

## This Month's Competition

### "Caption it?"

A few months ago you may remember that we had a very successful 'Cat Caption' competition. We now challenge you to write a humorous caption to the accompanying picture of a polar bear. At this time of the year some very appropriate captions should be forthcoming, so set your pen to paper and post your entry to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Head Office, Love Lane, Liverpool 3*, to arrive not later than **December 9th**.

We hope to publish the results in our Christmas number — you haven't got much time, **so do it now** — and don't forget to add your own name and address (office or home).

Three prizes of half-a-guinea each will be awarded for the best three captions. The competition is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.



Photograph by Mr. R. W. Bellis (North Wirral District)

### Prizewinners and Solutions Crossword Competition

Well over a hundred entries were received for the September Crossword Competition which, as some competitors remarked, was 'too easy'. Well, you can't please all of the people all of the time, but judging from the number of correct entries, it

proved that the standard of crossword gave everyone a fair chance of being a prizewinner.

However, if you think that you can compile a really difficult crossword puzzle, go ahead and send it to The Editor who will be pleased to publish it in a future edition of *Contact*.

The three lucky competitors who submitted the first all-correct solutions to be opened on October 21st were as follows:

- Mrs. Fiona Nelson, Registry, Head Office.
- Mr. R. H. Brooks, Stores Office, Lister Drive, Area 1.
- Miss C. White, Supplies Section, Eversley, Area 2.

Each will receive half-a-guinea as a prize.

**SOLUTION—Across:** 1 Copper; 4 Carpet; 7 U.S.A.; 8 Rocker; 9 Stream; 10 Plush; 13 Niece; 15 Oscar; 17 Tries; 18 Place; 20 Tramp; 23 Rants; 26 Thesis; 27 Warned; 28 Eye; 29 Detest; 30 Relate.  
**Down:** 1 Carbon; 2 Pickle; 3 Rural; 4 Cases; 5 Poetic; 6 Temper; 10 Peter; 11 Union; 12 Hosts; 14 Ill; 16 Arm; 18 Parted; 19 Absent; 21 Agenda; 22 Peddle; 24 Asset; 25 Tower.

### PUBLIC SPEAKING

Subjects chosen for the EDA 1964 Public Speaking Competition are *History of Cooking; Lighting and Living; and Warmth without Worry*. As an alternative, a free subject may be chosen provided it has a clear connection with electricity utilisation.

Entries for this 24th annual competition close on December 3rd. Competitors must be employed in the electricity supply industry and under 35 years of age. Area contests will be held during the winter with the national finals taking place in London next May.

Potential participants for either the men's or women's sections can obtain an explanatory booklet, which includes an entry form, direct from EDA or from the Board's Commercial department.

November

1963

# Contact

The Staff Magazine  
of the  
Merseyside and North Wales  
Electricity Board

THE ROAD TO TOMORROW (see page 226)





Big smiles for the photographer from members of the North Wirral District staff who had a happy time at their Hallowe'en Party on October 31st. The venue was the Wallasey Sports and Social Club, where an enjoyable evening of dancing and games had the party going with a swing.

## Hallowe'en Dances

Shaking with the Bisons, the group with the Liverpool Sound, who played for the record turnout at this year's Hallowe'en Dance at Head Office. After an ear-splitting session with the group the building settled on its foundations again when music for the over-twenties was provided by Maurice Hulme (piano) and Norman Rigby (drums).



# Contact

Edited by Keith Baldwin and published monthly from the Board's Head Office, Love Lane, Liverpool 3. NORTH 2681

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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### EDITORIAL

## Changing Times

*"THERE is no need for me to say that we are a changing industry. We must accept that change is going to take place most of our working lives. None of us are going to lose our jobs through redundancy, but some of us are going to have to change our jobs."*

With these words Mr. M. Skinner, secretary of the National Joint Advisory Council, speaking at a recent employees' meeting at Birkenhead, pinpointed one of the most important problems facing us.

Most people tend to be creatures of habit, and for all except a small minority of dynamic personalities, a rut can be a very comfortable thing. Questions of personality apart, upheavals in large organisations may arouse hostility and suspicion on other grounds. Most people can still remember the time when a steady job — if you had one — was something to hang on to, and when anything which upset that state of affairs had a fair chance of leading to the ranks of the unemployed.

Some trade unions too, in efforts to protect the full employment of their members, have from time to time resisted change if it appeared that the sole purpose of that change was to protect or increase the profits of the employers. In this way industrial disputes which may have appeared ludicrous to the outside observer have sometimes developed, ranging from the machine-wrecking activities of the original Luddites to the "line of demarcation" disputes of recent years.

As the demand for electricity in our "affluent society" continues to mushroom, so it is inevitable that old methods of doing things will give way to new, that automation will take over more and more tasks previously done by men and women, that some jobs will disappear entirely and that other, completely new occupations, are likely to evolve.

In evaluating the impact of these changes on us as individuals we must bear in mind that they will spring from rapid expansion, and the rationalisation which must accompany it, not from economic depression or tight-fisted employers seeking maximum profits. Despite streamlining and improved efficiency, the labour force of our industry will continue to increase. It will be in the interests of every member of the staff to meet the changes of the coming years with flexibility of outlook, willingness to adjust, and determination to make the most of the opportunities which will certainly arise.

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# *Electricity lights the signposts on the Road to Tomorrow*



General view of the Service Area at Knutsford, when work was approaching completion.

## *The Knutsford Service Area*

The mole-plough which was used to lay cable to isolated lighting points. *Left to right:* Messrs. E. Redman (2nd Assistant Commercial Engineer), K. Appleton (3rd Assistant Commercial Engineer), A. Stewart (D.C.E., Northwich), S. S. Poole (chargehand electrician), J. Summer (electrician), E. Tideswell (electrician), R. Penny (chargehand electrician), A. Ball (electrician), J. Chesworth (electrician), F. Goulding (electrician's mate).



To the men in the driving seats of the vehicles which speed along Britain's new motorways after dark, the giant direction signs stand out sharp and clear. The service points, strategically sited at 25-mile intervals, come as islands of light in an endless river of dark tarmac.

The motorways, passing as they usually do through wide stretches of sparsely-populated countryside, skirting towns and cities and plunging under, or soaring over railways and rivers, are often relatively long distances from the nearest electricity supply point. Yet power must be taken to the Service Areas and signs, and the distances involved can pose considerable problems for the electrical engineers concerned.

