



# CONTACT

November 1970

Tomorrow's Men from  
MANWEB (page 238)

## Questions and Answers

**OUR COVER PICTURE** shows some of the 67 young men who earlier this year joined MANWEB as apprentice electricians, meter mechanics, electrical fitters and mechanics. They are now part way through their initial basic training at our Hoylake Apprentice Training Centre.

These youngsters are the final selection from 996, who, last summer, applied for training with the Board. Of these, 776 took the examination and this left 225 to be interviewed.

At these interviews, held at various places throughout the MANWEB area, the previously unplumbed depths of the minds of the modern young men were brought to light for the world to appreciate.

One applicant, after learning the conditions of service with the Board, rates of pay, hours of work, etc., put the question, "Are there any fringe benefits." And he obviously knew what it meant.

Another youngster wanted to know if there would be any opportunity for travel abroad while serving with MANWEB. A fair question, on consideration, especially if he became Britain's Best Apprentice—we have already had one from Hoylake. There is also the New Brighton Ferry!

One very bright spark (*please excuse the pun*) from deep in the heart of Wales, was asked a number of searching questions.

"How many metres in a hundred yards? What is the boiling point of water? And the freezing point?" etc., etc.

All questions were answered smartly and correctly until he was asked "How do you convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit?"

The applicant thought deeply for a while then reluctantly said, "Sir, I am so very

sorry, but I am afraid that I do not know the answer to that question."

"Don't worry," said the questioner, "you have done very well with all the other questions." He then went on to ask one or two further questions—again getting correct answers.

Then he said to the young man, "Well now, I have asked you many things, is there anything you would wish to ask me?"

"Well sir," replied the youth, "there is just one little thing... could you please tell me... how do you convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit?"

Another young man, again from Wales, told the examiners that he had always wanted to "join the MANWEB's electricians... ever since I was a small boy, I've always wanted to work with the electricians."

Very impressed, the District Engineer asked the young man if he had any electrical appliances at his home.

"Oh! yes sir," he replied, "I have an electric train set."

The D.E. happened to be a model train enthusiast, so he said "That's fine. Tell me what are your locos?"

"The Red Lion and the Dog and Duck, sir," came the reply!

Our Headmaster at Hoylake has many more such stories to tell... many we could not possibly print in *Contact*, but maybe, at some future date after his retirement, they will be compiled into book form and no doubt become a best seller.

However, at this time, we take the opportunity of wishing every young man at Hoylake success in their studies and we hope that they will all turn out to be first class craftsmen.

They have certainly made a good start.



Mr. and Mrs. Light

## WEDDINGS

Our best wishes for a very happy future go to Mr. Andrew E. Light, a radio and television engineer at Colwyn Bay, and Miss Sheila Lafferty, an audio typist at our District Office in Llandudno, who were married recently at St. John's Methodist Chapel, Llandudno.

Our congratulations go to Mr. Frederick Leeder, a meter reader, in our Southport District and Miss Lisa Muldoon, on their marriage which took place a few weeks ago at the Town Hall, Southport.

The honeymoon was spent in London.

Mr. Leeder was formerly on the playing staff of Everton Football Club.



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## EDITORIAL

### Joint Consultation

THE YEAR which is now drawing to a close was, for Britain, the worst year for industrial strife for a long time.

As incomes and the cost of living have chased each other in a mad inflationary spiral, the effects of these contradictions have made themselves manifest in strikes in many sectors of industry.

In the current economic climate these developments are, probably, inevitable, but setting aside for a moment this major cause, there are many other kinds of circumstance which can throw spanners into the workings of industrial harmony.

In many cases these secondary causes can arise, not from any real conflict of interest on either side of the industrial fence, but rather from misunderstandings which, in many cases, could be solved by better communications.

While the trade unions still represent the great majority of employees on basic matters like pay and conditions of employment, there is still room for co-operation and discussion on the lesser factors which can mean so much, and it is to smooth the working path in this direction that the electricity supply industry's joint consultation machinery exists.

At all times, and particularly at times of stress and difficulty, this machinery can do much to smooth out the minor niggling irritations which can make our working lives unnecessarily difficult.

This is the season for holding the annual Local Advisory Conferences throughout the MANWEB Area—though the machinery exists, of course, throughout the year.

It is up to all of us to ensure that our joint consultative machinery does the job for which it was designed, and to make use of the facilities which the machinery affords.

If this is done, then the minor matters about which the two sides of industry tend to misunderstand rather than to disagree can be eliminated as sources of potential friction. In their turn, the removal of these elements from the scene can almost certainly ease the way for solution and agreement of the more fundamental problems.



Mr. Dodds answers a question from the delegates during the "Open Forum" session at the Conference. Other members of the panel are, from left to right: Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Greenhalgh, Mr. Maddocks and Mr. Connon.

