

FOOTBALLERS OF No. 4 SUB-AREA

Drawn for "Contact" by J. Bagshaw



# Contact



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



To refresh your memories, we reproduce here the winning photograph in our first Photographic competition "The Country Cottage" by Mr. F. Chynoweth. The photograph is a perfectly straightforward one, in fact much of its charm is due to its very simplicity. Mr. Chynoweth recognised that this particular rural scene would make a pleasing study; he chose a suitable viewpoint to incorporate Dobbin in the foreground and presto, a prizewinner! It's as easy as that—or is it?

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS

In this issue will be found a leaflet giving particulars of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held on Saturday, 21st July, at Thingwall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool. The event is sponsored by the District Joint Advisory Council, and employees of both Board and Division are eligible to enter. There are also classes for wives and children. Refreshments will be served at Thingwall Road from 1 p.m. onwards. A fun fair, concert, puppets, etc. will provide plenty of varied entertainment.

#### OUR COVER PHOTO

We are always seeking new usages for electrical apparatus, but Michael Bentine is a step ahead of us, as this month's cover photo shows. He has devised a complete stage variety act with a vacuum cleaner and its accessories as his only "props". He does everything with the cleaner—except clean—and next month we will show some further misuses by this versatile entertainer. (Photo by courtesy of Electrolux Ltd.)



# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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## Editorial

MANWEB employees were well to the fore last month, with Mr. W. H. Roberts, of our Birkenhead staff being nominated Mayor Elect of Bebington, and Mr. Roy Stewart, of Bootle Service Centre, winning the finals of the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition at London. Successes—like calamities—usually come in threes, and we are wondering what third notable achievement will be recorded next.

At the moment, the most likely quarter seems to be the Electron Players, the talented band of Liverpool actors, whose many admirers are hoping that they will carry off top honours in the current British Drama League Competition. They have already passed through the preliminary round, and by the time this appears in print will have competed in the Divisional finals on 28th April.

On 15th May the Players are presenting "Ladies in Retirement" at the David Lewis Theatre Liverpool. Tickets at 2/- and 3/6 may be obtained from Mr. J. Butterwith (Lister Drive), Mrs.

M. Wise (Love Lane), Mrs. Forrest (Derby House) and Miss McKeown (Hatton Garden).

Summer activities will soon be in full swing, and Manweb Sports Clubs throughout our Area are looking forward to a record season. Many new Clubs have been formed since last year, and there should be plenty of opportunity now for continuance of the inter-office cricket matches, etc., which proved so popular last year.

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# NEWS

FROM THE  
SUB-AREAS

## BEBINGTON'S NEXT MAYOR Honour for Manweb Employee



Mr. W. H. Roberts

Many messages of congratulation have been received by Mr. W. H. Roberts, of our Birkenhead District staff, since the announcement that he had become Mayor Elect of Bebington.

Mr. Roberts, who is 54, was for many years on the Birkenhead Borough Treasurer's staff, and

since nationalisation has been a Manweb meter reader and collector. He has been a member of Bebington Borough Council for 20 years, and became an Alderman in 1946. His main interests have been in housing and educational matters, and he is Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee and a Governor of several Primary and Secondary Schools.

Among his other activities Mr. Roberts sits on several of the Council's Committees. He is Chairman of the Parks and Baths' Committee and is a member of the Finance and the Law and Parliamentary Committees.

He is also a member of the Divisional Education Executive Committee, the Birkenhead and District Employment Committee, and is Chairman of Bebington Youth Committee.

With such commitments it is small wonder that Mr. Roberts has little time for hobbies, but still maintains his interest in football by watching an occasional match—in his early days he was a well-known player and referee.

"In spite of the time which public work occupies," Mr. Roberts told *Contact*, "if I had the choice I would do the same again."

Mr. Roberts, who has a daughter of 21, added a tribute to the help he had received from his wife, and on behalf of all readers we wished the future Mayor and Mayoress of Bebington every success in their year of office—which will commence on 22nd May.

## LOVE LANE SPORTS CLUB



Since its inception in March the new Manweb H.Q. Sports and Social Club has got off to a good start, and a variety of activities are under way.

First of these was the introduction of lunchtime Quiz Programmes on an inter-departmental basis. The initial joust was between teams of four each from Engineering and Accountancy Departments. Establishments versus Commercial were the contestants in the following week and since then so many gauntlets have been thrown that the organisers are much exercised to find suitable and sufficient



Mr. L. J. Archer, Mr. J. M. Hatton, Miss N. Healey and Mr. C. S. S. Baldwin, the Engineering Department team, making up their minds what a Dog-Watch is.

questions to put at these weekly contests.

With a membership of over 90 per cent of the Love Lane staff, the Club now have sufficient financial backing to purchase equipment for table tennis, darts, etc. Two dart boards were installed on 16th April, and at an informal ceremony after office hours on that day Mr. J. Eccles (Chairman of the Board) christened the boards by throwing the first darts. His example was



"Which is the heavier, a pound of gold or a pound of feathers?" The Accountancy Department team pondering over this question are Mr. Andrews, Miss Phyllis Jesse, Mr. E. Hewitt, and Mr. A. N. Todd. Incidentally, Miss Jesse gave the right answer—a pound of feathers is heavier, being 16-ozs. compared with gold's 12-ozs. (Troy) to the pound.

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followed by Mr. D. P. Oliver (Deputy Chairman) and Mr. H. Evans (a member of the Board and Chairman of the Consultative Council).

The Board agreed to support the Club to the extent of contributing a sum of money equal to that given by the members, and at this ceremony Mr. Eccles handed over the cheque from the Board to Mr. A. G. Ward the Club Chairman.



Like every good Chairman, Mr. Ward (Chairman of the Love Lane Sports and Social Club) keeps his eye on the money as Mr. J. Eccles hands over the Board's cheque.