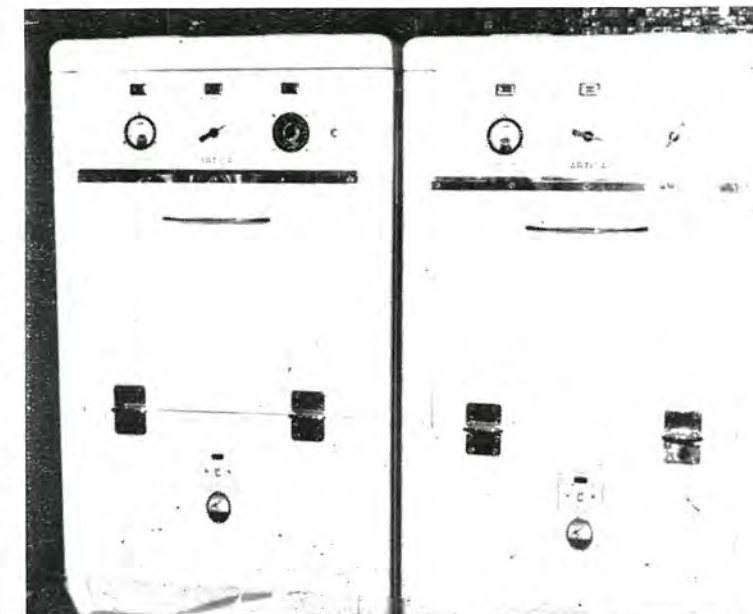
The last section of the first motorway to run

through the MANWEB area—the M6, linking Birmingham and the Preston by-pass,—was opened recently by Mr. Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport, and since work on the M6 began the MANWEB organisation in Warrington, Northwich and Crewe Districts has been involved.

The first problems were revealed when the plans for the motorway were published as it became obvious that a number of the Board's overhead distribution lines, including some at 33,000 volts, would have to be diverted, and in many cases this work would have to be done before construction work commenced. Apart from the work of diverting our lines the question of new permanent supplies to the Service Area and access points and the larger job of temporary supplies to the contractors'

*Right:* The microwave electronic cookers at the Service Area restaurant.

*Below:* The Service Area substation.





At the Tabley access point, where the A550 and the M6 intersect. These two pictures show cable-laying in progress. Above left to right: Messrs. G. Robinson, F. Leigh, R. Hayes, H. Davies, I. Inglis, A. Clarke, J. Teeby and J. Curzon.



offices, site works and construction depots, and a caravan site at Pickmere, where many of the construction staff lived, had to be tackled. The total load involved in this work was more than 2,500 kVA.

The 35-mile section which falls within the Board's area includes one Service Area—at Knutsford, and six access points—at Winwick, Martinscroft and Lymm in Warrington District, Tabley in Northwich District, and Holmes Chapel and Sandbach in Crewe District. These access points, together with the Service Area, called for the provision of more than 300 lighting points. The Service Area itself includes 45 25 ft. lighting columns containing 400 watt mercury vapour lamps and a number of bollards, "keep left" and "no entry" signs. Current is also supplied from a 500 kVA substation established on the Service Area for the restaurant, the sewage pumping station, the road maintenance depot and the police post, which are included at the service point.

#### Heated Signs

The Board were responsible for the internal wiring of the road maintenance depot and police post, and for all the underground cables laid in the Service Area. This involved laying nearly 5,000 yards of cable ranging from 0.3/4c heavy cable into the restaurant to small wiring cable which runs out to the traffic control signs. Much of this cable was mechanically ploughed into the ground. The giant advance direction signs are lit by three five-foot 80 watt fluorescent tubes, and are fitted with 200 watt heaters on thermostatic control to keep them free from ice and snow.

The offices of the road maintenance depot, where staff are retained during the winter to cope with ice and snow on the roadway, are fitted with storage heaters. In the restaurant, to ensure that customers may have a complete meal at any time, microwave electronic cookers convert a dish from the deep freeze into an attractive meal in 45 seconds.

**OUR COVER PICTURE** shows a lighting cable being taken to one of the main advanced signposts at Knutsford—which announces that petrol, food, drink, and parking facilities are available at the Service point. *Left to right:* Messrs. S. S. Poole (chargehand electrician) and E. Redman (2nd Assistant Commercial Engineer).



#### FIT FITTER

**E**LECTRICAL fitter in the North Wirral District, **Mr. George Willan** has been awarded the Preliminary F.A. Coaching Certificate and Badge after attending a Football Association Course at the National Recreation Centre in Shropshire.

George started his football career with Tranmere Rovers and later transferred to New Brighton prior to returning North to play for Chester. During the war, he served as an Army P.T. instructor and played football in several



Mr. George Willan

wartime guest teams touring Scotland. These exhibition matches included such famous players as Jock Thompson (Everton), Alex Brown (Clyde) and Benny Yorston (Middlesbrough).

An all-round athlete, George is also a middleweight boxer and a cross-country runner.

#### Time Flies

A consumer who had received a reminder notice for payment of his electricity account sent in his cheque dated 1967. This was immediately returned by the cashier for amendment. Three days later the cheque was returned with a note saying, "What is four years between friends?"

#### Scout's Honour

We congratulate **Mr. Gerald Newbrook**, aged 17, who recently gained the Queen's Scout Badge. He is the first senior scout in the 35th S.W. Cheshire (Wistaston) Group to win this honour. Gerald, an enthusiastic member of the

Group since it was formed in 1958, completed his education at Sandbach Grammar School last term, and recently enjoyed a 1,300-mile camping tour of Scotland with other members of the Group.

He is now a member of the Board's staff, having started work as a student apprentice a few weeks ago.

#### Committee Members

**Mr. J. L. W. Ladner** (Education and Training Officer) is to continue as Vice-Chairman of the Education and Training Committee of the Industrial Association of Wales and Monmouthshire for the coming year.

The Minister of Labour has appointed **Mr. P. Hill** (the Chairman's chauffeur) to serve for a further period of five years on the Liverpool Disabled Advisory Committee. Mr. Hill has served on this committee since 1951.

#### Busy Man!

A bee-keeping enthusiast whose hobby has brought him distinction in shows all over the country during the past summer is **Mr. Alun Morris**, storekeeper of Dolgellau.