## ***District Joint Advisory Council – – Annual Conference at Chester***

**A**BOUT 150 people representing both sides of the electricity supply industry in Merseyside and North Wales, gathered at MANWEB's Head Office at Chester recently for the annual conference of the Merseyside and North Wales District Joint Advisory Council.

Progress Reports were presented on behalf of distribution and generation by Mr. D. G. Dodds, (Chairman, MANWEB), and Mr. D. W. Maddocks (Personnel Manager, CEBG North Western Region), while the guest speakers were Professor R. C. Browne, Medical Industrial Consultant, CEBG, and Mr. V. B. Jones, H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories, Liverpool.

Chairing the conference were Messrs. E. W. Connon (Director-General, CEBG, North Western Region), and Mr. J. G. D. Greenhalgh (NALGO representative), Chairman and vice-Chairman of the DJAC respectively.

The conference began with a message of sympathy and good wishes to Mr. J. W. Anderson, Secretary to the DJAC, who was prevented by illness from attending what would normally have been his last DJAC meeting before retirement.

Guest speakers at the Conference, Professor Browne, left, and Mr. Jones.



Speaking on the theme "Health," Professor Browne dealt in detail with the various problems attracting the attention of those responsible for protecting the health of power station workers.

He paid attention in particular to the measures which have been instituted to protect workers engaged on lagging operations from the perils inherent in asbestos dust, and with the benefits in noise reduction levels achieved by separating the control room from the turbine hall in modern power stations, and in the control of noise levels by insulation techniques.

Question time was lively and informative, with queries including the possible medical effects of exposure to glass fibre and oil fumes.

### **Safety Record**

Then followed an interesting address on "Safety" from Mr. Jones, who set things buzzing by saying that he did not think our Industry's accident record was as good as it should be.

Industrial safety was the special aspect chosen by the speaker and he said that all human activity—or inactivity—had an element of risk, danger, and uncertainty, and that it was everyone's task to remove unnecessary hazards by taking the proper precautions and by using safe and efficient methods of working.

He informed his audience that over the last eight years, there had been a growing concern at the continual rise in the number of accidents in industry, so much so that the figures for 1969 reached a total of 322,000 for factories, docks and construction sites—almost 70 per cent. above the figure for 1962.

He said that in many cases we knew how accidents were caused and we also knew how to prevent them, but in some cases of common sorts of accidents like tripping over a doormat, a foot slipping from a ladder, or cutting a finger with a knife, it was very

difficult to know what could be done directly to prevent them from happening.

"The old adage—'Accidents do not happen, they are caused'—hardly seems to apply," went on Mr. Jones, "Many of these accidents it would seem 'just happen.'"

He said that accidents in these 'simple' categories may be as high as 50 per cent. of the total reportable accidents.

He gave everyone food for thought when he went on to say that because it was not possible to predict the precise moment when a dangerous situation could result in an accident, we all say, "It can't happen to me," but what we really mean is "It is unlikely to happen to me," or what management means is "It is unlikely to happen at our premises."

"This may well be true," continued Mr. Jones, "but in 1969, for 320,000 people it was not true, and I shall be surprised if the figure is any lower for 1970."

He went on to say that all risks could not be eliminated as long as human beings continued to behave like human beings and do strange and unexpected things.

"But accidents occur when people do quite ordinary things, often in a way that they have done for years before," he said, "therefore accident prevention must deal with ordinary average work situations and the fundamental question we ask is 'Have all reasonable practical steps been taken to deal with all reasonable foreseeable hazards?'"

"Identifying hazards is based on experience, partly on technical knowledge and on the accumulated knowledge of others," said Mr. Jones.

He went on to express his views that in any large organisation one of the main tasks of the Safety Officer/Engineer/Adviser/Manager—whatever he is called—was to remind management of their responsibilities and advise them on what action they should take. He also has the job of reminding everyone else of their responsibilities in preventing unsafe situations from occurring.

He said that there was no simple panacea that could be applied to accident prevention for there were a large number of separate factors which had to be carefully thought out.

Mr. Jones then stressed a point which he said was sometimes forgotten in that everyone in any organisation who has any responsibility for safety, both for himself and for others, is also held accountable for what he does. He said that standards should be set from the top and that there must be proper communications to make sure that everyone knew what the standards were. He suggested that if there was a failure, it was essential to find out at what point in the organisation, and at what level, the failure occurred.

"Accident investigation should be an important part of accident prevention," he continued, "because here is the actual result of failure on the part of one or more individuals which is going to result in loss

Some of the delegates attending the D.J.A.C. Conference at Chester.



of money and production not only to that individual but to the whole organisation."