### Mr. CHAPLIN RETIRES

In previous spring issues of *Contact* we have published a list of reasonably priced holiday accommodation recommended by our readers.

We have received many requests to repeat this feature for the 1951 holiday season, and the first list of addresses is given below. Readers should note that where prices are mentioned they should be taken as a rough guide only.

**Lynmouth.** Mrs. Crompton, "East Lyn," Lynmouth, Devon. 10/- bed and breakfast.

**Torquay.** Mr. and Mrs. Jones, "Kinellan," 537 Babbacombe Rd., Torquay. 10/6 bed and breakfast—£5.5.0 per week.

**Wells.** Ancient Gate House, Wells, Somerset. 10/6 bed and breakfast.

**Ryde.** Mrs. S. Vidlee, "Geneve Villa," 99 St. John's Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight (Central, near station, 10 minutes walk from the sea).

**Welshpool.** Miss E. H. Jones, "Guest House," Garthmyl, Montgomeryshire. (Five miles out of Welshpool, ideal for angling).

**Four Crosses.** Mrs. Pritchard, "Greystones," Four Crosses, Montgomeryshire. (Five or six miles from Oswestry—for an ideal fishing holiday).

### HELP FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS

After 41 years in the industry Mr. John Vivian Chaplin, A.I.E.E., Colwyn Bay Sub-District Commercial Officer, retired on 31st March.

Mr. Chaplin commenced his career in Llandudno. He served in the R. A. M. C. during the war and subsequently joined the Colwyn Bay Corporation Electricity Department in 1919. He held various positions with the Corporation until 1930, when he became the Borough Electrical Engineer and Manager. After Vesting Day he was appointed Colwyn Bay Sub-District Commercial Officer, his intimate knowledge of local conditions proving most valuable.

He takes with him the best wishes of a large circle of friends both in the industry and in the civic circles of Colwyn Bay.



Mr. J. V. Chaplin

### Congratulations to

Mrs Vera Harper of Lister Drive Canteen staff and Mr. Fred Cato, electrician in the Lister Drive Cooker Repairs Workshop, who were married in Liverpool on Easter Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Lennan on the birth of a daughter, Kathryn Anne, on 11th April. Mr. Lennan is Senior Administrative Assistant at No. 2 Sub-Area Headquarters.

Miss Helen Garner of the Correspondence Department, Eversley, on her engagement to Mr. R. Lightfoot of Runcorn.

Miss Dorothy Dutton, Revenue Department, Eversley, who married Mr. Eric Jones of Runcorn at St. Michael's Church, Runcorn on Saturday, 17th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Snowball on the birth of a daughter, Helen, on 13th March. Mr. Snowball is in the Supply Department at Eversley.

Mr. A. Baines, chargehand in the Mains Department, Carlton Street, St. Helens, who retired in March this year after 37 years service.

Mr. W. H. Roberts, meter reader and collector of Birkenhead, on becoming Mayor Elect of Bebington (see page 2).

Mr. R. Stewart, Senior Sales Assistant, Bootle, on winning the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition Shield (see page 18).

Miss Joan Dugale, Sales Assistant, Formby, who married Mr. Ernest Emmerson at Kent Road Methodist Church, Southport, on 17th March

Miss May Wearing of Southport who was married at St. Andrew's Church, Southport on 24th March to Mr. Alan Blair.

Miss Joan Smith of Southport on her marriage to Mr. Roy Garner of Scarisbrick on 31st March at St. John's Church, Birkdale. Miss Smith, who was one of the competitors in the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition, celebrated her 21st birthday on 14th March.

Miss Judith Evans, typist in the Engineering Section, Lister Drive, who married Mr. Thomas Wareing on 31st March at St. Anne's Church, Prescott Road, Liverpool.

Mr. Sidney Costin, Cooker Records Department, Lister Drive, who was awarded the Gold Medal of the London Academy of Dramatic Art on 10th April. Mr. Costin gained his silver medal last December.

Mr. G. G. Heys, Electrical Fitter, Warrington, on his marriage to Miss D. Fell at St. Mary's Bruera Church, Nr. Chester, on Easter Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Heys spent their honeymoon at Swale Dale in North Yorkshire.



Mr. J. G. Gerard, of St. Helens Commercial staff, leaving Holy Trinity Church, Parr Mount, St. Helens, with his bride Miss Edith Thomas.

## REBUILDING OUR SOUTHPORT OFFICES

Manweb's premises at 188 Lord Street, Southport have seen many changes since they were first erected. The main building opened its career as one of the first ice rinks in the country, and was operated by the Southport Glaciarium and Ice Manufacturing Co.

Subsequently it became a roller skating rink and a Drill Hall, but had lain empty for several years before it was taken over by the Southport Corporation in 1925. It was used as our District Office, stores, workshop and Service Centre until early this year, when serious defects were discovered in the main roof members. The main building is of most unusual construction in that the roof span is 64 feet and the trusses are all made of wood (a 46 foot span is normally the limit). Each of these great wooden trusses weighs 10 tons, but owing to their age they were not taking the

weight properly, which caused dangerous straining to occur on the other roof supports.

During the last heavy snowfall cracks developed all over the roof, and the premises had to be evacuated. Temporary accommodation for the office, store and workshop staff has been found elsewhere in Southport, and for the time being the Board's portable exhibition building has been erected on a nearby site to house the Service Centre staff—who, by the way, are doing very good business under rather difficult circumstances.

It is intended to rebuild the offices and stores so as to give a modern elevation to the Lord Street frontage. At the rear, the old ice rink building will be replaced by a steel frame structure which will provide greatly improved working conditions. It is hoped that the old demonstration theatre and showrooms



## BUSINESS AS USUAL AT SOUTHPORT

The Board's portable exhibition makes an admirable temporary office and showroom at Southport.