His successes include the Bath and West and Southern Counties Show (1st, 2nd and 4th); the Royal Welsh Show (two 1sts, three 2nds and a 3rd); the

Hull Show (the British Bee-keepers Association's Silver Medal, the Small-holders' Certificate of Merit, two 1sts and two 4th prizes); the Shrewsbury Flower Show (a 1st and a 2nd); the Corris Flower Show (two 1sts and four 2nds); and the Merioneth County Show (Silver Rose Bowl, Silver Bronze Medal, Bronze Medal, five 1sts and five 2nds).

#### Watch the Birdie

Keen camera enthusiast **Mr. R. Bellis** of our North Wirral District, was on the spot some time ago to take a photograph

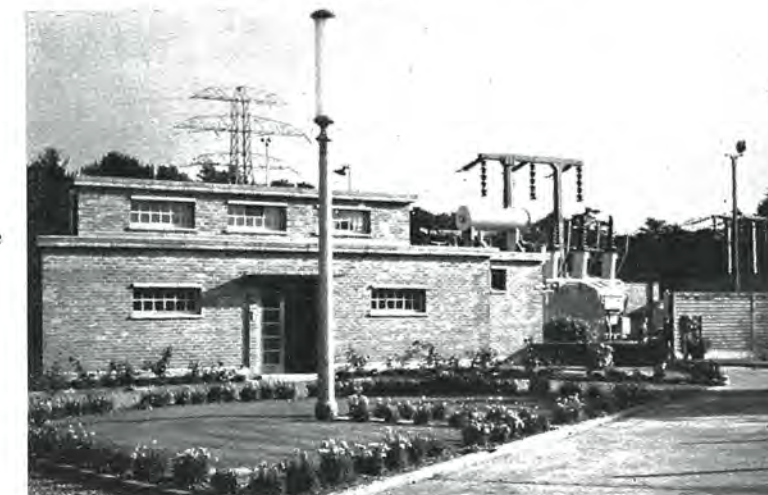


A bird with an ohm' of it's own.

of a bird which had made its nest in an out-door transformer at Holt Hill, Birkenhead.

#### Sightly Substation

A man who obviously takes great pride in his work is **Mr. John Hughes** who looks after the gardens on Board property in the Caernarvon District. In addition to neat flower beds in front of the District Office in St. Helens Road, Mr. Hughes tends the gardens at the Treborth Substation near Bangor.



The very attractive garden layout at the Board's Treborth substation.



by Joe Forrester

## ROSES — SOIL STERILIZATION

ON a Christmas shopping expedition recently I could not help but notice that many stores were doing good business in the sale of "pre-pack" roses. Whilst few would deny that the rose is the most popular of all garden plants, the rapid rise in sales is more probably due to the colourful pack in which they are presented for sale. A would-be purchaser has only to look at the colour print on the package to know the variety and colour of the rose bush he is about to buy. Undoubtedly this is a useful aid to anyone whose knowledge of roses is strictly limited.

Nurserymen offering their stock for sale in this manner have to contend with a number of problems to ensure that the plant is in a good condition when purchased.

The plants have to be lifted as early as possible, de-foliated and packed so as to arrive in the shops at the beginning of the planting out season. Because of the comparatively high temperatures of the stores and shops in which they are to be sold, precautions have to be taken against premature drying-out of the plant. One method adopted by growers is to wrap the roots in wet moss and enclose the whole plant in a polythene bag; whilst this is satisfactory where there is a quick turnover, there is nevertheless a limit to the shelf life of the plant. A more efficient way, developed by MANWEB in conjunction with a large nursery in the area, is to dip the rose bush, excluding the roots, in a heated wax bath, by this method a film of wax adheres to the rose bush sealing in the moisture. To avoid bacteria infection the roots are wrapped in wet papier mâché instead of moss and enclosed in a polythene bag. When planted out and the plant begins to grow, the wax flakes away without any deleterious effect. Plants prepared in this manner have been left packed for over six months before planting out and have been entirely satisfactory.

Amateurs buying a selection of roses will, of course, appreciate that it is better to purchase their requirements direct from a good nursery so as to ensure obtaining the particular varieties they desire. Obviously the range of "pre-packs" is limited, and demand on a particular variety may further reduce selection. Many amateurs perusing a nursery catalogue have a trying time making up their minds what to buy. In many cases it is advan-

tageous to accept selections offered by nurserymen, as their selections invariably include all the most popular varieties, and purchasing by this method usually means a reduced cost.

Occasionally new varieties are introduced, and it is interesting to obtain them and judge for oneself the comparison with their older, more established counterparts. This year, for the first time on record, a floribunda rose, *Elizabeth of Glamis*, was awarded the Clay Challenge Vase for the best scented rose raised by a British Hybridist. This rose also won the National Rose Society Gold Medal and the President's International Trophy for the best new seedling of the year. It is light salmon orange in colour and its clean-looking appearance, together with its scent, will ensure its popularity.

Over the years the hybridising of roses seems to be responsible for the loss of fragrance, once so characteristic of the English rose. It is, however, pleasing to note that there is undoubtedly a return of interest in the scented rose, and each year one or two new seedlings of scented varieties make an appearance. The National Rose Society Trial Ground report that "*Fragrant Cloud*", a red or crimson hybrid tea rose, has done very well on trial and in addition to possessing a fragrant penetrating scent, it is extremely free flowering.

For anyone keenly interested in roses, a new book on the subject, "*Roses for Enjoyment*" by Gordon Edwards, published by W. H. & L. Collingridge Ltd. at 30/-, is a worthwhile buy. This book covers in detail the breeding, growing, feeding, treatment and flower arrangement of roses, with good illustrations. Undoubtedly it would serve as an excellent Christmas present.

### Soil Sterilizing

Many amateurs are handicapped by the lack of an efficient means of sterilizing soil, and the time is now ripe to give some thought to the problem. Some will be tackling the job by chemical methods, using a 2% solution of formaldehyde or cresylic acid. The main objection to this method is that a period of at least four weeks must elapse before the soil is usable. It does, however, have some advantage when dealing with large areas in greenhouses, where steam sterilizing is not practicable and where the ground is not immediately

required. It is also useful for the treatment of tools, pots, seed boxes, etc.

Jeyes Fluid can also be used for sterilizing badly diseased soil in outdoor beds. In addition to sterilizing potting soil and greenhouse soil, it can be used for washing and disinfecting greenhouse frames and pots.

