

Prize Crossword

We are indebted to **Mr. C. G. Barnes**, meter reader/collector at Shotton, for providing us with the crossword puzzle for this month's competition.

Three prizes of half-a-guinea each will be awarded to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on June 11th. Send your entries, on plain paper if you wish, to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Love Lane, Liverpool, 3*, to arrive not later than June 10th. Don't forget to add your own name and address (office or home).

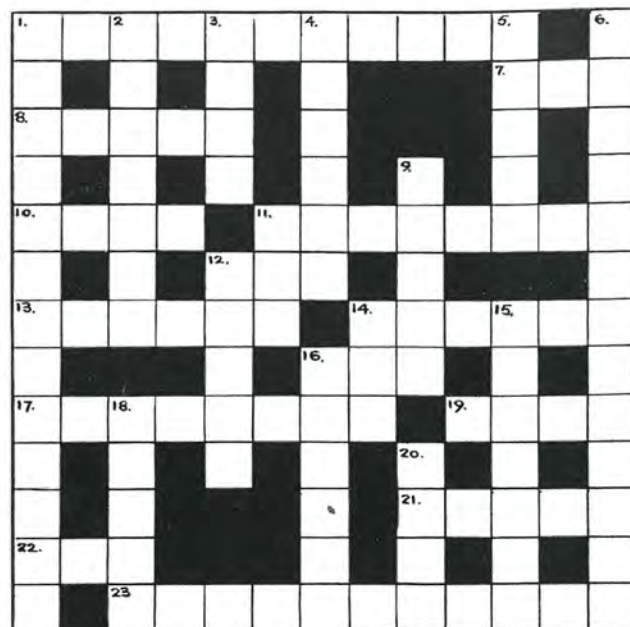
The competition is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.

Clues Across

1. They cannot line it if I drop out for a European (11).
7. Excavated perhaps in foreign parts (3).
8. Elevate (5).
10. Does it answer back? (4).
11. A weapon he might use on his parents for recreation (4, 4).
12. Father gets a letter for wages (3).
13. Taken in arts when pulled about (6).
14. Ale for an idler (6).
16. Is she an apt pupil? (3).
17. No longer saucily but cleverly (8).
19. In trim alteration for a good brew (4).
21. Short ration (5).
22. Consume (3).
23. Scientifically progressive (11).

Clues Down

1. Domestic pile-driver? (6, 7).
2. Not you or I (7).



3. Cold in tropic establishments (4).
4. Use (6).
5. Faithful (5).
6. Made when Sol Bertie and I search for the solution (13).
9. A Royal Classic (5).
11. Prohibit (3).
12. Spire reforms where ships tie up (5).
14. What the bird might do in a playpen (3).
15. Make level when Alf returns to find his tent disturbed (7).
16. There is deep feeling in this bird (6).
18. Possibly used in a stick-up (5).
20. Neat and tidy (4).

Points Quiz No. 3

Answers and Prizewinners

As we forecast, this competition proved a little too much for most of you and only a small number of entries were received. Of these however, 22 were all-correct and the 'score-card' for the respective Areas is as follows:—

	No. of entries	No. of points	Average No. points per entry
Head Office ...	12	563	46.9
Area 1 ...	6	263	43.8
*Area 2 ...	9	420	46.6
Area 3 ...	17	771	45.3
Area 4 ...	6	263	43.8

*Includes one entry from a pensioner.

So once again, Head Office just managed to stay in the lead.

To help you check your answers, here they are:

(a) *Where is the Wall game played?* **Eton** (not as one competitor suggested—Berlin). (b) *The Trossachs are in Perthshire.* (c) *The odd town out—New York*, which is not a capital. (d) *The opera composed by Beethoven—Fidelio.* (e) *The approximate length of the Suez Canal—101 miles.* (f) *What is the Tynwald?* **The Parliament of the Isle of Man.** (g) *The English Royal House of Welsh origin—The Tudors.* (h) *A Victoria had four wheels.* (i) *The first British Prime Minister—Sir Robert Walpole.* (j) *"The wisest fool in Christendom" was James 1st of England.* (k) *Which planet has eleven moons?* **Jupiter.** (l) *A young penguin is called a chick.*

The five winners of the half-guinea prizes are: **Mr. J. C. Blanchflower**, Secretarial Dept., Head Office; **Miss M. N. Cobb**, Display section, Area 1; **Mrs. M. Rowley**, Carlton Street, St. Helens, Area 2; **Mr. J. W. Kellett**, Manager, Area 3 and **Mr. A. Hallam**, Oswestry, Area 4.

May

1963

The Staff Magazine
of the
Merseyside and North Wales
Electricity Board

Contact

AFTER THE BLAZE (See page 94)



WEDDING

We hear that Miss Thelma Joy Colter, a shorthand typist at Warrington District until October, 1961, when she emigrated to Australia, was married to Mr. John Caruana at Caringbah, New South Wales, recently.



Mr. & Mrs. Caruana

Miss Colter is the daughter of Mr. E. A. E. Colter, the Board's former Establishments Officer.

BIRTHS

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Mr. J. McNerney (2nd assistant engineer, planning) at Area 3, and Mrs. McNerney, on the birth of a son on April 23rd.

* * *

Mr. J. E. Hampton, senior draughtsman, Area 3 office, and Mrs. Hampton, on the birth of a son on April 22nd.

* * *

Mr. Eric Bolland, installation foreman at Chester District, and Mrs. Bolland, on the birth of twin girls (Judith Anne and Lesley Jayne), on March 29th.

* * *

Mr. F. C. Spence, commercial assistant at Head Office, and Mrs. Spence, on the birth of a son (Jonathan Charles).

* * *

ENGAGEMENT

Best wishes for future happiness to Miss Joan Parry, a clerk in the Board's North Wirral District office, who recently became engaged to Mr. Leslie Cameron.

MOUNTAIN FIRE

When an extensive gorse fire swept a section of the Rivals, the well-known trio of mountains near Pwllheli, recently, an 11-kV inter-pole was involved, and was burned through.

This picture, and our COVER PICTURE, taken by Mr. R. T. Jones, assistant section engineer, show the resulting damage, and repairs in progress.



BREVITIES

APPRECIATION

The following is an extract from a letter received at Oswestry District office from a local firm of architects: "We thank you very much for your letter of yesterday's date, and for the expeditious manner in which you have dealt with this matter. Previous experience with you, and other officials of your Board, has led us to expect prompt and efficient attention, and we have not, as yet, been disappointed."

SUGGESTION SCHEME AWARD

Congratulations to Mr. A. G. Welch, a member of the Commercial staff at Area 1, who has received an award under the Employees' Suggestion Scheme.