## THIS WAS ONCE AN ICE RINK

The maze of scaffolding in the stores and workshops section at Southport. This building was once famous as the Southport Glaciarium, and was used for ice and roller skating.

will be sufficiently sound to be incorporated in the new building as they stand.

Demolition work is now in progress, and one or two interesting discoveries have been made. The floor of the old Glaciarium was found to consist of maple boards, and 2 feet below these was a wooden floor covered with asphalt—probably used for ice skating. The whole of the timber on this lower floor was perished through lack of ventilation; an old shovel which came to light disintegrated into pieces on being handled, including the metal portion.

Other relics unearthed beneath the floor were old posters showing Edwardian couples disporting themselves on the ice in what, for those days, must have been a very daring pastime.

**ON THE MEND**  
Mr. R. Hughes, who is a member of the Commercial Section at Blaenau Ffestiniog, recently underwent an operation. We are pleased to be able to report that he is now progressing favourably.

## NOT NOT, BUT NOW!

They say one swallow doesn't make a summer, but one letter certainly does make a difference when it appears in the wrong place.

In the April issue of the Monthly Bulletin it was stated that "plans are not well advanced for the opening of another Linesmen's Training School in No. 4/5 Sub-Area." The inferred libel on those responsible for the planning of this new project was caused by one letter only, which turned the word "now" into "not."

We hasten to assure readers, therefore, that in fact plans are now very well advanced for the opening of this School at Llanrug, near Caernarvon, and a Welsh speaking instructor will commence operations there soon.

## STOP PRESS

At the Divisional Finals of the British Drama League, held at Cheadle Hulme on 28th April, the Liverpool Electron Players were knocked out.

## DISPLAY TROPHY PRESENTED

NORTHWICH HOLD THE "ECCLES" SHIELD

Northwich Service Centre staff, winners of Manweb Christmas Window Display Competition, were personally congratulated by Mr. J. Eccles (Chairman of the Board) when he visited Northwich to present the "Eccles" Challenge Shield on 2nd April.

The occasion was marked by an informal ceremony in Northwich Service Centre, when, in addition to Mr. Eccles, there were present Mr. S. C. Harling (No. 2 Sub-Area Manager), Mr. W. Gilchrist (Chief Commercial Officer), Mr. H. Breckell (Sub-Area Commercial Officer), Mr. A. Stewart (District Commercial Officer) and Mr. W. W. Makin (District Engineer).

"You did extremely well to win this award from over 50 other Service Centres in the Area," Mr. Eccles told the staff, "and I congratulate all of you who contributed towards the excellent display."

Mr. Eccles then underlined

the importance of the Commercial staff, whom he described as the shop window of the Board. Most people judged Manweb as a whole by the standards of the Commercial staff, who should leave the public in no doubt that we were here to serve them and give them what they wanted. Judging by the increase in their sales, Northwich staff were fully aware of their obligations in that respect.

### Good Business

The Chairman also noted with pleasure that 60 per cent of the Northwich sales were for cash. To-day, he said, cash sales were far more difficult to make than hire purchase sales, but they were good business for the Board—and for the public. "We are the same as any other commercial organisation," he said, "and if we ever fail to appreciate that fact, we shall not be a success; please the customer, and you cannot go far wrong. I wish



### THE WINNING TEAM

Members of the Northwich and Knutsford Service Centre staffs whose combined efforts won the Manweb Christmas Window Display Competition, 1950. From left to right they are Mr. B. Livesley, Mr. L. Smith, Mr. S. Walsh, Miss N. Tomlinson, Miss V. Wragge and Mrs. J. Poole.

Mr. Eccles presenting his Challenge Shield to Mr. L. Smith, representing the Northwich staff.



### Display Trophy—continued.

you at Northwich a continuance of the good service which you have given in the past."

Mr. Harling said he was very proud that the honour of being the first holder of the Challenge Shield had fallen to No. 2 Sub-Area, and on behalf of the winning team he thanked the Chairman for his gesture in personally presenting the trophy.

### ARROW CAUSES SHORT

A child's prank was responsible for cutting off the electricity supply to villages between Harlech and Aberdovey on Saturday evening, 31st March. Some boys were playing with a bow and arrows near an H.T. Terminal pole at Aberdovey when one shot an arrow which lodged across the H.T. wires and—according to the lad's description—"caused loud noises and flashes of light."

Mr. A. Greasley-Jones (Section Engineer, Towyn) and Linesman J. H. Hughes soon traced the cause of the trouble, but their opinions of budding Robin Hoods are best left unprinted!

### NATIONAL SERVICE ?

Ultra rapid service rendered to a Liverpool doctor who was spending the weekend at his house in Dyserth, has earned a bouquet for the local No. 4 Sub-Area staff concerned.

When the doctor arrived at his house at 2 p.m. on 7th April he discovered that there was no electricity supply, due to a defect in the outside main.

"After some delay I 'phoned Rhuddlan 348," he writes, "and received a courteous reply and in a matter of minutes your engineer was on the spot and had effected repairs, thus enabling me not only to have a meal, but also to listen in to the broadcast of the Grand National at 3 p.m. I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the excellence of your service."

On that particular day it seems that even Nickel Coin couldn't beat our engineers for speed.

## TOWYN-IN CARDIGAN BAY

Claimed to be the largest Urban District Area in the whole of the country, Towyn U.D.C. comprises Towyn, Aberdovey and the villages of Bryn-crug and Cwrt. Holidaymakers return year after year to this part of Cardigan Bay, for it has a great variety of interest with its sea, mountains, rivers, lakes, waterfalls and magnificent scenery.

Notable among its beauty spots is the Dolgoch Ravine with its three waterfalls. Dolgoch was given to the town by a local resident, and—unlike many lesser beauty spots in Wales—may be entered without charge!