The electric sterilizer on the other hand has brought within reach of the amateur gardener a simple and clean method of sterilizing his own soil. The photograph shows a useful sterilizer of simple design which, in addition to its main purpose, can also be used as a greenhouse heater. When used for the latter purpose, the cover is inverted so that the tray may be filled with water to assist in maintaining humidity in the greenhouse. Its capacity is about one hundredweight and sterilization takes approximately 1½ hours with a consumption of about 2½ units.



The G.E.C. soil sterilizer serving a dual purpose as a greenhouse heater.

The soil sterilizer consists of a metal box containing an electric heater, usually of the flat plate type, and the soil is filled into the box and packed round the plate or plates. Heat is transmitted from the surface of the heater to the soil by conduction, and it is clear that the further the soil is away from the heater, the lower its temperature will be. The sterilizers are designed so that the maximum distance the heat has to be conducted is such that the soil furthest away from the heater reaches the required sterilizing temperature without undue overheating of the soil in contact with the heater. Some overheating is unavoidable, but in practice it is found that the amount of soil so damaged is very small, and when mixed with the remaining soil, the effect is negligible.

It is necessary for the soil to be of the proper consistency when it is put into the sterilizer, and it should be sufficiently moist to "ball" when firmly squeezed in the palm of the hand. With this type of sterilizer overheating will occur if the current is left switched on too long, and the operation is preferably controlled by reference to a thermometer placed in the soil at the maximum distance away from the heater.

The soil should be friable and free from lumps, as these form pockets of incompletely sterilized soil, from which infection can spread. It is, incidentally, a waste of time to sterilize the soil and then drop it on to contaminated ground. The sterilized soil should either be emptied into a clean container or on to a tarpaulin spread underneath the sterilizer kept for the purpose. After use the tarpaulin should be swept clean, rolled up and stored away, and not used for any other purpose.

### REMINDERS

- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Sow lettuce for early crops.
- Look out for mildew and leaf miner on chrysanthemums.
- Tidy up herbaceous border.
- Take cuttings of perpetual carnations.
- Collect fallen leaves for leaf mould for composts.
- Dig vacant ground.
- Apply bone meal liberally on rock gardens.

### Mr. H. M. BREESE

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. Harold Maxwell Breese, a member of the Board's staff at Newtown, at the age of 48.

During the last war Mr. Breese saw service with the R.A.F. in the Middle East and Italy.

At the funeral Messrs. W. Williams, C. Lewis, C. Arthur and G. Davies, MANWEB colleagues, acted as bearers.

He leaves a widow and son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

### Obituary

#### Mr. E. BOLLAND

We deeply regret to report the untimely death of Mr. Eric Bolland, contracting foreman at Chester District, at the age of 38.

Mr. Bolland, who had been at Chester for about 12 years, collapsed on his way home from work.

Colleagues W. Anderson, R. Pritchard and R. Jonas were among the bearers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow, a 5 year old daughter and twin baby girls. We offer deepest sympathy to his family.

#### Mr. E. H. TUDOR

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. Edward Harold Tudor, who had for the past 10 years served on the Board's staff at Newtown, latterly as stores assistant, at the age of 64. During two world wars Mr. Tudor served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

The funeral, at All Saints Church, was attended by several of his colleagues, while Messrs. G. Hawkins, R. Williams, E. M. Gittins and D. Williams acted as bearers. We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.



Mr. D. G. Gwyn, left, delivering his talk at Southport. Also in the picture are Mr. L. J. Scudamore, centre, and Mr. J. Taylor (Manager, Area 1).

## Successful Southport Meeting

JUST over a hundred members of the Southport District staff supported by a handful of guests from Head Office and Area 1 Office were present for the Employees' Annual Meeting held in a local hotel on October 18th.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. L. J. Scudamore (District Manager) who welcomed everyone to the meeting adding a special welcome to the retired employees who had come along.

In the course of his address, Mr. Scudamore urged all employees to take a more active interest in the work of the Local Advisory Committee and to try to understand the work done and the topics discussed by the Committee. Speaking on safety matters, a subject covered by the L.A.C.'s, Mr. Scudamore said he was 'very concerned' with the safety records in the Southport District, and he stressed the point that everyone should make an effort to look at the jobs they were doing and see if they could be done in a safer way in order to improve the record in accident prevention.

He then went on to make some reference to the pressure of work in the District. "Last year", he said, "on the engineering side, 35 new substations were commissioned. This year we set out with a target of 52 or 54 new substations and as an indication of the way in which you have all responded to the call, I am pleased to be able to tell you that up to the end of September, from the beginning of April, 26 new substations have been commissioned".

He also paid tribute to the cable gangs saying that last year about 24 miles of cable was laid and in the first six months of this year they had already completed 19 miles. To the people who had helped make this possible, Mr. Scudamore expressed his sincere appreciation.

### Commercial Targets

On the Commercial side, the District Manager praised the staff for achieving their target last year and went on to remind them of the ten per cent increase set as a target for the current year. He then informed the audience that in the first six months of the year there was a twenty-three per cent increase. He then went on to

talk of the Board's storage heater drive and the necessity to keep up the pressure. "Every storage heater installation that goes in," he said, "does two things. First, we are convinced that it is going to produce a satisfied consumer and second, from the Board's point of view, it is going to spread the load by using off-peak electricity."

Finally, Mr. Scudamore paid tribute to the administrative staff whose job it was to progress the increased paper work and to keep things going. To all the District employees, Mr. Scudamore said, "I greatly appreciate your efforts—please keep it up".

He then introduced Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman) who was the guest speaker for the evening.

Beginning his talk entitled "Joint Consultation, its Retrospect and Prospect", Mr. Gwyn said, "One had to look back and see what gave rise to this machine as it is called today—not a very adequate description, it has an inhuman character—I think it much better to call it an association of people for the public good".

### Industrial Troubles

He went on to give the reason why Joint Consultation first came to be spoken of, saying that it dated back to the industrial troubles which arose during the first world war. Because of the seriousness of the differences which had arisen between employer and employee, the Government felt impelled in 1919 to appoint a special committee to examine the basic causes of industrial disputes and to report on it with recommendations as to its treatment.

Mr. Gwyn then went on to say that the objective was to develop the right working environment to make men more efficient in their work which in turn promoted a higher degree of industrial efficiency within the working unit. "This may look to be a cold-blooded way of saying that the question of consultation only exists in order to promote efficiency", he continued, "but there is a very strong inter-relationship between the achievements of working efficiency and the conditions under which people work."

