced with Mr. W. A. Gibson.

At the conclusion of the stage show, which was compered by Mr. N. E. Jones, Mr. D. H. Kendon expressed his appreciation of the performance and thanked all those concerned for the work which had obviously gone into the arrangements for the evening, referring in particular to the very high standard of the decorations which had been designed and executed by Miss Maureen Stoops.

(continued on page 16)

## Some scenes from Headquarters Office pantomime

### "From Bard to Worse"

Top—King Henry and Prince James as portrayed by W. A. Gibson and L. St. Germier.

Centre—From l. to r. are R. W. Smith, R. Huyton, Jessie Perrin, J. McDonald and H. T. Edwards.



Bottom left—The three witches as played by Joyce McLellan, Ella Williams and Dorothy Black.

Bottom right—This handsome trio consists of N. E. Jones, E. Davies and R. G. Patterson.







This photograph was taken during a film show at the Love Lane party.

The evening's entertainment concluded with dancing (under the direction of Mr. A. C. Brazendale) to the music of Joe Incé and his Band, with an interlude of square dancing by Misses Maureen Stoops, Joan Hall, Rita Dodd, Marjorie Allison, Jessie Perris, Ruth Holmes, Alma Taylor and Mrs. Leah McRobert, who had been coached by Miss R. V. Mooney.

The committee responsible for the arrangements consisted of Mr. A. C. Brazendale (Chairman), Mr. R. McDonald (Vice-Chairman), Miss M. Stoops (Secretary), Mr. W. P. Hudson (Treasurer), Misses Ruth Horner, Ella Williams and Dorothy Black and Messrs. S. G. Griffiths, N. E. Jones, E. Davies and A. Nuttall.

#### Children's Party

A party for children of the staff under the age of 14 years was held at Love Lane on 31st December when some 60 children enjoyed themselves at games, community singing and film show.

Mr. W. A. Gibson (Assistant Establishments Officer) proved a rubicund Father Christmas and gave each child a present from the

Christmas tree, and there was also a film show, with Mr. S. G. Griffiths (Commercial Dept.) as operator.

Arrangements for the proceedings had been made by Miss M. D. Stoops assisted by the Misses J. Carroll, M. Styles, M. Allison, D. Dennehy, and Messrs. E. Hewitt, R. Harrison, D. Brimble, and N. Brooks.

Mr. A. C. Brazendale and Miss R. Horner were the pianists and Mr. A. Nuttall and the canteen staff served a delightful tea.

#### AT WALLASEY

**A** MARIONETTE show by Mr. S. Martin (Division) was a popular feature at North Wirral District Children's party, held at Sea View Road Sports and Social Club, on 10th December.

Mrs. E. Sanders filled the role of Father Christmas and presented each child with a gift, and tea was served by Mesdames Hatton, Buchanan and Manifold, wives of members of the Wallasey Electricity Club.

The children, whose ages were from 5 to 11 years, and numbered in the region of 70, spent an extremely happy afternoon.

#### AT DERBY HOUSE

The Accountant's Department No. 1 Sub-Area as usual threw themselves wholeheartedly into the task of entertaining the staff on 23rd December.

A slick song and dance routine by young members of the Revenue Section started off the show and a more enthusiastic reception could not have been given to the "Toppers". A glimpse of the Orient was brought to Derby House by the Powers, and, through a witty version of a "hit" tune, the slaves of Division 5 'hit' back at a certain taskmaster. It is probable that the Typists had their tongues in their cheeks whilst reciting their "Hymn of Hate", and authentic in dress and manner, the Billing Room gave a rousing version of courting "Fifty Years Ago". Costs, Stores and Cash blended their voices to make a very professional quartette, and by popular request, Dr. Woodski's Band made a welcome return from the Addressograph, followed by

a very polished version of "Burlington Bertie" by Miss M. Cain.

"The Twins" (Messrs. Riley and Hewitt) promised a touching domestic scene until one of the 'twins' squirted the whole company with soda water. The nurses (Mrs. Chamberlain and Miss W. Whyte) retaliated with custard pies, which brought this turn to a sudden close. Songs by Miss Sylvia Lomas and Mr. John Woods were delightful, and the Costs boys gave considerable enjoyment in their presentation of "Teesy-Weesy Tod". Before the curtain fell, we saw an even slicker song and dance routine by the "Four Dolly Sisters" (Messrs. Riley, Hewitt, Stevens and Wilkinson).

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. M. Riley to all who took part and to Miss V. Whyte, who organised and produced the afternoon's entertainment, and to Mr. Geddes who accompanied on the piano throughout.



Ladies taking refreshment during a lull in the proceedings at the South District (Lister Drive) Yuletide party at Thingwall Road Sports Club.