Mr. Jones brought his talk to a close by saying that he had looked at the accident figures for our Industry and was sure that they were capable of improvement.

"No-one from outside your industry can improve them for you," he went on, "No Factory Inspector can stop a man climbing up an unsecured ladder or from driving a vehicle too fast across a works yard. Nor can your own Safety Officer stop many of these incidents. But someone can—possibly the man himself."

He urged everyone to take all reasonably practicable measures to deal with all reasonably foreseeable risks—and he emphasised the word ALL.

### Board Report

The afternoon session began with Mr. Dodds highlighting the main points published in the Board Report.

The overall picture Mr. Dodds painted was one of expansion—a good all-round effort in all sections. The increase by nearly 17 per cent. in appliance sales was a 'credible achievement' in the inflationary climate of the past year. Electricity sales continued to expand as did the number of consumers (up by 13,000), and the Board's load factor, which now stood at 62.4 per cent. All this was achieved with a decrease in manpower by 4.4 per cent, underlining a continued increase in productivity and efficiency.

Because of this effort by management and staff it was utterly frustrating to be dealt a bitter body-blow in the form of coal price increases. The two rises in the price of coal during the first half of the year of the Report, had sliced £1 million from the

MANWEB surplus leaving £1,788,000, and in a full year, they would have added £3 million plus to the Board's expenditure.

Lord Robens had already forecast 'fierce' increases in coal prices to the electricity industry after the settlement of the miners' pay claim making substantial rises in the electricity prices to the consumer inevitable.

Mr. Dodds told the meeting that MANWEB, other Boards and the Electricity Council, had made representations to the Government. The Electricity Supply Industry was a prisoner of the Coal Board and he had urged the Government to allow the CEBG to be free to choose the most economic fuel. The social burden of running down the coal industry should be removed from the backs of the electricity consumer.

In addition, the inequitable tax on fuel oil to power stations should be removed immediately as an ameliorative measure.

Turning to the MANWEB reorganisation, Mr. Dodds said that it was gradually moving towards completion. Head Office and Area staff were combining their duties at Sealand Road, and in the coming year the Areas should completely disappear as such. Although staff may still be working at their present locations they would be regarded as Head Office staff.

The senior District Officers had been appointed and the gradual integration of those Districts that were to be merged was taking place, but this would not be rushed, and progress toward the new organisation would continue.

Mr. Maddocks then presented a Progress Report from the North Western Region of the CEBG and this was followed by an Open Forum session to bring another successful conference to a close.

## A SITE BETTER New Colour Film

"A SITE BETTER" is a new 16 mm colour film from The Electricity Council which shows builders how electricity can help them cope with the bad weather and dark days of winter.

An important point brought out in the film is that the builder who plans ahead can give his Electricity Board early warning of projected works and arrange

for an electricity supply to be available on site right from the start. He can have efficient lighting, heating, power tools, cranes and other items of electrically operated plant to help him improve his productivity and complete the contract in good time.

The film shows that electric site lighting can increase the number of useful working hours in the day and enable completion dates to be met. Electrically-powered machines, heaters, de-humidifiers and portable tools will speed the work done in these

extra hours. Greater productivity is not the only benefit: efficient site lighting means greater safety and higher morale amongst the men. The film illustrates the wide variety of lighting fittings, electric tools and site distribution equipment available, and explains how to obtain the vitally necessary supply of electricity at the right time.

The film (16 mm colour/sound, 20 minutes) is available on free loan from The Electricity Council, Film Library, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London S.W.1.

# Clean Air and Electricity

## —CONFERENCE AT SOUTHPORT

“WHENEVER the clean air situation is evaluated the balance weighs heavily in favour of electricity as a source of heat, light and power. This is because at its points of usage electricity is the cleanest, most refined and most easily controllable of all forms of energy available to man.”

This was said by Mr. R. H. Phillips, Marketing Advisor to the Electricity Council in a paper presented on his behalf by Mr. Harold Smith, Deputy Head, Marketing Department, to the National Society for Clean Air Conference held at Southport recently.

“Whenever and however electricity is used either in industry or in the home, for heating, motive power or any other purpose, it is the one energy source that keeps the air clean,” continued the paper. “This is because the burning of primary fuels is transferred from inefficient small-scale installations to the electricity generating stations where combustion is efficient and virtually smokeless and where atmospheric pollution can be prevented with utmost effectiveness and economy.

“Three principal pollutants arise from the combustion of fuels in power stations. They are smoke, dust and sulphur dioxide. Smoke is virtually eliminated by strict control of combustion conditions in the boilers, which, today, are equipped with the ultimate in instrumentation and control facilities operated by expert staff.