MOVES TO HEAD OFFICE

On leaving St. Helens district to take up a post at Head Office, Mr. Vernon R. Smith (assistant section engineer) was presented with a pair of gold cuff-links, on behalf of his

colleagues, by Mr. H. L. Greer (1st Assistant District Engineer).

A farewell celebration was held at a Rainford Hotel.

FIRST-AIDERS

Electricity Supply Ambulance Centre examination certificates were presented to Miss D. M. Griffiths, Mrs. W. A. Cain and Mr. H. Furness, members of Chester District staff, recently.

Obituary

Mr. W. S. JOHNSTON

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. Shawhill Johnston, a former Electrical Engineer and Manager at St. Helens' Corporation Electricity Department, which occurred on April 21st. He was 84.

Mr. Johnston, a native of Dumfries, became Manager of St. Helens Undertaking in 1929 and retired in 1942.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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VOL. 15 No. 5

MAY 1963

EDITORIAL

The Economic Picture

FOR many years certain areas of Britain—notably those dependent for their wellbeing on trade and shipbuilding—have felt the chill air of economic depression more severely than others.

One such area is Merseyside. Its economic structure, built around ships and the sea, top-heavy with thousands of immigrants from Ireland and Wales, and until recently almost devoid of heavy industry, has tended to make Merseyside particularly vulnerable. Unemployment figures have always been well above the national average, and although efforts by Government and local authorities to channel new industrial development to the area have met with considerable success, the picture is still slightly out of balance.

The Government's decision to allow Electricity Boards to increase their capital expenditure as a measure to combat unemployment is another contribution to the welfare of the "development areas", and MANWEB's plan to spend an extra £1,000,000 locally—referred to in detail on page 97, will prove a welcome shot in the arm for Merseyside.

* * *

Since the nationalisation of the industry vast amounts of money have been spent in taking electricity to the countryside—a project which would have been quite uneconomic for privately-owned undertakings. This policy has been consciously pursued in an effort to bring the amenities of modern living to rural communities, and to help agriculture keep abreast of the times.

As the Chairman of the Board pointed out to Lord Brecon, Minister of State for Wales, when he visited Rhostyllen recently, MANWEB's investment of £23,000,000 since Vesting Day has not yet produced anything like an economic return. More widespread use of electricity on the farm, together with the establishment of more industry in the counties of North Wales, would both help to justify the expenditure involved in the Board's rural electrification programme, and help reverse the present population-drift to the cities.

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“Wales Needs More Industry”—

Chairman tells Lord Brecon

WHEN Lord Brecon, Minister of State for Wales, met members of the Board after their monthly meeting at Wrexham on May 5th, the Chairman of the Board (Mr. D. G. Dodds) thanked him for his efforts to bring new industries to the Principality, and told him that since 1948 MANWEB had invested £23 million in electrifying the counties of North Wales.

This investment has not yet produced an economic return, and could only be justified by greatly increased use of the power resources being made available, added Mr. Dodds.

Successive official reports and recommendations had emphasised the need to arrest the de-population of rural Wales, to absorb local unemployment, to modernise agriculture and to expand industry.

The electricity supply industry, with an overall capital investment of some £223 million in North Wales, had made a greater contribution towards these ends than any other single industry, but the stage had now been reached where the efforts of Lord Brecon and others to attract new industries to North Wales needed even greater support if the investment involved in electrifying North Wales was to be commercially justified.

Detailing electricity's contribution to the development of the area, Mr. Dodds told the Minister that local rate payments by the supply industry in North Wales were now about £300,000 a year, while more than 3,300 people were regularly employed in it. This figure would rise to about 4,000 when the Central Electricity Generating Board's

£200-million schemes in the Rheidol Valley, at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Trawsfynydd and Wylfa were completed.

Overall consumption had risen from 320 million units to more than 1,400 million units, 4,000 miles of new mains had been put into commission, and the number of farms on supply had increased from 3,250 to more than 17,000.

It was expected that by the end of 1963 the Board would have completed their target of connecting 85% of all farms in their statutory Area, several years ahead of schedule.

This rapid progress had brought many problems, and the Board's vehicles, many equipped with two-way radio, covered more than 4,000,000 miles a year. The Board also provided an Agricultural Advisory Service to stimulate the use of power on the farms.

Industry's consumption of electricity in North Wales had risen from just over 150 million units in 1948 to more than 750 million units in 1962, but for balanced economic expansion in North Wales it was essential that more industries should be attracted there.

Minister's Comment

Lord Brecon congratulated the Board on its work generally, especially on the development which had been made in rural electrification.

The Board, he said, who had spent about £23 million in the northern half of Wales, of which £11 million had been spent in rural areas since Vesting Day, were ahead of schedule in this part of their work.

The Minister thought that the vigour and determination which had been shown in tackling these problems was an important factor in arresting de-population. About 14,000 farms had been supplied with electricity since Vesting Day in North Wales alone.

The Minister added that the recent incentives contained in the Budget would indirectly help the Board which would welcome a more diversified application of electricity in North Wales generally.

These budget inducements he said should help industry to establish in the development districts of North-West Wales and thereby increase the economic load on the Electricity Board.

Board to Spend £2,500,000 on Merseyside

The following is the text of a recent statement to the Press by the Chairman (Mr. D. G. Dodds)

It was announced recently (as one of the measures to relieve unemployment) that MANWEB had been authorised to increase capital expenditure on their expanding distribution system by £1.1 million to a total of £10.4 million in the current year. This authorisation is particularly welcome, since it enables the Board to gear the greatly increased demand for electricity in homes and industries to the measures to stimulate employment.

It is planned to order electrical plant and equipment in the development areas to the value of some £2.5 million in the current financial year. Of this

sum, it is proposed to allocate about £2½ million to contracts with local electrical manufacturers and contractors. Expenditure on orders to Merseyside manufacturers, coupled with increased direct labour requirements, is likely to exceed similar expenditure last year by about £1 million. Capital expenditure on work in North Wales is likely to be rather greater than that incurred last year.

The opportunity to play a part in stimulating the local economy in this way has been made possible, not only by the authority secured by the Board to incur greater capital expenditure, but also by competitive pricing on the part of the local manufacturers and contractors concerned.

The Minister at Rhostyllen. Left to right: Mr. Dodds, Lord Brecon, and Mr. H. N. Jerman, a member of the Minister's staff.





Mrs. Blodwen Jones collects her entry form from Miss Dawn Bell, Service Centre assistant at Rhyl.



Above: Mr. Clwyd Pierce presents the prize to Mr. and Mrs. Jones on stage at the Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl. On the left of the picture is Mrs. Taylor and Mr. L. V. Taylor, District Manager.



On its way to Abergele. Messrs. A. Chadwick and J. Homer (electricians) load the cooker on to the delivery van and below, complete the installation at Sea Road.