Mr. D. H. Kendon entertains Board Members, Mr. J. A. Duncan and Mr. G. A. S. Nairn and ladies, at the annual staff dance.



## A Good Year

**S**PEAKING at Board Head-Quarter's Christmas luncheon on 21st December, our Chairman (Mr. D. H. Kendon) said that up to the end of November, 1955, the increase in sales of electricity in the Manweb area was higher than anywhere else in the country. He also said that on the previous day the Board had met its greatest ever demand for electricity — 1,001,000 kilowatts being required to meet the load.

Mr. Kendon was speaking of the progress which had been made during 1955 and said that although we all had different responsibilities, each one of us was a link in the chain which had made the progress possible.

"I want to thank everyone for the good work done during the

year. It has been a good year, as the annual report and accounts show, and you can study them to advantage and with a sense of achievement," said Mr. Kendon.

There was also a presentation to Mr. E. Donally (Board Headquarters Drawing Office) who has completed 35 years' service in the industry.

The meal was served by the members of the Local Advisory Committee, and Mr. E. Davies (Chairman of the Committee) expressed the thanks of the staff to Mr. Kendon.

Acknowledgments were expressed to Mr. Colter, Mr. Nuttall and the members of the canteen staff for the excellence of the cuisine.

## At the Manweb Staff Dance held at Liverpool last month

Top—Mr. R. N. Pegg (Manager No. 4 Sub-Area) and his party.

Centre—Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary), Mrs. Parker, and Mr. J. Taylor (Purchasing Officer).



Mr. D. S. Webb Jones (Southport District Commercial Officer) demonstrates the disappearing glass trick.

Below—Mr. G. E. Thomas (North Wirral District Engineer) with colleagues in No. 3 Sub-Area and their wives.



## Interrupted Reverie

BY ARITE CHARLES

IT was cold when we started for the party. I had been almost asleep when they called for me and, although I had had no invitation they insisted that I go. Yes, they had transport and apparently there was no alternative.

There was snow on the ground as we made for the road and the trees looked really beautiful with their new white coats on. The icy roads made the journey a bit tricky until we came to the towns, then it was just a greying slush that passes for snow to towns-people.

### Dressed up.

I must admit that my hosts were pleased to see me. We just had time to get dressed up after the journey and the party started. I had all sorts of presents given to me, far more than I could cope with really, but anyway everybody had a good time and that's the important thing, isn't it?

For myself, I was quite ready to go back home, these hectic nights in a city atmosphere were not my idea of a good time. When the time came to leave I thanked my friends as well as I could and set off, as I thought for home, but no, the driver was going to another party and we, perforce, had to go as well.

### Second Party.

Now this party was, I must admit, the better of the two. Perhaps it was because I got so much more attention, perhaps

it was because all the guests were little children, I'm not sure that it wasn't both. They were lovely kids, full of fun, their eyes twinkling, some crying because they were happy. I couldn't resist it, all the presents that I had from the other party had just to go to these children. They all had presents, you know the kind—dolls, motor-cars, cowboy outfits, guns, shops and more dolls.

### Worse for wear.

When this party finished, I was definitely feeling the worse for wear. The driver and the people who had brought me had gone and I was left alone in the room. I had bits of decorations, broken strings, battered stars all over me and in the darkness of the night I wondered what would happen to me. I had seen lots of other friends of mine start a journey from the forest, just as I did and now here was I alone and far from home. Someone said that I might make a fire for some old folks and now that Christmas is over I don't think I would mind even that.

*P.S.—I've just heard that my official biography should read something like this:—"Once again the Christmas tree for Area Board Headquarters came from No. 4 Sub-Area and that it was subsequently sent to Charles Thomson's Mission for Poor Children, Birkenhead, together with gifts given by members of Headquarters' Staff".*

## NALGO TABLE TENNIS

In the second round of the Nalگو Table Tennis Cup, the Liverpool Electricity Branch journeyed to Chester to play the City of Chester Branch on 29th December. The team of Arthur Taylor and Norman Brooks (Love Lane), Alf Vicars and Arnold Longdon (Hatton Garden) and Reg Adams (Lister Drive) had a resounding win, beating the opposition 10-0. The score did not reflect truly on the evening's play, Vicars having a close game with his opposite No. 3 and Brooks going to three games with their No. 2.

In the next round the Liverpool Electricity Branch meet the Cheshire County team at Liverpool. County, who are the holders, seem favourites again for the title, but Liverpool do not intend to go down without fighting. It looks as if the match will depend on the tussle between Liverpool's champion Arthur Taylor and Cheshire County's Bill Devine. Last year Devine beat Taylor in three games.