“Dust emission is controlled by high efficiency arrestors, electrostatic precipitators having been developed to such a degree that removal efficiencies of 99.3 per cent. are attained. The tall chimneys associated with modern power stations are fully capable of dispersing the small residual amount of fine dust so it causes no nuisance. In the case of sulphur dioxide, high-level dispersion by tall chimneys has emerged as a wholly effective method of controlling the concentration at ground level. However, the cost of preserving clean air is high—a capital cost of £3 million is involved in the dust extraction plant at a 2,000 MW power station, which is typical of the size of plant being built today.

“At the product end of our business the balance sheet tips even more heavily in favour of electricity, because in use it is virtually 100 per cent. non-pollutant. Electricity is a form of energy so refined and so versatile that it has the capacity to undertake every power or fuel function without polluting the air in any way.

“On the domestic front electricity comes into its own for space and water heating. Another significant



Winner of a £50 cash prize plus a £30 electrical appliance of her choice, 15-year-old Patricia Wynne of Netherton is seen here being congratulated by Miss Peggy Francis, *The Girl from MANWEB*. The prize was for a competition run by the National Society for Clean Air. Also in the picture is her mother, Mrs. Teresa Wynne and Mrs. Marian Mackenzie, left, from Pat's school.

contribution to clean air is made by the increasing utilisation of electricity in industry since no combustion is involved at the point of use.

“Electricity concentrates combustion in carefully controlled power centres where the ultimate in anti-pollution measures is carried out as a matter of course,” concluded Mr. Phillips' paper. “The adoption of electrical methods in the factory, the home, the office and even in the street, makes a positive contribution to clean air, with the added important bonus of cost and operational advantages.”

### UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN

The Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust is offering a scholarship in 1971 to enable a young woman to read for an honours degree in engineering, mathematics or physical sciences at any university in the United Kingdom. The value is up to £600 per annum.

Since 1960 the Trust has awarded 15 scholarships tenable at the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Durham and Southampton. Each year the short list includes candidates of such high calibre that on some occasions both major and minor awards have been made.

Application forms, returnable by January 31st, 1971, are obtainable from: **The Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust (Electrical Section), 25 Foubert's Place, London W1V 2AL.**

# WHY NOT GIVE A HOBBY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Article by Mr. DEREK LANG

(Principal Assistant—Computer Services)

THE MANY side benefits resulting from a hobby can often be of more real value than the actual hobby itself. Social contact, increased knowledge, widened interests and development of skills all go to make life more meaningful. In times of illness, enforced isolation or retirement, a hobby can be the means of keeping in touch with life. For those who have found difficulty in making friends, this could be a road to a world of new contacts and for those without direction the spur to useful action. A gift which starts someone off on such a hobby has, therefore, a double value.

You may have read the two brief references to the East Indian Spice trade and the supply of Saltpetre from Bengal in earlier issues of *Contact*. The research into these subjects was brought about by a hobby in which most school children take passing interest and to which many devote themselves in later life—'Stamp Collecting.' In the hope of encouraging readers of all ages who have dabbled with this fascinating pastime to lend themselves more assiduously to its pursuit, a short series of articles has been planned.

There are many classifications of beginners which makes a general 'How to go about it' series rather difficult. As Christmas is approaching, it seems fair that the complete beginners, particularly the younger ones, should have first consideration.

When starting to collect stamps, it is generally accepted that all postage stamps which come to hand should be saved for in this way a general knowledge of stamps is obtained. It also gives

the new collector a chance to find out which stamps have the greatest appeal and, even more important perhaps, which countries he can afford to collect.

Essential requirements at this stage will include an album, stamp hinges and, of course, stamps. Later additions will include tweezers, a catalogue, a perforation gauge and watermark detector.

As far as the album is concerned, the novice will probably find that a whole world general album is

**FROM THIS. . . . an example taken from a beginners album, showing a typical untidy and unplanned layout from the Australian section of a general collection.**





best suited to his needs. There is a wide choice of such albums ranging in price from a few shillings to several pounds. This is the one time when I would not urge the collector to spend too much on an album, the reason being that this is a trial stage and a reasonable period of collecting will probably be needed before the decision to continue is made and the subjects or countries to be collected are chosen.

Stamp hinges are most important and a good quality hinge is recommended right from the start. The hinges are used for attaching the stamps to the album page and this mounting of stamps is one of the most vital aspects of the hobby. As a collection can easily be ruined and valuable stamps rendered worthless by careless handling, a future article will be devoted to this subject.

The stamps themselves are, of course, the most

... TO THIS. ... a more tidily arranged page showing a complete set from a collection of Brunei. Note the use of 'Letraset' at the head of the page.



exciting acquisitions and sources of supply are numerous but again, should be considered carefully.