The judges going through the hundreds of entries for the competition. Left to right: Mr. J. D. Smith, a Director of the Board's advertising agents, Mr. S. C. Harling, Manager, Area 2, and Mrs. J. V. Sharman, a housewife from Stockton Heath.

"Win-a-Cooker" Competition

BEFORE a capacity audience at the Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl, Mrs. Blodwen Jones, of Sea Road, Abergele, was presented with an English Electric fully automatic cooker as first prize in the recent "Win-a-cooker" competition organised by MANWEB.

The presentation was made during the interval of the show "White Horse Inn" being staged by the Rhyl Amateur Operatic Society. After saying a few words about the competition Mr. L. V. Taylor (the Board's Clwyd District Manager) went on to explain the merits of electric cooking. He then invited Mr. Clwyd Pierce, the male lead in the show, to present the prize to Mrs. Jones.

The competition, designed to focus the consumers' attention on the popularity of fully-automatic electric cooking, attracted widespread interest, and over 1,200 entries were received. The popularity poll of the features of an automatic electric cooker resulted as follows: (1) Automatic Oven Control, (2) Fast Heating Hotplates, (3) Easily Operated Controls, (4) Wipe Clean Enamel,

(5) Extra Wide Grill, (6) Inner Glass Door, (7) Oven Interior Light.

When the final result was announced, Mr. J. Carter (consumer's engineer) called on Mrs. Jones with the glad tidings, only to find that she had purchased an electric cooker from the Rhyl Service Centre a few days previously. Subject to the conditions of the competition, arrangements were then made for the cooker to be returned and for Mrs. Jones to visit the Service Centre in order to make her choice from the seven fully-automatic cookers in the competition. When she selected the English Electric model, Mr. D. O. Williams, a representative of the Company, presented her with a set of pans to go with the cooker.

Mrs. Jones did not take back her deposit on the cooker she had previously bought. Instead she used it as a down-payment on a new electric refrigerator.

All arrangements for the presentation and installation of the cooker were made by Mr. G. Bowers, the recently-appointed District Commercial Engineer at Clwyd.



◀ Mr. and Mrs. Jones with their prize—the English Electric double oven fully automatic electric cooker.

Mrs. Jones listens while Miss E. A. (Betty) Roberts the District demonstrator explains the finer points of electric cooking. ▶



WIRES *and* CABLES

EVERSLEY CLUB'S A.G.M.

The Eversley Sports and Social Club held its Annual General Meeting on March 27th, when the following officers were elected:—

President: Mr. K. S. Leach. *Vice-Presidents:* Messrs. G. H. Dodd, D. Hodgetts, F. Hannath and J. H. Ramsay. *Chairman:* Mr. F. Williams.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. B. Smith. *Secretary:* Mr. F. Threadgold. *Treasurer:* Mr. A. Wadcock.

After the election of the executive committee and honorary auditors, the President congratulated the club on another successful year, complimented the committee on their fine work, and stressed the need for 100% membership.

CHESTER CONTEST

An inter-departmental Ten-Pin Bowling Match between teams from the Area 3 Secretarial and Accounts Department, played at Chester recently, resulted in a 32-pin victory for the Secretarial team.

The players were:—

Secretarial: Messrs. A. G. Fraser, L. Smith, K. J. Riddington, J. P. Warburton and A. Gregory;

Mrs. B. Gibbs, Miss A. Hall, Mrs. V. Blears, Mrs. D. Millichamp and Miss P. O'Keefe.

Accounts: Messrs. J. Fletcher, A. Hughes, R. Walley, G. Roberts and K. Hipkiss; Miss M. Irneman, Miss M. Gough, Miss E. Caulson, Miss R. A. Davies and Mrs. J. Cowell.

ABERYSTWYTH DINNER-DANCE

The Aberystwyth Electricity Sports and Social Club's 12th Annual Dinner and Dance was held on Friday, March 15th, at the Marine Hotel, Aberystwyth. Guest of honour was the Mayor of

Aberystwyth, Alderman C. Knight.

The Chairman of the Club (Mr. P. Cheshire) welcomed the guests, proposing the toast to the visitors, and the Mayor responded.



Members of the Aberystwyth staff enjoying their Dinner-Dance.



(St. Helens Reporter picture)

ST. HELENS

Mr. H. R. Johnson, District Commercial Engineer, congratulates Mrs. M. Prendergast on her success in winning a Hoover '65' washing machine and dryer in a recent contest held in the greater Merseyside area.

The picture taken on the occasion of the presentation which took place at our Bridge Street Service Centre shows, left to right: Mr. B. Ridge, Hoover dealer liaison manager, Mrs. Prendergast, Mr. T. Johnson, Hoover area manager, Mr. H. R. Johnson, and Miss M. Worthington, Service Centre supervisor.

Joint Promotions

MANWEB PRIZEWINNERS

In a recent "Holiday with Hoover" promotion open to all dealer staff, 750 people entered the "Keymatic" Demonstration Contest, and of the 21 prizes to be won, MANWEB staff collected eleven.

We offer heartiest congratulations to the following prizewinners:

Mrs. J. M. Dittrich (Llandudno) and Mr. D. C. Wilcox (Stockton Heath) who each won a vacuum cleaner and a steam/dry iron.

Mrs. R. M. Backhouse (St. Helens), Miss P. A. Cull (Birkenhead), Mr. C. Evans (Hatton Garden), Miss V. Gornall (Southport), Miss E. Hoxworth (Runcorn), Mr. T. Saladine (Waterloo) and Mr. D. G. Starnes (Wallasey), winners of a steam/dry iron.

BIRKENHEAD

Another winner of a '65', this time an Electrolux vacuum cleaner, was Mrs. E. Salisbury of Greasby on the Wirral. In a competition organised by the manufacturers and MANWEB for the oldest cleaner traded-in over a given period, Mrs. Salisbury turned up with a model II which had been in use for nearly 40 years. Our picture shows Mr. G. A. White, District Commercial Engineer, North Wirral, presenting the prize to Mrs. Salisbury, with a happy Mr. Salisbury looking on.



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(St. Helens Reporter picture)

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Photography

BY GEORGE GOULD

The problem of correct exposure

LAST month we considered some of the exposure problems we have to face when taking a picture, and naturally these vary according to the subject and lighting conditions prevailing at the time. To assist us the film manufacturers produce films in varying film speeds, and to the non-technical photographer this film-speed relationship is quite confusing. It is nothing to do with film travelling at sixty miles an hour, but is a number or rating supplied by the manufacturer to enable us to choose a film which will suit our object

and lighting conditions. For example, on a bright sunny day you could use a "slow" speed film. On a dull day, or under bad lighting conditions, you would need a film having a higher film speed rating. Many photographers prefer to use a "fast" film during the winter when weather conditions are likely to be bad, changing to a slow or medium speed film for the summer months.