"It has been proved time and time again", he said, "that you cannot have efficient working unless you have a working environment or working conditions which are

conducive to a man or woman giving of their best in the interest of the service in which they are working."

He then informed the gathering that in the Consultative machine there were avenues which the Local Advisory Committees were required to explore, such as education, welfare, safety and efficiency, all factors which contribute to the employees' environment.

"Joint Consultation", said Mr. Gwyn, "by its very concept compels people to get together and to talk, to confer, to consult and to give from one to another, human thought designed in the main to be unselfish and to contribute to the general welfare of the group as a whole."

### Accept Principal

He then made the following points. "First", he said, "the principal of consultation must be accepted and we must develop an enthusiasm about it. Second, it is important that there exists complete frankness of expression and mutual understanding with all parties. Third, objectives. It is a waste of time to talk about the value of welfare, education, etc., unless you set out to achieve these objects. Finally, for success in consultation it is also necessary to implement decisions promptly."

## INDUCTION AT HEAD OFFICE

### Student Apprentice Intake, 1963

The young men shown in the photograph below are this year's intake of MANWEB student apprentices. With the exception of three students, all will be attending the Birkenhead Technical College until next June preparing for their O1 level of the Ordinary National Diploma.

They will then continue for a further four years on a Sandwich Course (periods of six months at Technical College followed by six months practical training with the Board), by which time they should have obtained the Higher National Diploma. However, it is possible for outstanding students at Ordinary National Diploma level to be offered the opportunity to attend one of the Advanced Colleges of Technology to study for a Diploma in Technology.



Three of the 1962/63 Scholarship winners, left to right: Messrs. C. McGreevy, J. E. Roberts and J. P. Heath. The two students, McGreevy and Heath are now studying at university and Roberts is working with the Board for twelve months before he goes to university.



Left to right, back row: Messrs. L. T. Broughton (Senior assistant, Education and Training), R. A. Lomas, M. Williamson, G. D. Newbrook, R. A. Burt, L. D. Scott, W. P. Phillips, I. K. Halsall and B. McNutt. Front row: Messrs. R. C. Austin, I. D. Parkinson, S. J. Hargreave, J. M. Williams, J. Robinson and A. J. Bishop.



### HEAD OFFICE TREASURE HUNT

About 40 people in 11 cars took part in a motorised Treasure Hunt, organised by Head Office Sports and Social Club, and held over the lanes of the Wirral, in September.

The Hunt terminated at a Parkgate Hotel, where the winners—from Rhostyllen—Mr. and Mrs. E. Davies (Secretarial Department) and Mr.

and Mrs. H. Phillips (Welfare) were presented with gift vouchers by Mr. P. d'E. Stowell, the Board's Chief Engineer.

The last crew to arrive—Messrs. E. A. E. Colter and N. S. Doughty, Miss E. K. Hirst and Miss J. Griffiths—were presented with torches to help them read the signposts on the way home.

### CAERNARVON SAFE DRIVERS

Safe driving awards made to eleven members of the Caernarvon District staff were presented by Mr. E. W. Griffiths (District Manager) at a ceremony at the District Office on November 1st.

Congratulating the men on their achievements, Mr. Griffiths said that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents regarded the awards as playing an important roll in keeping down the toll of the roads.

The awards were presented as follows: *Diplomas*—

Some of the Caernarvon District staff who were present at the Safe Driving Awards presentation ceremony.



Messrs. R. G. Roberts (Engineering), E. Phillips (Commercial) and C. G. Williams (Central Stores). *Five Year Medal*—Mr. R. D. Jones (Commercial). *Bars to Five Year Medals*—Messrs. W. T. Jones and E. Owen (Engineering), W. H. Morris, R. I. Morris, A. M. Tyler and O. W. Thomas (Commercial) and W. J. Hunt (Meter Reader).

The award made to Mr. Thomas, who is retired, was accepted on his behalf by his daughter who now works for the Board.



The winning crew receive their prize. Left to right: Miss C. Northall, Miss P. Stephens, Mr. A. Kidd, Miss M. Williams and Miss C. Sankey.

### TORCHLIGHT TREASURE HUNT

Sixty people took part in a torchlight motorised Treasure Hunt from Area 4 office recently. The route covered 17 miles, and 93 clues requiring answers were given.

Winners were Miss Pam Stephens and crew, runners-up being Mr. Emyr Davies and crew,

whilst the booby was won by Mr. C. Berry and crew.

The prizes were presented by Mr. A. Kidd, Secretary, Area 4, at the Golden Lion Inn, Rossett, where an excellent buffet supper awaited the competitors.

### CHESTER BOWLS

A one-time regular feature was revived this year when a mixed team from our Area 3 Accounts Department defeated a team from the Area Engineering Department by a narrow margin of 201

points to 189. The match was staged at a Mouldsworth Hotel, and after a pleasant hour in the smoke room, it was decided to play a return match later.

### CREWE DISTRICT FISHING MATCH

In fine but windy weather 42 members of the fishing section of Crewe District Sports and Social Club turned out for the District's annual fishing match, staged at Tilston, near Beeston Castle, on September 29th.

Twenty-eight of the contestants caught fish, and the winner was Mr. J. Pilbury of Crewe Mains, with a catch of 9 oz. 5 drams.

Thanks are due to Messrs. A. T. K. Knott, J. Burgess and A. N. Cuttler, who arranged the outing.

Peace, perfect peace! Some of the participants waiting for a 'bite' during the Crewe District's annual fishing match.





# Photography

BY GEORGE GOULD

## Indoor shots on an economy budget

MY space this month was intended to be used to tell you how to make your own Christmas cards, but a letter from a reader who signs himself "St. Helens, MANWEB" suggests that I should give him some idea on how to do simple indoor portraits on a small budget and without lots of the usual studio equipment.

Not knowing what type of camera my correspondent has, my advice is intended to help all camera users—so here goes. Well, Mr. Reader, what kind of a house have you? Have you a spare bedroom or standard lamp? You can, if you wish, use the ordinary domestic lamp of the 100 or 150-watt type—this will depend mainly on the range of lens apertures and shutter speeds on your camera. On the other hand, if the camera is a simple box camera with a fixed speed, then you will be well-advised to purchase two No. 1 Photoflood lamps costing 2s. 9d. each. These special lamps can be used on a normal lighting circuit, and are quite safe. In fact, four lamps can be used off a five-amp plug quite safely.