As a starter, large packets of whole world or British Commonwealth stamps are obtainable from reliable dealers and some of the larger stationers and booksellers, again at various prices ranging from a few shillings up to several pounds. Providing these are made up by a reliable source, some good 'finds' may be discovered in such packets. Later on, one may buy sets of stamps which happen to appeal but the maxim 'all that glitters is not gold' is certainly true in the case of stamp collecting and, until experience is obtained, advice should be sought before spending much money on what may only be pretty pieces of paper. By this I mean those stamps which are issued by some countries as an additional source of income but have no real (*if any*) postal status.

Once these items have been obtained, the collector will be eager to start filling up album pages so, to allow time for some practical experience to be obtained, I will conclude by stressing the basic rule which should be strictly adhered to right from the first days of stamp collecting—**"HANDLE AND STORE YOUR STAMPS WITH GREAT CARE"** for even the newest collector may have some scarce items amongst the ordinary looking stamps.

It is better to consider all stamps as potentially valuable until proved otherwise than to damage or dispose of one item which seems to be commonplace but which is in fact scarce. Every stamp should be studied carefully and the collector will need to learn to distinguish and identify stamps which appear to be similar but which have in fact some important difference say of design, watermark, perforation or the paper on which they are printed. Many stamps look identical but have such variations which may be difficult for the young novice to spot so I would suggest that he (*or she*) examines similar looking items to see whether any obvious variations can be de-

(continued overleaf)

# DECIMAL CURRENCY QUIZ . . .

Last month's *Contact* was particularly pleasing to the Editorial staff. This is rather unusual, for every month we are satisfied with our efforts but not very often what you might call pleased—we always feel that it could have been improved somewhere or other. But, last month's issue. . .

The first thing to please us was the vast number of telephone calls and personal visits to our office made by members of the staff who had spotted our 'deliberate' mistake in the Decimalisation Quiz. Our mistake was that we did not check the printer's proofs closely enough! However, we were most heartened to find so many people reading *Contact* in detail and so many people who obviously have a good working knowledge of the new money we are having to cope with.

We thank everyone sincerely for the interest they have shown and in order to find out how much you all really know about decimal coinage, we asked Mr. Eric Richardson of the Sales Training School to set a number of 'real hard ones'—and this time we promise—no deliberate mistakes! But watch out, there may be one or two catch questions.

For the first three all-correct solutions opened on December 11th, we will give prizes of 200p each. Send your entry to *The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families only.

1. What change would you give if you were offered 1s/9d in payment for an article priced at 9p?
2. What would be the total weight of 50—1p coins, 25—2p coins and 200— $\frac{1}{2}$ p coins?
3. What is the name and shape of the 50p coin?
4. What replaces the decimal point on hand-written cheques?
5. How much is saved by buying half-a-dozen tins of biscuits for £3.00 instead of half-a-dozen tins at 55p each?
6. When was the ten shilling note de-monetised?
7. What colour ink is recommended for cheque conversions?
8. How much would this customer's bill be—three 60 watt lamps at 7p each, two cartridge fuses at 3p each and six Hoover belts at 4p each? What change would you give if the customer handed over 14s. 0d?
9. On which new coin are written the words "ich dien"?
10. What is the approximate relationship between 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ p and a  $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. box of chocolates?

## WHY NOT GIVE A HOBBY FOR CHRISTMAS?

. . . continued from page 245

tected and those stamps about which there is any doubt can be carefully stored in an envelope or stock book until advice can be obtained.

The other factor which will require a decision right from the start is whether a stamp should be removed from the paper (*or cover*) or not. Again only experience can really be the guide and I can only mention the fact that some, even commonplace stamps can attain considerable rarity in conjunction with certain postmarks so, if in doubt, find out **FIRST**. If the stamp is to be removed from paper, this should be done carefully and never by tearing it from the paper.

It is hoped that these suggestions will encourage rather than deter would-be collectors and one may be assured that the going is not as heavy as it may seem so let's hope that there will be many new collectors this Christmas and that the future instalments planned for this series will be of use to them.

We would suggest that you keep this article and others to follow, in a safe place, so that when the occasion arises you can refer back to them.



Here we have a section taken from a page of a specialised collectors album.

# POWER—THE UGLY GIANT EVERYBODY WANTS

Story by CHARLES QUANT

This article was featured in the 'Liverpool Daily Post' European Conservation Year Welsh Conference Supplement on November 3rd, 1970.

**P**OWER FOR people to use—how many crimes against the environment have been perpetrated in the name of power.

But the favourite target of the critics—whether fairly or otherwise is the electricity industry, which gets blamed for every affront to the environment from cooling towers to transmission lines.

Nobody has yet found a method of making electricity, nor of moving it about the landscape without affront to the landscape.