This film rating is always marked on the outside of the film carton, prefixed by the letters "BS" (British Standards) "ASA" (American Standards) or "SCH" (Germany Scheiner). Today we regard the American Standards' system as the most accurate, and "ASA" ratings are always quoted in photographic articles. This is probably due to the popularity of the Weston Master exposure meter. Another factor is that by doubling your "ASA" number you increase the film speed by the equivalent of one exposure stop. For example, a film having an "ASA" index of 50 is only half the speed of one having an "ASA" of 100. It would therefore need twice the exposure to give identical negative images.

Apart from the relative exposure ratings, the slower varieties of film give better definition and image sharpness than the faster films, and for general work a medium speed film such as Verichrome or Selochrome Pan should be preferred.

Choosing a Meter

Those of my readers who are considering the purchase of an exposure meter have a wide variety to choose from. If money is no problem, then buy the Weston Master. If your range is about £6 then I would advise one of the cheaper Sixtry or Sixon meters, which are complete with a roller blind cover for the incident light readings explained later in this article. To use a meter you first of all set the film speed on the calculator dial. Then point the meter, always slightly downwards, towards your subject. The reading shown by the meter dial is then transferred to the film dial, and your exposure is read off the scale.

There are three main methods of using exposure meters, and these are as follows:—

- (1) Direct Reading;
- (2) Average Reading,
- (3) Incident Light/Highlight Readings.



The type of shot which needs twice the exposure indicated by a meter—a memorial to Commandos in the Scottish Highlands.

Direct Readings

By this method the meter is pointed directly at the subject. In landscape work always remember to tilt the meter slightly downwards to prevent the amount of light reflected from the sky from affecting the reading. In portraiture you would take a reading with the meter almost touching the sitter's face—remember not to create a shadow by placing your hand directly in front of your lights. You would expose for the reading obtained against your film "ASA" speed.

Average Readings

Here the meter is first pointed at the brightest part of the subject, then at the darkest part, and the two readings obtained are added together. The average of the two readings would be your correct exposure. For black and white photography this is probably the easiest way to ensure reasonable negative quality.

Incident Light/Highlight Method

The incident light method is quite unique and, for those of my readers who do colour photography, it is

a sure and accurate way of getting first-class transparencies every time. The meter cell is now covered by a white plastic shield or cover, and is then pointed directly towards the source of light. Out-of-doors this would be the sun or sky, while in portraiture you would point towards your main light. If your subject is very dark, such as an old building, you would increase the meter exposure by just half a stop. Conversely, if your subject is very bright, you would reduce the meter exposure by half a stop. As I mentioned earlier, for colour transparencies the incident light method is really accurate.

To ensure "all time" correct exposure I strongly advise the photographer to make a series of tests with any meter or camera just newly acquired. First set the meter against the film speed, then make three exposures, one at the meter reading, one half a stop less, and one half a stop more. Do this on different subjects—landscapes, portraits, beach scenes, etc. If you keep a record in a small notebook you can check your processed exposures. You will then be able to see which meter setting suits your subjects best.



Commercial Activities...

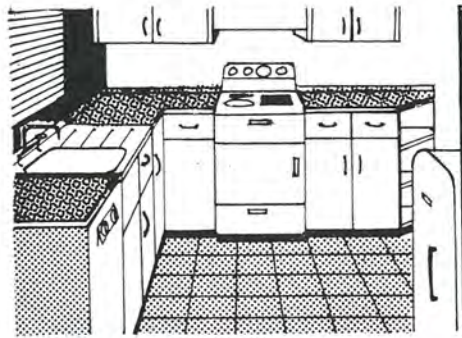


An out-of-the-ordinary exhibition was held at Southport recently when the Frying Trade held their Area Rally. The exhibition took place on a Sunday and MANWEB were well to the fore with a very neat stand and staff on hand to answer queries from the many visitors.

Our picture shows Mr. S. Holt, sales representative, pointing out the advantages of the very latest piece of fish frying electrical equipment to an interested party.

A group of assistant consumers' engineers who recently attended the Board's Training Centre at Wallasey for the first week of their training course. The picture was taken after Mr. S. Fairclough (Commercial Officer Area 3) had given the first lecture. *Left to right, back row:* Messrs. H. Sines (Ruthin), A. C. Outhwaite (Liverpool South) and B. Evans (Liverpool North). *Front row:* Messrs. S. Fairclough, C. McEwen (St. Helens), J. Evans (Oswestry) and N. Davenport (Nantwich).





A Woman's WORLD

Cookery tips from an expert

OVER 3,000 housewives attended the "Electric Cooking for Health and Beauty" shows held at St. Helens, Southport and Widnes last month. Cooking expert Mrs. Marguerite Patten, who has appeared many times on television, was the main attraction at the shows presented by MANWEB, Brown and Polson and Knorr Anglo-Swiss.

Mrs. Patten opened each session by demonstrating the quick and easy way to make breakfast. Later she prepared and cooked lunch and dinner-time dishes and ideas for tea and finally supper dishes. In between these demonstrations Miss Helen Crerar from Elizabeth Arden Limited gave advice on the art of make-up.

Two shows, afternoon and evening, were held in each town

and at St. Helens and Widnes the MANWEB display staff from Area 2 put on a wonderful display with the stage set out as an all-electric kitchen. Down the side of the halls each cooker manufacturer displayed their up-to-date models, and further displays in the foyers attracted much attention.

At the Floral Hall, Southport, Area 1 display department arranged a very neat stage layout

and a section of the hall was devoted to an exhibition of cookers, washing machines and refrigerators. A novel feature of this display was that nearly all the appliances were white, giving the exhibit a 'shining bright' appearance, emphasising the cleanliness of electricity in the kitchen.

A lot of hard work went into the preparation and staging of these shows which gave the 3,000 housewives the opportunity of learning much more about the advantages of electric cooking.



Above: The team of demonstrators at St. Helens and Widnes. Left to right: Mrs. G. M. Goff, Mrs. Marguerite Patten, Miss S. M. Griffiths and Mrs. L. Blease.

Left: Mrs. Patten at Southport with members of the District staff. Left to right: Mrs. S. Cook, Mrs. S. J. Bond, Miss J. Caton and Mrs. A. Harper.

Below: Members of the St. Helens District staff on duty and ready for the first show.



Try these M. Patten recipes

UPSIDE-DOWN PEACH GINGERBREAD

Ingredients:

1 x 1 lb. can peach halves; glace cherries (about 12).

Glaze:

2 oz. soft brown sugar; 2 table-spoons Mazola corn oil; 1 table-spoon peach syrup.

Gingerbread:

5 oz. plain flour; 1 oz. cornflour; ½ level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda; ½ level teaspoon mixed spice; 2 level teaspoons ground ginger; 2 oz. soft brown sugar; 1½ oz. candied peel—chopped; 4 oz. treacle; 3 fl. oz. milk; 2 fl. oz. Mazola corn oil; 1 oz. crystallised ginger.