The Talylyn narrow gauge railway at Towyn is reputed to be the only one of its type in the world. Its two 86 year old saddle back engines on the 7 mile track give it a typical Emmett like appearance, but nevertheless it is extremely popular with

visitors. Ownership of this railway was recently transferred by Lady Haydn Jones to a Society of English railway enthusiasts who banded together to ensure its preservation on a non-profit making basis.

At one time the healing waters of St. Cadfan's Wells were visited by victims of rheumatism from far and near, and they say that many returned to their homes cured after bathing in its waters. Lest any reader is thinking of being able to leave his crutches at Towyn, we hasten to add that St. Cadfan's Wells have since been built over.

Craig Aderyn (Bird Rock) is a well known bird sanctuary, and practically every specie of British sea birds may be found there. Not far off are the ruins of Castell-y-Bere (Bere Castle) which was the last bastion in Wales against the English invaders.

### SANG 12,775 TIMES!

While calling on a farmer last month, Mr. S. G. Roper, of Area Board Headquarters, was asked if he could get an electric kettle repaired. When the kettle was produced Mr. Roper recognised that it was one which he had sold the farmer in 1946, which prompted him to enquire how often the farmer had used it.

"At least seven times a day, and it has never failed before" was the reply.

In the subsequent discussion, the following facts came to light:—

The kettle had boiled 12,775 times, each operation taking five minutes, so with a loading of 1.5 kilowatts the electricity used totalled 1,596 units. At  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per unit



"Sometimes I wish our appliances would break down—just to give our repairman something to do."  
(Electrical Merchandising)

## FAREWELL PRESENTATION

Mr. E. W. Faithfull relinquished his duties as District Commercial Officer, Aberystwyth, on 22nd March to take up his new appointment as Commercial Manager, Newport, Monmouthshire.

At a farewell presentation, appreciation of his services and good wishes for his future were expressed by Messrs. W. T. Griffiths (Section Engineer), D. H. Hughes (Commercial Assistant), W. D. Slater (Meter and Test Engineer) and C. Hutchings (Chief Clerk).

On behalf of the District Staff, Mrs. O. Fisher Davies presented Mr. Faithfull with an electric alarm and a kitchen clock.

Mr. Faithfull has had a long



Mr. E. W. Faithfull receiving the staffs gift from Mrs. O. P. Fisher-Davies.

association with Aberystwyth, and prior to Vesting Day he was the Engineer and Manager of the Aberystwyth Corporation Electricity Department.

## EXCHANGE AND MART

For sale Gent's Rudge Sports Cycle with hub dynamo and Sturmy-Archer three speed; in excellent condition—£15 or nearest offer.—Contact Box No. 16.

**Wanted—Singer drop head Sewing Machine**, in good condition. A. G. James, No. 2 Sub-Area, Sandiway House, Nr. Northwich.

Some of the company present at the dance arranged by the staff of Derby House, Liverpool on 30th March.



*Focus on Pigs***SOWS ARE SO STUPID****BUT ELECTRICITY PROVIDES THE CURE**

With the limelight focussed so frequently on rural development in No. 4/5 Sub-Area, one is inclined to forget that in spite of its predominantly urban character, No. 1 Sub-Area includes some 500 farms within its boundaries. The majority of these are in the recently formed Liverpool North District, and the staff there already have made a start at getting in touch with their farming community.

**Model Mothers, but—**

One comparatively simple but most effective application of electricity on the farm is in connection with pig rearing. Pigs, like humans, have their little foibles, and it appears that sows, while making model mothers in every other respect, have an inherent weakness for sitting or lying on their offspring, with an entire disregard for subsequent results—which are often fatal. Indeed, the negligence on the part of sows is the cause of considerable losses among pig keepers, many of whom think themselves lucky if they do not suffer at least one or two fatalities in every litter.

**Protected Area**

The usual precaution taken by farmers is to construct a creep in one corner of the sty. A creep consists of boarding or bars which are so placed that while the piglets can pass freely underneath, the greater size of the sow prevents her from following them into the "protected area." As long as the piglets are on the correct side of the barrier, there-

fore, there is no danger of their being crushed by their ungainly mother; the snag is, of course, in inducing the youngsters to retire behind the protective bars of the creep at every available opportunity.

This problem is particularly acute in cold weather, when the desire not only for food, but for warmth, makes the piglets loth to leave their parent. This natural attraction for warmth gives electricity an opportunity to come to the farmer's aid. It has been found that by installing one or two infra red lamps over the creep, the welcome warmth which they diffuse is soon appreciated by the litter, and within a few hours after their appearance in the world the piglets realise that the most comfortable place for a quiet nap is under the rays of the lamps.

**A Good Habit**

By the time they are a few days old they have acquired the habit of spending most of their time in the safety of the creep—interspersed, of course, by periodic foraging expeditions for sustenance as the need arises.

This infra red lamp idea is comparatively new, and it is one of the points stressed by the Liverpool North District Commercial representatives when they visit the farmers in their Area. The information which they have provided on this subject has already borne fruit. Early last month, for instance, Mr. R. Pilkington, of Gelling's Farm, Knowsley, telephoned Bootle Service



**THESE  
LITTLE  
PIGS  
STAYED  
HOME !**

The week-old pigs have been taking a nap in the safety of the creep, but the pangs of hunger make them come out to mother !

Manners are forgotten in the scramble for sustenance, but Ma preserves her unruffled calm.

And so to bed once more, with the infra red lamp shedding its comfortable warmth on a satisfied litter.



## INFRA RED PIGLETS

★  
"Can't we  
have an  
electric train,  
Mum?"



Reproduced by courtesy of "Eastern Electricity Magazine"

Centre with an urgent request for some of the lamps, as he expected two of his sows to farrow shortly. Mr. W. Wallwork (District Commercial Officer) secured the lamps from the manufacturer's depot, Mr. H. Bourne (First Assistant District Commercial Officer) arranged for their installation, and they were in operation on the following day.