Next we must choose the film to use, and for the box camera user we are restricted to the faster speed films such as HP3 or Kodak Tri-X. Those owning cameras with variable shutters can load them with a medium speed film, such as FP3 or Kodak Plus X. Development is best left to your choice. Whether you do your own or leave it to your local dealer, use a developer of the "Fine Grain" type—this will give you full film speed and maximum image quality. Your local dealer will process the film in this developer for about a shilling a film extra, and you will be amazed at the improvement in your negatives.

### Careful preparation

Now for your portrait session. Choose the background carefully—an old grey blanket is ideal. Hang it up for an hour to allow any creases to drop out. If you use a wall, don't choose one with a strong pattern or a shiny gloss surface, and place your subject in position about three feet from the wall. Put the camera on a tripod about six feet from the subject. The box camera operator could use a table or other strong support. Place your first or main light at an angle of about 45 degrees to the camera, about two feet higher than your model's head, and about five feet from your model. Your secondary light should be on the opposite side of the camera, about a foot from

the camera and about seven feet from the model. This type of lighting will ensure a large amount of facial detail, and when observed from the camera position you should be able to see a slight shadow under your model's nose. A point to watch here is the possibility of a heavy shadow immediately behind your subject's head. If this happens, try bringing your model away from the background and raise slightly the height of the lights—this should remove the shadows.

Assuming that you have no exposure meter handy, here is a ready-made guide to portrait exposure. Using a medium-speed film, such as FP3, and domestic lamps,

A simple yet effective portrait



### 'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Winners will be announced in the Christmas issue.

I would suggest that you use an exposure of about 1/5th second at an aperture of F4, or 1/10th on HP3 film. Using the same "set-up" the box camera user should make use of the Photoflood lamps and give the fixed exposure on HP3 film. It is good practice in portrait photography to have your model sitting at an angle to the camera, and then looking towards the camera. It is almost certain that you will want to expose a whole roll of eight or twelve negatives at one sitting, and this will enable you to vary your position. Always study your subject from the camera position, and if one side seems a little on the dark side, then, by hanging a white sheet of paper or a white tablecloth, you will reflect quite a lot of useful light towards your model.

My picture this month is one of my little girl. The background was an old blanket (but note the fault—you can see the join below the chair). This was taken with only one photoflood next to the camera—but slightly higher. The addition of the chair helped to make quite a pleasant picture. The film was FP3, processed in Microphen.

Incidentally, if you want to get the effect of a spotlight, then make a funnel of some stout paper and wrap it around the lampholder. Make sure it isn't touching the bulb! For a cost of less than six shillings you can have all the facilities you want, so why not have a try?

### SUGGESTION SCHEME

Congratulations to the following members of the staff who recently received awards under the Employees' Suggestion Scheme: Messrs. B. F. Ashton (*driver, Area 1*); E. J. Davies (*jointer, Clwyd District*); J. E. Eaton (*senior assistant, Stores and Accounts, Area 1*); M. Gough (*junior clerk, Northwich District*); D. B. Griffiths (*accounts clerk, Head Office*); J. F. Guy (*installation inspector, North Wirral District*); R. Hewitt (*senior Service Centre assistant, Mold*); K. S. Jones (*electrician, Chester District*); D. Lang (*sub-District clerk, Mold*); R. Neil (*senior sales representative, North Wirral District*); T. D. Roddick (*sales representative, Warrington District*); F. J. Slee (*electrical fitter, North Wirral District*) and four members of the staff who wish to remain anonymous.

### DIPLOMA SUCCESS

Our congratulations to Miss Dorothy Hughes, a clerk in the North Wirral District, on her success in obtaining a Diploma of Salesmanship in the United Commercial Travellers' Association examinations.

### MOVES TO ARABIA

Friends and colleagues of Miss Verna Evans, a member of the staff of the Revenue department at Rhostyllen, presented her with a camera and entertained her to dinner at a Marford hotel when she left recently to take up a post with her brother in a shipping office at Kuwait, Arabia.

## ≡ BREVITIES ≡

### EVERSLEY FAREWELLS

Staff at the Area 2 Accounts department at Eversley bade farewell to three colleagues during October.

**Mr. Bob Abel** who left the Board after twelve years' service to join a local industrial concern. Bob was presented with a fan heater from his colleagues.

**Mr. Dennis Charlesworth** who has now taken up an appointment in the Official Receiver's Department at Manchester.

Dennis was an active member of the Sports and Social Club Committee and was Branch Treasurer for N.A.L.G.O. Mr. K. S. Leach (Area Accountant) presented him with a table lamp on behalf of his many friends.

**Mr. Eric Fairclough** who after serving with the Board for 15 years has now joined the C.E.G.B. at Manchester. Presenting Eric with a briefcase on behalf of his colleagues, Mr. K. S. Leach thanked him for his work as Staff Representative and wished him the best of luck in his new job.

E.I.B.A. Liverpool District  
Social Committee  
ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES BALL  
Tuesday, March 17th, 1964  
at the  
Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool

### INTO BUSINESS

After 17 and 15 years' service respectively to the supply industry, Messrs. H. R. Jones and R. J. Pughe, electricians at Towyn, have left the Board's staff to set up in business on their own account in partnership at Towyn.

### RESIGNATION

On leaving the service of the Board Mrs. Edna Chambers, clerk in the North Wirral District Office, was presented with a convector fire, a kettle and some ovenware dishes on behalf of her friends, by Mr. G. A. White (District Commercial Engineer).

Mrs. Chambers leaves to accompany her husband, an employee of the General Post Office, who has taken up a new appointment at Stoke-on-Trent.

North Wirral District staff gather to say their good-byes to Mrs. Chambers.





# Board Activities

## COMMERCIAL NOTES

The purchases of energy by the Board during the month of September increased by nearly 66 million units (11% over those of September last year). Again the major proportion of the increase was purchased on behalf of industrial consumers

whose additional requirements amounted to over 54 million units — this figure included major increases from the chemical, iron and motor car industries. The balance of the units purchased indicated a small increase in the sales of domestic and commercial consumers during the month.