Method:

To make the glaze melt the brown sugar with the corn oil and peach syrup. Pour into the bottom of a 7-inch tube tin. Arrange the peaches and the glace cherries in the bottom of the tin, in the glaze. Grease the sides of the tin.

To make the gingerbread sift all the dry ingredients and the sugar into a mixing bowl, add the candied

peel and crystallised ginger. Warm the treacle slightly and add the milk and corn oil. Add to the dry ingredients and beat well together. Turn into the prepared tin and bake for about 1 hour in a slow oven. (325°-350°F.). Turn out onto a hot dish.

MUSHROOM OMELETTE

Ingredients:

3-4 eggs; seasoning, 1 good table-spoon Mazola corn oil; Packet Knorr mushroom sauce; 1/3 pint milk; parsley, rings of tomato to garnish.

Method:

Blend the Knorr sauce with the milk in a saucepan. Cook until a rather thick sauce.

Meanwhile, beat the eggs slightly with seasoning. Heat a good table-spoon of Mazola oil in an omelette pan. Pour in the eggs. Work the omelette in the usual way and then fill with the creamy mushroom mixture.

Garnish with parsley and rings of tomato.



Some of the 3,000 housewives who packed the halls at St. Helens, Southport and Widnes.

Fashion at Ease—in Cotton



◀ In Colour - the large scale print

A Cinerama shift. Brilliantly coloured, deep blues, purples, sage and bronze for a giant lotus print by Liberty, styled as a shift by Sambo. An optional rouleau tie-belt. Approximately 7 guineas.

In Black and White - a bold line▶

Check — black and white — the shift. Dorville use fine woven cotton for an elegant, all-age shift with a two-string tie-belt. The check used diagonally on the bodice; slit pockets in the skirt. Burgess Ledward's fine woven black and white check—fully lined. Approximately 8½ guineas.





Mr. Thomas (centre) receives his retirement presentation from Mr. Griffith.

MR. L. W. THOMAS

After 33 years' service in the industry Mr. L. W. Thomas, sub-District Clerk at Pwllheli for the past 12 years, retired on April 5th.

At a dinner at a local hotel he was presented with

a cheque, on behalf of his colleagues at Pwllheli, Barmouth, Caernarvon, Portmadoc and Blaenau Ffestiniog, by Mr. R. Griffith, Section Engineer.

RETIREMENTS

MR. FRANK NAYLOR

After 41 years' service to the industry Mr. Frank Naylor, assistant consumers' engineer at Birkenhead, retired a few weeks ago.

Mr. Naylor, a well-known personality of the District, served in the Navy during the first World War.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues he was presented with a portable radio and a travelling rug by Mr. G. A. White, District Commercial Engineer.



Mr. White (left centre) presents Mr. Naylor with his retirement gifts.

MRS. S. C. MARSDEN

After many years of devoted service, Mrs. S. C. Marsden, one of the most popular members of MANWEB's Aberystwyth staff, retired on March 15th.

Mrs. P. Cheshire presented Mrs. Marsden with a bouquet, and Mr. D. A. Hamblin, District Manager, presented her with a cheque on behalf of the staff, and wished her many years of happy retirement.

A tireless and cheerful member of the Sports and Social Club, Mrs. Marsden will long be remembered for her unselfish work.

"Kate", as she is affectionately known to all in the Aberystwyth office, leaves with the good wishes of all and sundry.



Mr. Hamblin presents Mrs. Marsden with her cheque.

MR. C. STELFOX

After completing 44 years' service to the industry Mr. C. Stelfox, Principal Assistant (Secretarial) at Area 2 office, retired on March 30th.

On behalf of his many friends and colleagues

throughout the Area he was presented with a gold watch by Mr. S. C. Harling (Manager, Area 2), who expressed their hopes that he would enjoy a long and happy retirement.

MR. T. WELLOCK

After 29 years' service to the industry Mr. Thomas Wellock, foreman meter reader at Runcorn, retired recently.

Mr. Wellock joined the Mersey Power Company in 1934 as a meter reader, being promoted foreman in 1938.

Among his hobbies are numismatology and gardening. After paying a visit to one of his daughters living in Germany—he has another living in Luxembourg—Mr. Wellock plans to move to a cottage near St. Asaph, where his gardening interests will find fuller scope.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with two carpets and a convector heater by Mr. F. Hannath (Revenue Superintendent, Area 2).

A parting handshake from Mr. Hannath (centre) for Mr. Wellock.



MR. H. DALE

After nearly 46 years' service to the industry, Mr. H. Dale, senior engineering clerk at Warrington District, retired on March 30th.

Mr. Dale joined Warrington Corporation Electricity Department in 1917 as a junior clerk, and was employed on a variety of work in the Department until nationalisation, when he was appointed senior engineering clerk.

The wide knowledge and experience which he had gained during this time was always at the disposal of all members of the staff, and he was always ready to help others outside the line of duty.

On behalf of his colleagues and friends he was presented with glassware and a china tea service by the District Engineer, Mr. A. R. Cooper.

Mr. Dale and his wife hope to move from Warrington and take up residence somewhere on the North Wales coast in the near future.

Colleagues at Warrington gather round for the presentation to Mr. Dale (right, foreground). Mr. Cooper is standing on his right.





Mr. Thomas (centre) receives his retirement presentation from Mr. Griffith.

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▲ At Bangor . . .

Staff Conferences

▼ . . . Aberystwyth . . .



. . . and Wrexham ▲

ABERYSTWYTH

The annual conference of No. 7A L.A.C. was held at Aberystwyth on February 16th, when about 100 employees heard a review of the year's work delivered by the Secretary of the L.A.C. (Mr. F. Peel).

The Deputy Chairman of the Board (Mr. D. G. Gwyn) spoke on "*Trends in the Electricity Supply Industry*". "*Joint Consultation—Our Contribution*" was the subject chosen by Mr. S. Bown, Area Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union, who emphasised the importance of consultation and the part it played in obviating disputes, while Mr. G. J. Everett of Thorne Industries gave an enlightening talk, illustrated by films, on "*Lighting as an Aid to Productivity*".

The Open Forum provided many lively questions and answers, and the general consensus of opinion was that the questions were among the most intelligent and constructive asked of an L.A.C. panel for many years.

The Chairman of the meeting was Mr. D. A. Hamblin (District Manager).

BANGOR

About 100 employees attended the Annual Staff Conference organised by Nos. 7B and 18 L.A.C.s, and held at Bangor on April 6th.

The speakers were Messrs. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman of the Board) and R. T. Gales (Senior Assistant Engineer, Planning), while a film dealing

with the construction of nuclear power stations was shown.