When we saw Mr. Pilkington a week after the "happy events" he expressed great satisfaction

with the results of the lamps. "Up to now," he told us, "I always reckoned to lose two or even more from every litter as the result of crushing by the sow. This is the first time I have used infra red lamps, and both litters are doing splendidly, with not one death so far."

The fact that Mr. Pilkington has ordered more of the lamps is sufficient testimony to their effectiveness.

## FIND THE PLACES

At a Conference for Manweb employees, ten representatives attended from various parts of the Area. Very fortunately for this puzzle, it so happened that all the persons' names were anagrams of the places they came from. Those who attended were:-

- (1) Wyn Caybol
- (2) Don Dullan
- (3) Stan Tynerp
- (4) Rae Nonvarc
- (5) Rob Myf
- (6) Loo Bet
- (7) Ron Tarwing

- (8) Lee Wayal
- (9) Tod Fharr
- (10) Len Stesh

Can you find the ten places which these people came from? To give you a start, Wyn Caybol came from Colwyn Bay.

A "surprise prize" will be awarded to the reader who sends the first correct entry to be drawn out of the hat on 17th May. Send your solutions to Contact Puzzle, Manweb, Electricity House Love Lane, Pall Mall, Liverpool 3—a postcard will do.

"Wirepuller" discourses on

# SMELLS

Have you noticed lately that, if anything goes wrong at the Office or Works, it is said to "have a smell."

Is this a sign, I wonder, that we are getting back to the "nasalised" state of the ancient world when people made great use of sweet smells. G. K. Chesterton's dog, Quoodles, had a great contempt of we moderns, for he was made to say:—

*"They haven't got no noses,  
The fallen sons of Eve;  
Even the smell of roses  
Is not what they suppose;"*

The use of perfumes goes back some thousands of years. In ancient Egypt they were used extensively in both religious and funeral ceremonies, and the Bible tells us that Joseph, when sold, was taken into Egypt by merchants carrying spices and perfumes. Even Aaron, after the return from captivity, burned perfumes upon an altar.

### Honest Pleasure.

The ancient Greeks and Romans learned of the use of aromatics and perfumes from the Phoenicians, and Pliny tells us that the Romans considered the use of perfumes "one of the most honest of the pleasures of man."

The first perfume was the fragrant flower, and well-to-do Romans always had their homes filled with dried blossoms to keep the air perfumed—whence origin-

ated the custom of strewing the floors of houses and public buildings with sweet-smelling herbs to ward off sickness—and they carried their sweet smells with them to all the countries of the Empire including Celtic Britain.

With the onslaught of the savage Huns, Angles and Saxons on Western Europe and Britain, the refinement of morals and the use of perfumes disappeared, and not until the Crusaders had ventured into Arabia did the country now called England again learn the art of smelling sweet. The Court of Good Queen Bess made great strides to improve the smells of Englishmen, and lovers of the period always used the same kind of perfume—two hearts that smelt as one. Cloth merchants used perfumes to scent what was then described as "swete cloth."

### Does Electricity Smell?

One would have thought that electricity, as it flowed its way along the copper wires, did so clearly and without smell. However, the other day, listening to some fishermen at the local describing the foul smells of some of our rivers and canals, I said brightly, "Nobody can say that electricity smells."

One of the fishermen, apparently a victim of tiresome power cuts, glared at me and roared, "You are quite right mate, it does not smell, it blasted well stinks!"

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Limelight**  
 on the  
**Ladies**  
 EDITED BY JANE  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Leading Lady**



**Miss M. Worthington.**

Miss Margaret Worthington of St. Helens has the distinction of being the only lady to hold the post of Senior Sales Assistant on Manweb's staff.

She started her career as a comptometer operator in the St. Helens Borough Treasurer's Department. In 1933 she decided that as a Sales Assistant in the Electricity Department of the Corporation, she would find greater opportunities for meeting people and a more varied life than she found in her previous job, and has never since regretted her change of occupation.

When the E.D.A. Domestic Electrical Salesmanship Examinations were inaugurated in 1938,

Miss Worthington, without a great deal of enthusiasm, entered for the examination, passed and was awarded a Diploma. "I have since realised the merits of the course," she said; "time and again, knowledge that I gained at that time has proved invaluable. I would encourage any Sales Assistant who has not already done so to sit for this examination."

In 1943, when many of the male employees had been called into the Army, Miss Worthington was temporarily appointed Senior Sales Assistant. This appointment was confirmed on a permanent basis in 1945.

Eighteen months ago she was invited to become a member of the St. Helens branch of the Soroptomists Club. The membership is restricted to one representative from each trade or profession, who must hold an executive position, and Miss Worthington is the first member to represent the Electricity Industry.

A member of her local Staff Committee and a member of the Executive Committee for No. 2 Sub-Area Branch of N.A.L.G.O., Miss Worthington still finds time to enjoy visits to the theatre, to knit and to read—her favourite relaxation.

**In The News**

Mrs. Margaret Bone has enjoyed a varied career since joining the St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department in 1945. Originally a telephonist, she joined the Carlton Street staff as a Mains Clerk, and later transferred to the typists' department. At present she is working in the costs department of the Accounts Section and is also the typist for the Transport Office.



**Mrs. M. Bone.**

In her spare time she enjoys Philharmonic Concerts and straight plays, and although she takes no part herself, is keenly interested in amateur dramatics.

Mrs. Bone has agreed to act as *Contact* correspondent for the St. Helens (Carlton Street) Office, so budding poets, artists and those with a nose for news should get in touch with her at an early date.