Electricity Supplies	SEPTEMBER 1963			Aggregate for the six months April to Sept.		
	Units Sept. 1963	Units Sept. 1962	Diff. %	Units 1963	Units 1962	Diff. %
	Area 1 ...	186,948,815	170,069,875	+ 9.92	1,103,049,316	999,996,715
Area 2 ...	165,976,887	144,927,202	+14.52	961,718,888	832,765,381	+15.48
Area 3 ...	129,302,129	120,615,182	+ 7.20	764,825,178	682,199,802	+12.11
Area 4 ...	179,760,926	160,597,091	+11.93	1,035,843,206	938,315,540	+10.39
Total for Area Board	661,988,757	596,209,350	+11.03	3,865,436,588	3,453,277,438	+11.94

During the month the Board connected 2,174 new consumers (including 99 farms), and the aggregate for the six months' period—April to September—is now 12,203 new supplies. The total number of consumers now connected to the

Board's system is 984,612, showing a net increase since the 31st March, 1963, of 5,847. The difference between this last figure and the 12,203 new supplies connected, represents disconnections mainly caused by the clearance of slum property.

New Connections	SEPTEMBER 1963					Aggregate for the six months April to Sept.				
	Domestic	Farms	Comm.	Indus.	Total	Domestic	Farms	Comm.	Indus.	Total
Area 1	498 (613)	— (1)	58 (63)	15 (17)	571 (694)	3,155 (3,068)	2 (5)	340 (298)	113 (92)	3,610 (3,463)
Area 2	411 (262)	2 (—)	36 (27)	1 (5)	450 (294)	2,020 (1,563)	8 (—)	131 (110)	12 (14)	2,171 (1,687)
Area 3	343 (482)	2 (1)	46 (63)	— (1)	391 (547)	1,953 (1,989)	3 (11)	237 (249)	3 (7)	2,196 (2,256)
Area 4	594 (658)	95 (104)	71 (66)	2 (1)	762 (829)	3,325 (3,832)	497 (728)	399 (481)	5 (5)	4,226 (5,046)
Tot. for Area Bd	1,846 (2,015)	99 (106)	211 (219)	18 (24)	2,174 (2,364)	10,453 (10,452)	510 (744)	1,107 (1,138)	133 (118)	12,203 (12,452)

Note: The corresponding figures for last year are in parentheses.

The number of consumers at the end of September 1963 was 984,612, broken down into Areas as follows: Area 1—365,832; Area 2—155,021; Area 3—175,974; Area 4—287,785.  
 Number of consumers at the end of September 1962 ... 972,355  
 Number of consumers at 1st April, 1948 (Vesting Day) ... 632,207

Sales of appliances during the month show an increase of 8% over those of the same month in the previous year and they reached a total of £338,000. The sales for the half year—April to September—now total £1,815,000 compared with £1,664,000 in

the same six months last year, an increase of 9%. While retail trading conditions have improved generally, this rate of increase is greater than that being enjoyed in other retail outlets for electrical appliances. There was a substantial increase in the

numbers of cookers sold, which rose by 7%. There were also increases in washing machines (26%) vacuum cleaners (9%) but sales of refrigerators and water heaters showed a decline over the numbers sold in September last year.

The Domestic Block Storage Heating Campaign

is now well under way and by the end of September 2,514 heaters, representing an off-peak load of 5,821 kW, had been sold since the beginning of the campaign in 1962. It is expected that with the winter months approaching, the requests for thermal storage heaters will increase rapidly.

Sales of Appliances	Sales Sept. 1963	Sales Sept. 1962	Diff. %	Aggregate for the six months April to Sept.		
				Sales 1963	Sales 1962	Diff. %
Area 1 ...	£126,322	£131,064	— 4	£700,567	£655,437	+ 7
Area 2 ...	£52,653	£45,741	+15	£257,102	£236,297	+ 9
Area 3 ...	£72,037	£63,393	+14	£370,051	£324,287	+14
Area 4 ...	£87,007	£73,963	+18	£486,938	£447,744	+ 9
Total for Area Board	£338,019	£314,161	+ 8	£1,814,658	£1,663,765	+ 9

Large Appliances sold during September 1963	AREA 1		AREA 2		AREA 3		AREA 4		TOTAL	
	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962
Cookers ...	957	933	441	392	536	485	775	727	2,709	2,537
Water Heaters ...	549	791	264	308	414	486	329	302	1,556	1,887
Refrigerators ...	195	384	103	62	168	107	144	129	610	682
Washing Machines...	495	383	181	148	200	159	298	245	1,174	935
Vacuum Cleaners ...	305	266	152	160	221	175	218	221	896	822
Aggregate for the six months April to Sept.	4,824	4,671	2,085	1,935	2,693	2,377	4,176	4,193	13,778	13,176
Cookers ...	5,053	6,103	1,930	2,176	2,907	3,365	2,666	2,728	12,556	14,372
Water Heaters ...	2,990	1,937	950	685	1,551	990	1,938	1,484	7,429	5,096
Refrigerators ...	2,361	1,955	796	699	954	750	1,458	1,249	5,569	4,653
Washing Machines...	1,829	1,455	885	759	1,219	984	1,450	1,393	5,383	4,591
Vacuum Cleaners										

In the six months' period the sales of electricity have risen by 14.8% to 3,940 million units; these include the sale of 1,290 million units to domestic and farm consumers; 2,174 million units to industrial consumers and 476 million units to all types of commercial consumers.

The industrial sales amounted to 55% of the total

energy sold by the Board during the period and is an increase of 16% over the number sold in the comparable period last year. This indicates the substantial upsurge in industrial activity within the Board's Area in the last few months and there is every indication that this will now continue.

## ENGINEERING NOTES

At their monthly meeting in Liverpool in November the Board approved schemes to extend and reinforce the distribution network at a cost of over £1 million.

Among the major schemes there is provision for supplying four housing estates, one of which consists of three 15-storey blocks of flats. Also

included are schemes for reinforcing the medium voltage network in the vicinity of Devonshire Road, All Saints Road, Old Thomas Lane and Pinfold Lane in the Liverpool area and the reinforcement of the high voltage network by providing four substations fed from the 33 kV network at Lavrock Bank, Old Swan and Aigburth Vale in Liverpool and at Barmouth in North Wales.

[Continued on page 238]

## WEDDINGS



Mr. and Mrs. H. Thomas

## ENGAGEMENTS

Cupid has been busy again at our Area 4 Office and we offer our congratulations to the following members of the Rhostyllen staff who recently announced their engagements:

Miss Jean Cynthia Roberts, typist, to Mr. Cliff Davies of Bradley, near Wrexham.

Miss Pamela Darlington, typist, to Mr. Bryn Kelly of Pentre Broughton, near Wrexham.

Miss Ann Smith, clerk, to Mr. Gwilyn Roberts of Bwlchgwyn, near Wrexham.