The *Open Forum* panel consisted of Messrs. Gwyn, M. M. Parker (Board Secretary), R. N. Pegg (Manager, Area 4) and E. W. Griffiths (Caernarvon District Manager).

WREXHAM

This year's conference, held at Wrexham Technical College on Saturday, February 2nd, was attended by about 160 people, and was presided over by Mr. E. T. Peters, Wrexham District Manager.

A report by Mr. F. Peel, Secretary of the Joint Consultative Committee, on the work of the Committee during the previous year was followed by a talk entitled "*Switchgear and Protection*" aided by demonstrations by Mr. R. T. Gales, Senior Assistant Engineer, Planning, while the Deputy Chairman of the Board (Mr. D. G. Gwyn) dealt with "*Trends in the Electricity Supply Industry*".

Dr. R. Smith, of the Department of Economics at Liverpool University, delivered the last talk of the day on the subject of "*Industrial Relations*", and illustrated many of his points by quoting from everyday experiences in the field of industrial relations.

Two films—"*Live Line Working*" and "*The Peaceful Revolution*" were shown, while an "Open Forum" completed the agenda.



This year's team of apprentices who defeated the Head Office team in a hard-fought game.

Football Special

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Twelve teams from all parts of Area 4 entered this year's "R. N. Pegg Shield Five-a-Side Football Competition", and in the final Legacy 'B' defeated Oswestry 'B' by three goals to one.

We hear that, on the day after the match a member of the staff at Caernarvon was heard to say that the party of spectators from Caernarvon district had enjoyed a wonderful time at the match, and did not get home until the early hours of the morning. When asked who won he said he did not know, but would find out!



The captain of the winning team being presented with the Shield by Mr. A. McGowan of Wrexham A.F.C.

McMINN CUP

In the 1962/63 final of the McMinn Cup the team from Lister Drive beat the Marsh Lane team by two goals to one after defeating Hatton Garden in the semi-final round by four goals to one. Marsh Lane won their semi-final match by beating the Head Office team.



The Marsh Lane team pictured before their semi-final match with the Head Office team.

Match Report

Apprentices 2 - Head Office 1

Head Office fielded a strong team when they met Hoylake Apprentices for their Annual football match on May 2nd at the Hoylake A.F.C. ground.

The game opened in dramatic fashion when in the very first minute Apprentice Szulc fell heavily and fractured his wrist. Before a substitute could take the field Broughton had slammed in the first goal for Head Office after a delightful McArthur-Dutton-Broughton movement.

For a time play was fairly even until a sustained attack by the Apprentices brought a goal by centre-forward Smith to level the score. Soon the exuberance and fitness of the youngsters began to gain the upper hand, and just before half-time Smith scored what proved to be the winning goal.

With the wind in their favour in the second half, the Apprentices attacked the Head Office goal and but for the sterling defensive work by Walshe, Williams, Sanders and goalkeeper Jones, they would surely have increased their lead. Baker and Betts were playing very well at this stage but they could not penetrate the solid defence. A sudden switch towards the end of the game nearly brought the equaliser for Head Office when McArthur fired in a fierce forty-yard drive which Young, in the Apprentices' goal, did well to tip against the bar. The final whistle brought an end to a good hard-fought game, admirably controlled by referee J. Taylor.

Apprentices: T. J. Young; J. W. Taylor, B. G. Loveland; C. J. Betts, J. R. Kenyon, P. Martland; L. R. Barker, G. Baker (captain), A. C. Smith, T. Szulc (T. H. Mullen), E. Skelly.

Head Office: N. Jones; J. Walshe; T. Williams; G. V. Roberts, G. E. Sanders, J. Blanchflower; P. Falcon, B. McArthur, L. Broughton, A. B. McGuinness, T. Dutton (captain).

Slaughter of the innocents

It was reliably reported from Hoylake that on the day following the match, four Apprentices had to be sent home as casualties.

All the Head Office team were back at work as usual!

The Board's Business - March 1963

COMMERCIAL NOTES

Electricity purchased by the Board rose from 746 million units in March 1962, to 776 million this year—an increase of 30 million (4.03 per cent). The small increase compared with previous months was due to the milder weather conditions which prevailed throughout the month, the average temperature being nearly 2°F. above the normal for the month. Practically the whole of the increase was due to the additional requirements of industry—two large chemical works and a steelworks increasing their purchases by 11.7, 7.0 and 2.2 million units respectively. Other increases came from the new motor works on Merseyside.

In the year April 1962 to March 1963, the Board have purchased a total of 8,285 million units compared with 7,370 million in the year 1961/62, an increase of 915 million (12.4 per cent). The annual load factor of supplies in the Area was 51.8 per cent compared with 51.1 per cent in 1961/62, an increase due to the continuance of the intense cold spell over the period January/February, during which the demand for electricity, particularly for space-heating in commercial and

domestic premises, was sustained at a high level.

New Connections

A total of 1,319 new consumers (including 50 farms) were connected to the system during the month, bringing the total for the year to 23,318. After allowing for reconnections and disconnections, the net increase in the number of consumers during the year was 14,592.

Sales of Appliances

The value of sales during the month improved by 15 per cent over March of last year, mainly due to substantial increases in the sales of refrigerators and washing machines.

For the year the total sales were £3,398,000 compared with £3,082,000 last year—an increase of 10 per cent and a most successful result in a year of difficult retail trading. The slight decline in the sales of cookers and the rather larger reduction in the sale of water-heaters are probably due to the high level of saturation in this area, making further progress into the field covered by other fuels more difficult. The numbers of large appliances sold are shown in the following table:—

Appliance	Sales during March		Difference %	Sales April to March		Difference %
	1963	1962		1962/63	1961/62	
Cookers	2,361	2,241	+ 5	26,804	27,860	- 4
Water Heaters	1,449	2,129	- 32	21,813	24,725	-12
Refrigerators	901	162	+456	7,818	5,659	+38
Washing Machines	884	616	+ 44	9,596	7,495	+28
Vacuum Cleaners	1,071	804	+ 33	9,176	8,466	+ 8
*Space Heaters	1,545	2,261	- 32	32,917	28,454	+16

*Includes 94 Domestic Block Storage Heaters sold in March and 1,501 sold during the year to date.

ENGINEERING PLANS

Further plans to extend and reinforce the MANWEB network at a cost of more than £1,200,000 were approved by the Board at their monthly meeting at Area 4 office on May 6th.