## OLYMPIC NURSERY

As a result of her success at the Welsh Amateur Athletic Association meeting in Colwyn Bay last July, Miss Gwynneth Llewelyn-Lewis, 17 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Llewelyn Lewis (Anglesey District Manager) has been selected to attend a special track and field training course in Shropshire under the direction of Mr. Geoffrey Dyson, Chief National Coach. Gwynneth, who is a pupil at the Holyhead Grammar School, is the only girl from Wales to be chosen for this course.

## CRICKET, 1956

The Cricket Section of Board Headquarters Sports Club would like to hear from teams in MANWEB'S area desirous of home and away fixtures on Saturday or Sunday during the coming season.

Interested secretaries are invited to write with dates to the Editor of *Contact* who will pass the information on to the Secretary at Love Lane.



The Liverpool Electricity table tennis team who are having a successful run in the Merseyside and North Wales District Nalگو competition. L. to r. Messrs. S. Green (Hatton Garden), A. Taylor (Love Lane), C. Holden (Derby House), N. Brooks (Love Lane), R. Adams (Lister Drive).

### GOODBYE, MR. COATES!

This month has seen the departure of Mr. T. Coates (Manager of No. 3 Sub Area) to take over the Deputy Chairmanship of the North Western Electricity Board at Manchester, and on behalf of *Contact* readers we wish him every success in his new sphere.

Mr. Coates joined Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department in 1934 as a technical engineer and on Vesting Day held the appointment of Deputy City Electrical Engineer.

During the War he served with the Royal Navy (Air Branch) as a pilot and commanded an air squadron.



### OBITUARY

Mrs. Emily Hird, wife of Mr. Llew Hird (senior wages clerk, Derby House), died on 25th November, 1955, and was interred in the family grave at Thurstaston Church. She had been ill from 1947 and since 1950 had been confined to a wheelchair.

Mr. Hird transferred from Coventry Sub-Area of the East Midlands Board to No. 1 Sub-Area in 1950, because of his wife's illness, and there is one son, Roger, aged 11.



Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jones.

### WEDDINGS

Miss Pamela Jones (Secretarial Department, No. 4 Sub-Area Office) was married to Mr. Neville Williams at Ruabon Parish Church on 31st December. Her colleagues presented her with an electric fire and an electric iron.

Miss Glenys Roberts (Secretarial Department, No. 4 Sub-Area Office) was married to Mr. Ralph Evans at the Trinity Church, Rhostyllen, on Saturday, 7th January, 1956. Her colleagues presented her with a Hoover steam iron.

Mr. Eric Phillips (Caernarvon District engineering staff at Bangor) was married to Miss H. G. Hughes, at Salem Congregational Chapel, Fourcrosses, Pwllheli, last month.

Mr. J. T. Jones (Caernarvon) to Miss Mair Jones at Beulah C.M. Chapel, Caernarvon. His colleagues presented him with a silver tea service.

### MR. J. RANKIN

After two months' absence through ill-health, Mr. James Rankin (Deputy Chairman of the Board) returned to his duties at Area Board Headquarters on 2nd January.

During his illness, Mr. Rankin received so many kind messages wishing him a speedy recovery that the task of thanking everyone individually will almost be an impossibility. He hopes, therefore, that those of his well-wishers whom he has not been able to thank personally will accept this as an acknowledgement of his most sincere appreciation of their kindness and of the great pleasure which their good wishes gave him.

### NEW YEAR NOTES

*A husband in his element is usually in hot water.*

*To err may be human, but to admit it isn't.*

*Do right and fear no man. Don't write and fear no woman.*

*The backbone is stronger than the wishbone.*

*Footprints in the sands of time cannot be made sitting down.*

*Many a man has started with a bee in his bonnet—and ended by marketing the honey.*

*Do not remove that fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet (Chinese proverb).*

*The smaller a man's mind the longer it takes him to make it up.*

*Some people are carried away by the sound of their own voices—but not far enough.*

### ENGAGEMENTS

Miss Jean Jones (Typing Pool, Rhostyllen), to Mr. Tudor Powell Jones, on 25th December.

Miss Myfanwy Griffiths (Typing Pool, Rhostyllen) to Mr. Bryan Matthews, on 25th December.

Miss Marie Acton (Typing Pool, No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters) to Mr. Robert Walker, on 25th December.

Mr. Emyr Jones (Drawing Office, Rhostyllen) to Miss Bronwen Roberts, on 24th December

Miss Lorna Grimes (Telephonist, Area Board Headquarters) to Mr. John Dunn, on 24th December.

Mr. Percy Roberts (Cost Department, No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters) has been presented with a son, Peter Martin.

### TECHNICAL TERMS SIMPLIFIED



No. 22  
"STANDING CHARGES"