**New E.D.A. Booklet**

For the purpose of emphasising the value of electrical appliances in a normal small dwelling house, and their correct installation, etc., the British Electrical Development Association are now preparing a booklet for circulation among Housing Authorities. The booklet will be profusely illustrated by photographs of repre-

Mrs. Hunt snapped while the upheaval in her kitchen was at its height. Note the enormous 10-ins. x 12-ins. plate camera on the right.

sentative dwellings in various parts of the country.

Last month an E.D.A. representative and photographer visited the Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead, and the Thorneyholme Estate, Knutsford, where our Commercial staffs had made arrangements for suitable household installations to be photographed.

At Birkenhead, Mrs. Hunt, of 46 Home Farm Road, nobly refrained from comment while her kitchen was littered with light cables, flood lamps and an enormous 10-inch x 12-inch plate camera to record her neatly arranged electric cooker, washing machine and other appliances. She took it all in good part, however, and now looks forward to the day when the booklet will hold up her domestic arrangements as an example to the rest of the country.



## MANWEB WINS NATIONAL

—SO TO SPEAK!

On the cover of the March issue of *Contact* appeared a photograph of the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition Shield. In the accompanying caption we expressed the hope that it would come to Manweb this year, and we are duly grateful to Mr. R. Stewart for turning the wish into reality.

This is a notable achievement, for the other competitors in the London finals on 12th April were the pick of all the other Area Boards, so that the competition is virtually on a national basis.

Mr. Stewart, who is the Senior Sales Assistant at our Bootle Service Centre, was the only male competitor to speak on "Artificial Illumination." The adjudicators were Mr. Frank Phillips of the B.B.C., Mr. H. Stephenson of the London County Council Education Authority and Mr. J. W. Thomas, the B.E.A. Education Officer, who all agreed

that the standard of the competitors was exceptionally high.

### A Friendly Face

On the morning of the competition, just as he was leaving his hotel, Mr. Stewart received a telegram of good wishes from his colleagues in Liverpool. "This cheered me considerably," he said. "When I arrived at Savoy Hill I found Mr. Forster of Hatton Garden there; he happened to be in London at the time and decided to call in and listen to the speakers. A friendly face in the audience is certainly a help, and as Mr. Forster sat near the back I addressed most of my speech directly to him, and so made sure that the adjudicators, who sat near the front, could hear easily."

When asked for advice for future candidates Mr. Stewart said "There's no doubt, you have to take it seriously and prepare your speech really well; plenty

of rehearsing and some good sound criticism is most helpful."



Mr. Roy Stewart, of Bootle Service Centre, being congratulated by Mr. C. T. Melling (then Vice-Chairman of E.D.A.) at the presentation of the Faraday Silver Challenge Shield.

## ARTIFICIAL ILLUMINATION

(THE WINNING SPEECH)

Here is a shortened version of Mr. Stewart's winning talk on "Artificial Illumination":—

Have you ever thought how pleasant it is to walk at night-time through the well-lit streets of many of our towns, or perhaps to wander leisurely through some of the large stores we have, just looking at the attractive goods on display?

They are both quite simple pastimes, aren't they? Or perhaps at the end of the day's work we make our way homeward by tram, 'bus, train or motor car, and what a lovely feeling it is getting home—the windows are lit up and the house looks warm and cosy. Now this too is just a very ordinary part of everyday life. But have you ever considered what it would be like without artificial light?

### Light and Dark

Now I want you, for a moment, to think about primitive man, because in the earliest of days artificial light was unknown. Time was divided into separate parts—light and dark. During the hours of light he did his hunting and fishing, but in the dark there was nothing but long dreary nights with nothing to do but sleep. Added to that, of course, was his complete fear of darkness, for darkness and death have always been closely associated.

The first type of illumination was the wood fire, intended originally for warmth and protection; from that followed the development of artificial illumina-

tion. There was the firebrand, carcass oil and fat, candles and then the oil lamp, some of which are still in use in parts of the rural areas of this country to-day.

### Light Fare!

There was one very important thing wrong with the materials used to obtain illumination at this time, some were edible, so you can well imagine what happened when food was scarce. Needs of the stomach came first and of course the artificial lighting suffered.

One of the most important events in the growth of artificial light occurred in 1878, when a gentleman by the name of Swan patented and marketed the first electric light bulb, and at long last artificial light started to improve rapidly. When you consider it took many thousands of years to progress from the wood fire to electric light, it is an astonishing thing that over a period of roughly 70 years we have progressed from the earliest carbon lamp to modern fluorescent tubes. In comparison, a modern fluorescent tube gives 20 times more light than Swan's early lamp for the same amount of energy used.

### Peculiarities

Now I consider good artificial lighting helps us to preserve what is surely our greatest gift—the gift of sight, but how many people think about that when considering the lighting of their own homes. Let us imagine you are going to choose a new fitting for the home; you first of all find one whose appearance

pleases you, then you consider whether its shape and colour will match your furnishings, and if it does you purchase it, but few people consider the most important thing—is it going to give you the amount of illumination you require for the normal activities in the room you are buying for? If it is a room where you are going to do a lot of writing or needlework you obviously require more light than in a hall or bathroom. You see, each room of a house has its own peculiarities as far as lighting is concerned. Take, for instance, the kitchen; a woman spends a great deal of time in the kitchen preparing and cooking food, this is one room where a really good light is essential, and the fitting should be so positioned that she isn't working in her own light.

#### Experts Know Best

It is in matters such as these that you can get a great deal of assistance from your own Electricity Board. Your local Service Centre will be only too pleased to give you all the help they can with your lighting problems, so I do beg of you to take advantage of this aspect of consumer service. The average industrialist does take advantage of this service. To-day the lighting in our factories and workshops is better than ever before in the history of the country, chiefly because the lighting installations are prepared and designed by illumination experts who know their job. What are the results? Eyestrain has been removed, working conditions improved and output increased.