But people demand power—coal to warm them, gas to heat their industries, telephones to create instant communications, and television to tickle their palates with tasty morsels or world news and entertainment.

The electricity generating industry is the whipping boy of groups at all extremes of the community.

If power cuts loom, the CEBG is lambasted for failing to install more generating capacity, and if it proposes to install more generating capacity, the town dweller complains about the cooling towers or the switching stations, and the country dweller complains about the hydro dams or the transmission towers.

If the price of electricity goes up, the whole community rises in wrath and demands cheaper power, but the people who live within sight of pylons indignantly want to know why trans-

mission lines cannot be put underground.

The country dwellers demand the same power for electric kettles and television sets and cookers as their urban cousins, but revolt when asked to bear their share of the burden in accepting hydro schemes in the mountains or dams in the valleys.

We as a people are not prepared to face the implications of living without power or having the power and the eyesores or changes in the landscape that it inevitably brings.

Take underground lines. CEBG say that it costs at least £1m. per mile to underground a 400 kV quad conductor compared with £70,000 per mile for overhead cable on towers.

North Wales, where the fury of the critics falls heaviest, has scores of miles of 400 kV line.

Many of them pass over country that is solid rock.

CEBG would be lucky to get away with anything near £1m. per mile through Snowdonia.

They build pylons—transmission towers to the power men—instead, and to take greater loads, taller towers.

The next logical step will be towers to take a 700 kV line. Indeed, voltages have been climbing constantly, from 132kV to 275kV and now 400kV—but the power men point out that if the people want more power it,

has to be moved about the country somehow, and the bigger pylons carry proportionately far more power.

Why come to our countryside and spoil it with power stations and power lines, say the conservationists?

Why do we have to have dams and pylons and generating stations—and all the conservationists gather in defence of Cwm Croesor and Lyn Peris and the rest of the lakes deemed suitable by CEBG for pumped storage stations?

Because, say CEBG, the demand for more power is such that more nuclear stations have to be built as well as orthodox thermal stations.

But to build sufficient nuclear stations to meet foreseeable peak demand would be wildly expensive, because peak periods occupy only a small part of the total 24 hours.

So pumped storage stations husband the spare power from off-peak periods, and release it when twenty million people switch off at the end of Coronation Street and switch on the electric kettle for a cuppa.

Do we all expect power without responsibility?

CEBG think that there are times when we do. It is a question of delicate balance in the social conscience, of wanting a service without being ready to pay the price.

# Talking Notes

## MINI WINNER

**MRS MARGARET LEVER**, of Northwood, Kirkby, Liverpool, went into her local MANWEB shop at St. Chad's a few weeks ago to buy her first-ever washing machine.

But for Mrs. Lever, her husband William and their three children, a special bonus came with the new washer.

The purchase gave them a chance to enter a competition jointly organised by MANWEB, NORWEB and Hoover, with a brand new B.M.C. Mini Super-de-luxe as first prize.

Mr. Cowan, left, after presenting Mr. and Mrs. Lever with their new mini car.



As a result, the Lever family now have their first washing machine—and their first car!

Mr. Lever works at a Liverpool factory and his daily trip to work involves two 'bus journeys, so he is now busy taking driving lessons. Mrs. Lever who helps out part-time with the school meals service said, "I have never won anything in a competition before. Of course we are all delighted."

The local council have given the Lever family permission to knock down part of their front garden wall to make a run-in for the car.

The official presentation was made to Mrs. Lever at our new Superstore at St. John's Precinct in Liverpool by **Mr. M. R. Cowan**, the Board's Chief Commercial Officer, after the vehicle had been man-handled into the "pedestrian-only" shopping area!

## Successful Quotation

Acceptance of a quotation, submitted by our colleagues in the North Mersey Commercial Section, for £62,000 will soon make a number of the older citizens in Kirkby very happy, for the job to be done is the electrical installation—including storage heating—in the aged persons flats in Westvale, Southdene and Northwood.

## Youngest-Ever Freeman

A young man from MANWEB became the City of Chester's youngest ever Freeman recently

**Phillip Roberts**, who has been an accounts clerk at Sealand Road for the past two years, became eligible to apply for the Freedom of the City on his eighteenth birthday. Previously the age limit had been 21, but earlier this year the City Council lowered it to 18.

It was Phillip's birthright to become a Freeman and he was admitted to the select group of 500 men at a ceremony held in the Town Hall recently by the Mayor of Chester, Alderman J. M. V. Cotterell.

To apply for the Freedom of the City of Chester, one has to be a son of a Freeman or apprenticed to

one. In Phillip's case, he is a direct descendent of the first freeman in the Roberts family, Peter Roberts, who was a cooper back in the 1820's.

### Time for a Change

The North Sea Gas conversion teams are moving into a number of places within the Board's area to assess the number of appliances which require converting. MANWEB are also preparing—for the big switch from gas to electricity!