Brief details of major projects authorised are:—

Reinforcement of the medium-Voltage network in the vicinities of Fernhill Road, Bootle, Leamington Road, Norris Green, Liverpool and Alderville Road, Walton, Liverpool; provision of supply to 279 Council flats, maisonettes and houses at Kingscourt, Crosby; reinforcement of the network at Aughton, Lancashire, by increasing the capacity from 6,000 Volts to 11,000 Volts, providing a new 33,000/11,000-Volt substation, and increasing the transforming capacity of another; reinforcement of the 11,000-Volt network at Kirkby Housing Estate by providing a new 33,000/11,000-Volt substation and increasing the transforming capacity of another; provision of supply to 391 houses at Warrington Road, Rainhill; reinforcement of the

network in the vicinity of Elbow Lane, Formby; increase of supply to a St. Helens industrial concern; reinforcement of the network at Bewsey, Warrington, by providing a new 33,000/6,000-Volt substation; increasing the capacity of a heavily-loaded substation at Duddon and Tarvin; reinforcement of the network in the Bebington and New Ferry areas by providing a 33,000-Volt substation at Lower Bebington and re-arranging the 33,000-Volt network in the area; reinforcement of the network at Caldy, West Kirby, by providing a new 33,000/11,000-Volt substation, reinforcement of the network at Whitchurch by providing a new 33,000/11,000 Volt substation to the east of the town, and increasing the transforming capacity of an existing substation; reinforcement of the network at Cefn Mawr by providing a new 33,000-Volt substation; providing an additional 33,000/11,000-Volt substation at Llandudno to support the change from 6,600 Volts to 11,000 Volts.



One of the problems associated with the summer trade on the one hand, heavy industry on the other, and the beautiful relaxing geography on the third (hand?) is the recruitment of suitable staff in the "Vale of Clwyd" district. The Board in general has a difficult enough task to entice, say, an unskilled man with five kids from the luscious rewards of the fun fair to apply for a job with us, even though he is offered such perks as protective clothing, and a chairman's baton in his duffle coat. The task is made even more difficult when some special accomplishment is required to meet local conditions such as in street lighting maintenance crews. Here local management give considerable thought to the problem, and to the wording of advertisements in the local press. It was perhaps after such thought that the following advertisement appeared in the January 9th edition of the Rhyl Bugle:

"MANWEB wishes to form a small street lighting maintenance department, and for this purpose wishes to employ six men. The men will remain together as a team, and it is the Board's intention to provide full training. For this reason, previous experience is unnecessary, but the team selected must be able to stand upright on each other's shoulders."

Despite the cunning wording, it is apparent that no suitable applications were received, because this advertisement appeared in the February 15th edition of the Flintshire Clarinet:

"Young man required for training as a street lighting maintenance engineer. The successful applicant will qualify for the Board's super-annuation scheme. No qualifications required but the ability to hover is essential."

Again the advertisement proved to be unsuccessful and it was obviously next decided to take a leaf out of the private enterprise book and go modern, and the result was this

clipped style 'get up and go' appeal, appearing in the Denbighshire Catcall.

"Are you dissatisfied with your present job?

Would you like to improve your old age security?

Are you energetic, hard working, willing, anxious to succeed?

Do you have vision?

Are you 38 ft. tall?

Then apply for an interview with , etc., etc."

I am not sure if there was any response to this latest advertisement although I have not seen any signs of a time clock being mounted 35 ft. from the ground yet in the depot where I clock on, so it doesn't look as though many 38-ft. tall men are dissatisfied, although heaven knows they should have vision!

Anyway, I can't help wondering if on this occasion local management has not explored all possible avenues of filling these vacancies, and I would appeal to your readers for suggestions.

It may even be that in such a vast area as you cover with your magazine somebody has some ideas on reaching street lanterns without any special accomplishments. Have any of your readers perhaps solved this problem in some other manner.

Does anybody manufacture rubber lamp-posts which can be bent over for instance?

Yours etc.,

Interested.

P.S.—It has been suggested by some reactionaries that mechanical means should be used, but really—what next?

Debbie the Demonstrator

"All right Miss, we'll take your word for it that it washes nylon."



Methods of Propagation

MOST newcomers to gardening rely on nurseries to stock their gardens and indeed, it is probably the best method if gardening knowledge is limited. There comes a time, however, when the amateur becomes more ambitious and turns his mind to the subject of propagation. The most natural method of producing plants is, of course, by seeds, and undoubtedly it is the cheapest. It pays, however, to purchase good quality seeds in selected strains so as to avoid disappointment in the results of one's labour.

The equipment required is comparatively simple but because temperature plays an important part in growing from seed, at least a frame must be provided so that an air temperature of 60°F. can be maintained. As described in previous articles, it is recommended that electricity be used to supply the necessary heat.

Suitable soil in which to grow the seeds is not generally available in the amateur's garden unless he has been active for some time and is accustomed to making up composts for seed raising and potting. John Innes Seed Raising Compost can be readily obtained from most nurseries, and although it is perhaps relatively expensive it will ensure satisfactory results. Sowing should be done as thinly as possible, in seed boxes, and where very fine seed is used, it is advisable to mix the seed with sand so as to assist an even distribution of the seed in the seed box. After sowing, the seed boxes should be covered with paper so as to protect the seedlings from strong sunlight during germination. As soon as possible after germination, however, maximum air and light must be provided, otherwise the seedlings will be drawn and weak.

A simpler method of increasing stock is by root division, and this is generally done in the early Spring. Many herbaceous plants can be dealt with in this way but unfortunately space does not permit going into detail.

This method simply means dividing the root stock into small clumps and replanting immediately.

Propagating by cuttings is known as vegetative propagation and is a most satisfying hobby, to which more and more amateurs are moving as a means of increasing their stocks. One of the main problems associated with the rooting of cuttings is minimising

the transpiration of moisture from the cutting during the period that the cutting is unable, due to the absence of roots, to replace the moisture lost. One of the older methods of overcoming this problem was, for example, the so-called "sweat box", which simply meant covering the propagating bench with glass so as to reduce the air circulation and thereby reduce the rate at which evaporation took place.

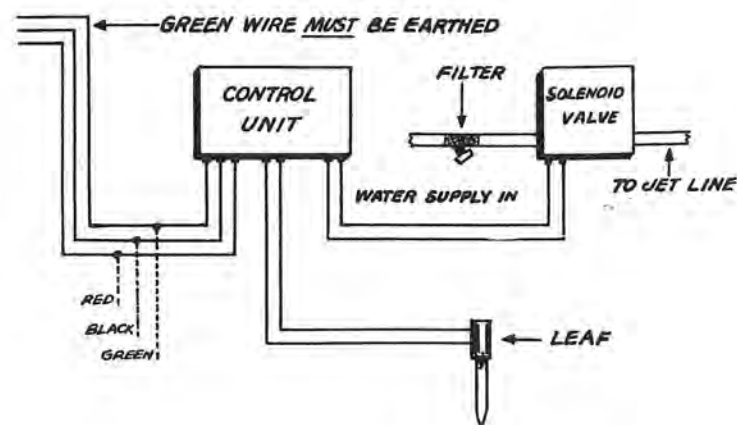
While this method was quite successful with certain types of plants, there were, however, many which could not be treated in this way. In commercial nurseries, this method has been almost entirely superseded by a new technique known as "mist propagation", and equipment is now available for both the commercial grower and the amateur. By this method cuttings, which previously were most difficult if not impossible to root, can be rooted quite readily and, in consequence, the range of plants which can be propagated by this method is almost unlimited.