#### Street Lighting

A further important contribution artificial lighting has made

has been to street lighting. When you think back to the days when street lights were both infrequent and ineffective and compare it with a modern street lighting scheme you will realise what great strides have been made in this direction.

The ambition of a good street lighting engineer is to create a high surface brightness at road level, so that everything on the road is seen in silhouette against a lighter background, and where this has been achieved, what a pleasure it is to walk or drive along these roads. Good street lighting contributes much to life, principally, it reduces crime and more important it reduces accidents and makes the roads safer to use.

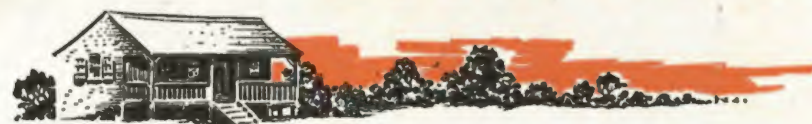
#### Safety Factor

Statistics show that where lighting has been improved, accidents are reduced in some instances by 80 or 90 per cent. In fact it is very true to say that at the present time most Chief Constables and Public Authorities are very conscious of the importance of good street lighting and its ability to provide the maximum of road safety and convenience at the minimum cost.

This is a further instance of the important part artificial lighting plays in our everyday life, and I hope I have been able to focus your attention on the importance of good lighting. With the domestic tariff at present  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per unit you can have 200 watts of lighting in your lounge, which, when used for 5 hours, will only cost you  $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Remember, good lighting is cheap—poor lighting is very dear.

# Club news



#### TABLE TENNIS

##### Hatton Garden beat Derby House

Through the courtesy of the Divisional Controller, the final of the Liverpool and District Branch N.A.L.G.O. Table Tennis Competition was held at Clarke Gardens on 29th March, when Hatton Garden A scored a fairly decisive victory over the Derby House B team.

It was a case of match play experience being pitted against optimistic enthusiasm and, as is always the case, experience won. The scores were 9 sets, 19 games and 475 points to Hatton Garden, against Derby Houses 1 set, 5 games and 370 points.

On behalf of N.A.L.G.O. the Cup was presented to the winners by Mr. F. M. Kneen (Secretary) who congratulated all concerned on the success of the Competition.

Our friends at Clarke Gardens made excellent arrangements for the match and a vote of thanks was passed to them and to those responsible for the provision and serving of refreshments.

The teams were :—

Hatton Garden : Messrs. A. Longden, A. Vicars, R. Adams, T. Jones and S. Green.

Derby House: Mr. H. Brooks, Miss D. Brewster, Messrs. C. Holden, K. Woodward and N. McKirgan.

#### NORTH WALES N.A.L.G.O. FINALS

The finals of the N.A.L.G.O. North Wales Sports Committee's competition were held at Rhyl on Thursday, 5th April.

Miss E. V. Jones (Commercial Department) and Mr. J. Grenville Roberts (Costs Department), who recently won the No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters Table Tennis tournament, went forward to compete in the final, supported by a party from Sub-Area Office.

Miss Jones won the Silver Cup presented in the final of the Ladies' Singles Table Tennis Competition by defeating Mrs. F. E. Williams, of the Rhyl and Rhuddlan Electricity Group.

Mr. Roberts was drawn against Mr. H. Needles, of Rhyl (a North Wales Champion), in the semi-final, and whilst he put up a strong fight, was defeated by Mr. Needles.

Our Rhyl and Ruddlan colleagues were very much in evidence in both team and individual competitions, the following taking part in Snooker, Billiards, Table Tennis and Darts : Mrs. F. E. Williams, Miss P. Davies, Mr. E. Grosse, Mr. D. Oldham, Mr. T. R. Jones, Mr. J. Parry, Mr. E. I. Williams, Mr. E. A. Roberts, Mr. A. Spargo, Mr. E. Royals, Mr. H. Parry, Mr. A. A. Roberts, Mr. F. L. Davies and Mr. N. Bellis.

## WELSH INTERNATIONAL



Mr. Brian Griffiths, a member of No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters Commercial staff, has acquitted himself well in youth football circles, having gained three International Caps.

Brian is a member of the Ruabon Athletic Club and gained

### "GRIDIRON CUP"

The result of the draw for the first round of the "Gridiron Cup" football competition is as follows:—

Percival Lane v. Wallasey  
Clarence Dock v. Lister Drive  
Southport v. Divisional H.Q.  
Machynlleth v. Warrington

Although the competition is organised by the Merseyside and North Wales Division of the B.E.A., Board employees are eligible to enter. The date fixed for the first round games to be played was 18th April.

### B.E.A. Lose to Students.

On 18th April the Machynlleth Group (B.E.A.) played at home in the first round of the Gridiron Cup Competition against a team of students from the Denbighshire Technical College, Wrexham. Taking into consideration the fact that Machynlleth had not previously played together as a

his first cap in a match between Wales and Ireland on 10th March in a Boys' Club International Football Match. Wales were the victors by 4 goals to 3.

His second cap resulted from a Youth International in which he played for Wales (again the victors), against Ireland on 31st March. The score for this game was 1—0.

The match which earned him his third cap was played against Scotland at Falkirk on 7th April. Wales won by 4 goals to 2, and Brian scored one of the goals for Wales.

He is to be warmly congratulated on his achievements and his future in the athletic world will be closely followed with interest by his colleagues.

team, they put up a commendable performance. However, it was clear that the students were the better side, for they forced the pace throughout the engagement, and there can be no denying that they merited their 4-2 victory.

The B.E.A. team (represented by nine Aberystwyth and two Towyn players) are hopeful of better results next time. W. D. Slater (Meter Test Engineer, Aberystwyth) played a sterling game in goal and could not be blamed for the three goals which were scored in the first half. Unfortunately he had to retire from the game soon after the interval owing to an eye injury. Playing only ten men for the remainder of the game it was to the home team's credit that only one further goal was scored against them, and that they penetrated the defence on two occasions through A. Kenyon and R. Ffoulkes, both of Aberystwyth.