Miss Pauline Marubbi, comptometer operator, to Mr. Terry Wilson of Mold.

Best wishes for the future to Miss Janice Corker, a member of the Head Office Typing Pool, who recently became engaged to Mr. John Ferguson.

Congratulations to Mr. B. Bligh-Smith (senior assistant, Area 2 Accounts) who recently announced his engagement to Miss Linda Diane Hallwood of Wallasey.

### Board Activities — continued

A further section of Southport in the vicinity of Meols Cop and Kew is to be given a standard a.c. supply and the supply to a large industrial consumer in Warrington is to be increased from 8.5 MVA to 17 MVA.

The major construction work associated with the establishing of the grid substation at Lister Drive has now been completed. This work involved the commissioning of 4 new 7.5 MVA 33 kV/HV transformers. At Anderton, near Northwich, a

### THOMAS—HUMPHREYS

Best wishes for future happiness to Mr. Howard Thomas, a clerk in the Building Department at Area 4 office, who married Miss Beryl Humphreys, a nurse at Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, at Wrexham on October 5th. On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with an electric heater and a frying pan.

### BELL—HAYES

Congratulations to Miss Brenda Hayes, a machine operator in the Accounts section at Eversley, who was married to Mr. Alan Bell a few weeks ago at Frodsham Parish Church.

As a wedding present from her colleagues, Brenda received a coffee table.

### JOHNSON—WRIGHT

Best wishes for the future to Miss Wendy Wright, a clerk in the Supplies section at Eversley, and Mr. Michael Johnson, who were married at St. Edward's R.C. Church, Runcorn, on October 26th.

Colleagues at Eversley presented Wendy with a fan heater. Michael recently joined the Area 1 Accounts staff at Derby House.

### WARBURTON—NIELD

Congratulations to Miss Sybil Nield, a clerk in the Revenue section at Eversley, on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Robin Warburton on October 5th at Blakelees Methodist Chapel, Kingsley.

Sybil was presented with an electric fire as a wedding gift from her many friends at Eversley.

### RUSHTON—NEWALL

Best wishes for the future to Miss Glenys Newall, a machine operator in the Accounts section at Eversley

who was married to Mr. Brian Rushton on October 5th at Trinity Methodist Church, Frodsham.



Mr. and Mrs. B. Rushton

Glenys received a set of pans and an electric fire from her colleagues.

## BIRTHS

The stork recently delivered a trio of bouncing baby girls in the Pwllheli area and we offer our congratulations to:

Mr. W. D. E. Bott, records draughtsman, and Mrs. Bott on the birth of a daughter, Sandra Elizabeth.

Mr. O. I. Roberts, linesman, and Mrs. Roberts on the birth of a daughter, Karen.

Mr. R. W. Jones, storekeeper, and Mrs. Jones on the birth of a daughter, Nerys Wyn.

Mr. E. H. Jones, installation inspector at Towyn, and Mrs. Jones on the birth of a daughter, a sister for Haydn and Leona.

Mr. J. A. Bailey, assistant instructor, Hoylake, and Mrs. Bailey on the birth of a daughter.

4 MVA 33/11 kV transformer has been replaced by a 7.5 MVA unit and at Colwyn Bay 2-7.5 MVA 33/6.6 kV transformers have been replaced by 33/11 kV units as part of the changeover of the high voltage system from 6.6 kV to 11 kV. A new 4 MVA 33 kV substation at Bala which was commissioned in October will provide improved security of supply in this area.

On October 18th, one of the Board's largest consumers—I.C.I.—Weston Point set up an all time record maximum demand of 101.8 MW.



Mr. J. Jones, third from the right, receives a farewell gift from Mr. G. Edwards on behalf of his colleagues at Legacy.



To mark her recent retirement Miss Madge Conway (deputy Typing Pool supervisor at Head Office) was presented with a radiogram by her colleagues. The presentation was made by Mr. A. P. Whyte (formerly Chief Internal Auditor). Also in the picture are Messrs. E. J. Lollar (Chief Accountant (left)), and M. M. Parker (Board Secretary (right)).

### Mr. JOHN JONES

Our best wishes for a long and happy retirement go to Mr. John Jones, a labourer with the Pwllheli engineering department, who retired a few weeks ago after 16 years' service with the Board.

Mr. Jones was presented with a cheque on behalf of his colleagues by Mr. R. Griffiths, section engineer.

### Mr. T. W. GRIFFITHS

After 30 years' service to the industry Mr. Trevor W. Griffiths, installation inspector on the staff of Liverpool Central District, has retired on health grounds. Mr. Griffiths served his apprenticeship as an electrician with the Liverpool Corporation, later working in the meter department.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues he was presented with a silver cigarette case by Mr. H. C. Nicholls, installation inspection engineer.

### Mr. J. WALLER

After nearly 36 years' service

to the industry Mr. J. Waller chargehand jointer at Warrington retired in October.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a clock by Mr. A. R. Cooper (District Engineer).

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. J. JONES

After 37 years' service to the industry Mr. J. Jones, senior assistant engineer (technical), Area 4, based at Legacy, near Wrexham, retired a few weeks ago.

Better known as 'Meter' Jones (originally to distinguish him from the other Joneses in North Wales), the nickname spread among his many contacts in all parts of the British Isles.

He enlisted in the army "under-age" and served in the R.A.M.C. for four years during the first World War. On demobilisation he joined a special Metropolitan Vickers training scheme, and upon completion became their "outside trouble engineer". In this position he was sent to the North Wales Power Company to investigate the unusual behaviour of instruments in Crewe substation, and was so successful that he was offered a job with the Power Company and inaugurated in 1926 a one-man Meter and Test Department based at Dolgarrog. On nationalisation he was appointed to his post at Legacy.

In 1929, he joined the Liverpool Supply Section of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association. He immediately made himself heard, and formed what became the Chester and North Wales Section. He has served on every Committee, and in 1953/54 was the President of the Association.

Presentations were made to Mr. Jones at Area Office by Mr. R. N. Pegg (Manager, Area 4), at the Meter and Test Department, Legacy, by Mr. G. Edwards (2nd assistant engineer, technical) and at Conway by Mr. A. Perry (Engineer, Area 4).

### Mr. EDWARD JONES

To mark his retirement, Mr. Edward Jones, groundsman at Area 4 Office, was presented with a clock and a cheque on behalf of his colleagues by Mr. H. F. Garrett (Principal Assistant, Secretarial).