From our experiences in Southport—probably the first main town in our area to go "North Sea"—we can expect a huge increase in the sales of heating appliances and electric cookers. In a five-month conversion period at Southport, electric cooker sales rocketed by 121 per cent!

Nationally, electric cooker sales have now overtaken gas to lead by 54 per cent. The Electricity Council are now carrying out a survey to determine just how much of this increase is a result of the gas conversion programme and how much is due to our own long term publicity programmes and to the all-round improvements of the electric cooker.

### Gas Snookered

In a recent snooker challenge match, **Mr. David Biggs** of our Southport District Drawing Office defeated **Mr. Terry McDonald** who represented the North Western Gas Board, by three frames to nil.

### St. John's Delegate

A lay instructor in first-aid and a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade since 1930, **Mr. John Williams**, a storekeeper at Blaenau Ffestiniog was one of the delegates who attended a Training Course held at Llandudno recently.



On the MANWEB stand at the Ideal Home exhibition we have **Mr. J. H. Hughes (salesman)** and **Mrs. P. J. Lavelle (saleswoman)**.

### Ideal Home

Almost 30,000 paying customers visited the grounds of Penrhyn Castle recently when they visited an Ideal Home exhibition which was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, M.P., Secretary of State for Wales.

Opening day, Saturday, attracted 6,000 people and on the following day, 9,000 paid at the gates.

Almost all the people who went along to the exhibition visited the MANWEB stand which was managed by **Mr. W. Wakelin (District Sales Supervisor, Gwynedd)**. On-the-spot demonstrations with washing machines and cooking equipment were given by sales demonstrators **Miss E. Roberts** and **Mrs. H. J. Griffiths**.

Firm sales and a large number of follow-up enquiries proved this venture to be most successful.

### Coals to Newcastle

Two female members of our staff at Southport, **Pat Hartley** and **Kate Bowden**, recently spent a weekend in Paris.

They informed our local correspondent that they were impressed with what the night life had to offer!

### E.A.W.—A.G.M.

Members of the Merseyside and North Wales Area of the Electrical Association for Women held their Annual General Meeting in Chester a short time ago.

A civic welcome by the Mayor of Chester opened the morning session at which **Mr. D. G. Dodds (MANWEB Chairman)** addressed the assembly.

After lunch, the toast to the E.A.W. was proposed by **Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman)** and the response was by **The Countess De La Warr, D.B.E.**

**Ladies of the E.A.W. with their guests at Chester. From left to right: Mrs. I. Blackburn (Chairman, Chester Branch), Mrs. I. Bates (Area Hon. Treasurer), Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman, MANWEB), Mrs. M. R. Baker (Area Chairman, elect), Miss Mary George (Director, E.A.W.), His Worship The Mayor of Chester, Alderman Lieut.-Col. J. M. V. Cotterell, Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman, MANWEB), The Mayoress of Chester, Mrs. J. Meurig Roberts (Area Organiser) and Mrs. M. Fareham (Area Chairman).**





A section of the large crowd watching the rockets and whizz-bangs.



*Above*—One of the 'set pieces' in action.

*Below*—The huge bonfire lights up the Head Office building.

## FIREWORKS NIGHT

On Saturday, November 7th, a little belatedly, members of the Head Office Sports and Social Club with their families went along to Sealand Road, and in the field adjoining the office block enjoyed an excellent firework display.

A huge bonfire threw a warm glow over the 750 people who attended and for nearly an hour they watched the colourful and sometimes noisy pyrotechnics organised by Frank Astbury, John Swarbrick and Tony Thackray. Keeper of the fire was Tom Dutton.

When all the 'O-o-oh's and A-a-ah's' had finished, everyone went along to the restaurant to enjoy hot soup hot-dogs, baked potatoes, etc.

The helpers, throughout the day and evening, were, June Allen, Frances Doyle, Sue Holmes, Cora Roberts, Joan Whatling, Jean Whittle, Paul Bird, Nigel Crossley, Martin Cross, Richard Gales, Robert Jones, Rodney Kenyon, John Paddock, Gren Roberts, Phil Roberts, Bill Sleddon, Dave Stevenson, Neil Turner and John Weston.

A special word of thanks go to the engineering staff at Chester and Wrexham and to our friends at Queensferry Stores for their co-operation in providing much of the material for the bonfire.



# 'At Home' in Liverpool

Housecraft Advisers and teachers from all the Liverpool schools and most of the schools in the surrounding areas had a special night out recently when they visited our new Superstore in St. John's Precinct in Liverpool as guests of the Board.

Over a period of three evening sessions, the ladies were able to get up-to-date with the latest developments in electrical appliances and they watched demonstrations of the many electric kitchen aids.