## DERBY HOUSE FOOTBALL

### Victory for the "Over Thirties"

On 18th April a novel challenge match was played at Thingwall Road football ground between two teams from the Accounts Department, Derby House.

The teams consisted of over 30 and under 30 year old members of the Department, and Mr. Barrington Dalby will no doubt be shocked to learn that his pet theory that a good young 'un will always beat a good old 'un does not always hold good, for the old 'uns won by 5 goals to 3. Teams were:—Under 30's:—A. Hinton; S. Brown, W. Wood; E. Edington, W. Ferguson, A.

Milne; A. Rawlinson, J. Burgoyne, K. Brown, N. McKirgan, K. Woodward.

Over 30's:—R. Frost; G. Stephens, C. Holden; L. Hird, B. McDermott, W. Galna; G. Blackburn, E. Cooper, S. L. Inston, J. Woods, H. Robinson.

The match was refereed by Mr. B. Maguire.

The goals for the over thirties (whose average age, incidentally, was 42½ years), were scored by H. Robinson, S. L. Inston, G. Blackburn, B. McDermott and G. Stephens. The scorers for the under thirties were K. Woodward, A. Rawlinson and S. Brown.

## SNOOKER FINAL

### Derby House v. "The Rents"

The City Treasurer's Rent Department have been holders of the Liverpool District Branch N.A.L.G.O. Snooker Cup for several years, and they retained it once more on 9th April when they played Derby House—in the final of this Competition.

The match consisted of four games, each of three frames, and the "Rents" ran out victorious by 640 pts. to 505.

Mr. G. W. Bennison (Hon. Sports Secretary of the Liverpool District Branch) presented the Cup, and mentioned that the winners could expect very serious competition from the Derby House team in future, judging by their performance that evening. A most satisfactory conclusion to the proceedings was provided by Mr. Bennison when he "pushed the boat out" for all and sundry, spectators as well as players.

## BADMINTON

The Badminton Section of the Liverpool Sports Club has just completed one of its most active seasons. A team was entered in the Liverpool Business Houses Badminton League, Division II, and although they finished at the bottom of the table they are confident that the experience gained in these League matches will enable them to get nearer the leaders next year.

The Division II League was headed by Dunlops after a play-off with Metalbox, both teams having 10 points from the 5 out of 6 matches which they won. The Distillers were third, with two matches won, and Manweb brought up the rear without a win to their credit.

Mr. Keith Collins, of our Pumpfields Depot, is the energetic Secretary of our Badminton Section, and he would be glad to hear from prospective members for next season.



## SPRING SCHOOL

Merseyside and North Wales representatives who attended the B.E.A. Spring School at Cambridge last month. From left to right they are Mr. E. E. James (Substation Attendant, Holywell), Mr. H. Brock (Electrician, Wallasey), Mr. E. G. Jones (Fitter's Mate, Runcorn), Mr. J. Fareham (Senior Assistant

Engineer, Northwich), Mrs. O. P. Fisher-Davies (Shorthand Typist, Aberystwyth), Mr. J. P. Owen (Shift Engineer, Dolgarrog), Mr. B. Carman (Substation Attendant, Bootle), Mr. T. W. Mason (Switchboard Attendant, Aberystwyth).

## MANWEB DIARY

[Notice of meetings and events for inclusion in this Diary should reach Contact office not later than the 17th of each month.]

May 3—Final date of entry for the E.A.W. Certificate and Diploma Examination in Electrical Housecraft for Demonstrators and Saleswomen. The examination will be held on 14th June.

May 15—Electron Players present "Ladies in Retirement" at the David Lewis Theatre, Liverpool.

May 18-20—Conference at Burton Manor—"Joint Consultation in the Electricity Supply Industry."

May 29—I.E.E. Golf Tournament, Southport and Ainsdale Club (entry forms to Mr. T. Coates, No. 3 Sub-Area Manager, by 21st May).

June 6-7—Cheshire Agricultural Show at Chester.

June 30—T.M.D. Sports and Social Club Dance at Towyn Drill Hall, 8 p.m.

July 21—Combined Board and Division Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Thingwall Road, Liverpool.

July 22 to Aug. 12—The Liverpool Festival.

July 28—T.M.D. Sports and Social Club Festival of Britain Dance at Towyn Drill Hall, 8 p.m.

July 28—First Annual Garden Party of the Horsley Towers Club to be held at the Horsley Towers Training Establishment, East Horsley, Surrey.

Aug. 1—Nantwich Agricultural Show.

Aug. 11—T.M.D. Sports Club Gala Dance at Towyn Drill Hall, 8 p.m.

Sept. 4-13—Festival of Britain Ship *Campania* visits Birkenhead.

Sept. 8—T.M.D. Sports Club Dance at Towyn Drill Hall, 8 p.m.

Sept. 13—Montgomeryshire Agricultural Show at Welshpool.

### SPORTS EVENTS

June 14—Towyn Grammar School v T.M.D. Club.

June 16—T.M.D. Sports Club Cricket Match at Corris.

June 20—Dolgelly C.C. v T.M.D. Club.

June 21—Towyn Grammar School v T.M.D. Club.

June 28—Towyn Grammar School v T.M.D. Club.

June 30—T.M.D. Sports Club Cricket Match at Llwyngwril.

July 3—Towyn Grammar School v T.M.D. Club.

July 18—T.M.D. Club v Dolgelly C.C.

July 21—T.M.D. Sports Club return match versus Corris at Towyn.



Drawn for Contact by F. Collins.

FOOTBALLERS OF No. 4 SUB-AREA

Drawn for "Contact" by J. Bagshaw



# Contact



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MANWEB

THREEPENCE