Cuttings are generally of two types—hardwood, mostly trees and shrubs; and softwood, such as herbaceous perennials and rock garden plants. To obtain the best results a bed temperature of between 70°F. and 75°F. is necessary, and to provide this bottom heat soil warming cables controlled by a thermostat are ideal. To maintain the required temperature under mist, a loading of 15 to 18 watts per square foot is essential, as it will be appreciated that the cooling effect of water must be overcome.

Mist Propagation

Prior to the introduction of "mist propagation" nurserymen used a hand-spray to provide a film of water to cover the surfaces of a cutting. By so doing, water loss from the cutting by transpiration is reduced. This method was not entirely satisfactory since it was necessary for the nurseryman to give constant attention to the cuttings, particularly on hot days when the rate of evaporation was comparatively high. In an effort to reduce the number of visits necessary to maintain a film of water on the cuttings, the propagating houses were shaded but this had the adverse effect of reducing the rate of photosynthesis, in other words reducing the amount of light which is also necessary in the rooting of cuttings. Continuous misting was also tried but

Standard layout of a MacPenny Mist Propagation Unit utilising the mains water supply. Polarity must be observed and solenoids must be fixed in an upright position.



found to be undesirable for a number of reasons, the main objection being "leaching", which simply means too much water in the growing bed. It became evident that some means of automatic control was necessary, and this led to the development of the electronic controller, now in common use.

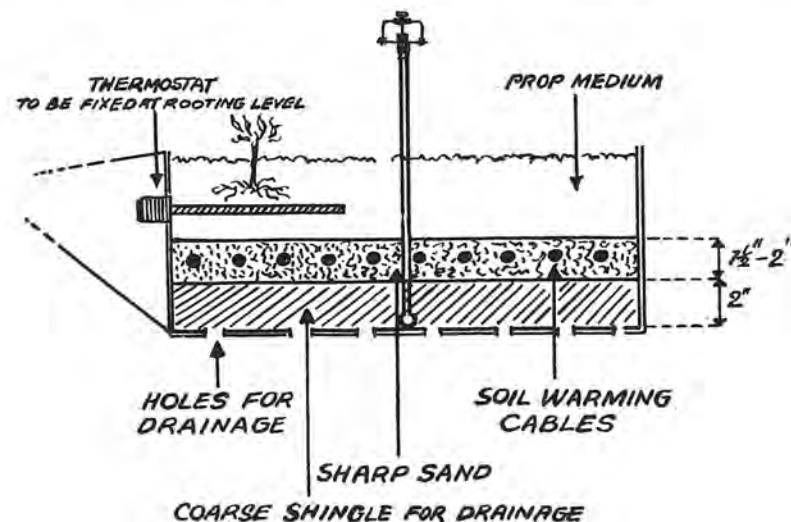
The "MacPenny" Mist Control Unit and Leaf is, to use the manufacturer's description, an electronic device, using transistors, for providing automatically the optimum mist conditions for the rooting of cuttings. With this equipment, the cuttings are constantly protected by a continuous film of water, which is applied by means of fixed jets over the bench in the form of a fine mist. The frequency of application is determined by the evaporation rate of the film of water from the surface of the controlling "leaf". A more correct name for the latter is "the moisture detector". While a film of moisture is maintained across the surface of the two electrodes built into it, the Atomiser jets are inoperative. When the moisture evaporates from the "leaf", the water supply to the jets is switched on electrically, by means of a solenoid water valve,

until the "leaf" is once again covered with a film of water. On very sunny days the frequency at which the misting unit operates may be up to thirty times an hour, whereas on dull days it may only operate four or five times during the day. It will accordingly be observed that the amount of water applied is automatically regulated to the needs of the cuttings.

The fine mist is dependent on a water pressure of at least 30 lb. per square inch and, in fact, higher pressures are necessary on larger scale installations. If this pressure is not available from the main water supply, an electric pump or pressure unit can be utilised to provide the necessary pressure. Because of the cooling effect of the evaporation of water from the cuttings it is possible to afford maximum light, in other words no shading without any harm to the cuttings and, in fact by so doing, the vigour of the plant is maintained. It is, however, essential to ensure good drainage of the rooting medium on the benches and for this, $\frac{1}{8}$ " grit should be used in the rooting medium.

Whilst this equipment was primarily designed for the commercial grower, the manufacturers were very soon

Typical bench layout . . . Note—perfect drainage is essential.



after its introduction called upon to meet the needs of the amateur. An amateur version of the commercial unit has been on the market for some years now and has proved to be exceedingly popular. A twin-purpose model is also available so as to combine automatic watering with "mist propagation", and this is an invaluable aid to those whose time is limited in looking after greenhouses.

The selection of cuttings for rooting should be done with care so as to ensure that diseased and damaged foliage is not used. In many cases it is possible to take larger than normal cuttings when mist propagation is utilised, and this applies particularly to hardwood subjects such as Camellias, Conifers, Jasmine and Pyracantha. In fact, the more foliage the better seems to be the rule. The use of hormones, in my experience, is unnecessary, although they do seem to reduce the rooting period. This view is not, however, shared by all growers so probably, on balance, it is worthwhile using them as an aid to rooting. Strangely enough "damping-off", a well-known disease, is foreign to "mist" installations, but I have never been able to find anyone who could explain why this is so.

Whilst I have made reference to the necessity for the propagating bed to have a temperature of 70°F. to 75°F., I note that I have not referred to air temperatures. This is not an important point since cuttings seem to do well in any air temperature between 32°F. and 100°F. Some two or three years ago, I toured a number of nurseries in the South of England who were using mist propagation on quite a large scale.

The opinions of various growers differ widely on air requirements in a "mist" house. Some say give maximum air, while others prefer to keep their houses closed and running exceedingly high air temperatures. The results were excellent in all cases. I mention this point primarily to indicate to amateurs the flexibility in use of such equipment, which should indicate that it is an excellent form of propagation for amateur requirements.

It is not possible in an article such as this to give comprehensive details on this subject but it may serve to provide general interest. I will only be too pleased to advise any reader caring for further information on this subject, if they will apply to the Editor.

REMINDERS

Hardy bed plants should now be planted. Plant out brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflowers. Sow biennials and perennials for next year. Prune spring-flowering shrubs when blossoms are gone. Sow peas and beans and provide supports at the same time. Feed raspberries with manure or fertiliser. Look out for pests and destroy them. Hoe and sow regularly.

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