This annual 'At Home' with the MANWEB staff has now become a regular diary date for all the domestic science teachers in the area.




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*Top:* Mr. Bert. Davies (*Shop Supervisor*) explains the workings and benefits of the electric tooth brush to Mrs. M. Richards, Mrs. B. Cannell and Miss B. Ormandy, teachers from Ronald House, Crosby.



☆☆☆  
*Middle:* MANWEB demonstrator, Miss Christine Farrell (*second from left*) watches Miss M. Lister use the electric rotary iron. The other ladies looking on, are, *from left to right:* Miss M. Wood, Miss E. Hughes and Mrs. M. Hall—all from Knowsley Woolfall Secondary Modern School at Huyton.

☆☆☆  
*Bottom:* Miss Barbara Strange (*demonstrator*) puts a liquidiser through its paces to the delight of Miss M. Bunser (*centre*) and Mrs. M. Henderson, teachers from Stanley School at Southport

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# SPORTS NIGHT WITH MANWEB

*Snooker* .....



.....  
*darts*  
.....



.....  
*carpet  
bowls*  
.....  
*Putting*  
.....





## ... and Table Tennis



can you spot the ball in each picture ?



### T.T. CHAMPIONS

Winners of the 1970 Table Tennis Championships at Head Office. From left to right: Mr. Dave Stevenson (winner), Mr. George Harrison (runner-up), Miss Lesley Pierce (runner-up) and Miss Joan Whatling (winner).

A triangular sports match with Head Office, Crewe District and Area 4 Office taking part was held at Sealand Road a few weeks ago. Pictures on these pages show the various games in progress.

A buffet supper was provided by the Head Office Sports and Social Club, and win or lose, a good time was had by all.

\* \* \*

If your District can muster teams in these sports and would like to challenge Head Office, please get in touch with Mr. J. G. Roberts, Secretary, Head Office Sports and Social Club, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

# Further outlook — WARM & DRY ON THE HOME HEATING FRONT

WITH THE long winter nights ahead of us—not to mention the icy mornings, heat in our homes is again a popular topic. You may be interested to hear of new developments in home heating by electricity—by far the best method!

This article sets out to describe in outline some of the electrical appliances you can use to centrally heat your home—there is also mention of some very interesting future developments.

If you are thinking about central heating in your home, then we hope that this article may be of some use to you.

\* \* \*

Electricity is a refined form of energy rather than a fuel. This means it can be used in almost unlimited numbers of ways to provide central and local heating. There is no smoke and no combustion, and so there is no need for chimneys, flues or special ventilation. Electric heating appliances are clean and need the minimum of maintenance.

In contrast to all other systems, their conversion efficiency remains virtually constant at nearly 100 per cent. It is almost always the cheapest system to install and running costs can be low—certainly very competitive with most other systems—as many forms of electric central heating are designed to use cheap electricity with the "White Meter" tariff.

The sensible way to heat a home economically. The picture shows MANWEB brand Havana storage radiators attractively styled and finished in teak wood grain and silver birch—a beautiful and useful addition to any room.



With this tariff, customers can pay for their electricity for *all purposes* at two different rates—a day rate, normally between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. at very slightly more than the normal domestic rates, and a night period of roughly eight hours which will be charged at less than a penny a unit.

Additional savings are possible with the White Meter when water heating is included on the tariff.

## Package Deals

On current offer by MANWEB are three package deals for home heating combined with water heating. **Plan A** has two storage radiators plus conversion of existing electric water heating and low-loss lagging for the tank, at an installed cost of £85. **Plan B**—four storage radiators, with similar water heating conversion at a cost of £149.

**Plan C**—six storage radiators and water heating conversion—installed cost £221.

All sorts of variations are possible and our experts in the Districts will design a personal package deal to suit your home and your pocket. At any time you can add more radiators to the system, and if ready cash is the problem, MANWEB operate a Personal Loan Scheme (*for Plans 'B' and 'C'*), with no deposit and up to five years to pay. In addition there are also MANWEB's other easy payment schemes—Hire Purchase and Credit Sale—available on all plans, and for single heaters.

The range of heating appliances that can take advantage of this cheap electricity is continually increasing with improvements in performance and design.

## Storage Radiators

These appliances are by far the most popular method of central heating for existing houses. They are also suitable for new homes—40 per cent. of which are still built with no central heating system installed. Nearly four million storage radiators have now been installed in the homes throughout Britain—100,000 have been sold and installed by our staff in the MANWEB area—and no other radiator system offers such a variety of appearance and design.

*A refinement of the storage radiator is the storage fan heater which gives simple control of heat output to provide even lower running costs, and this season there are a number of new models from leading makers.*

The fan heaters are basically similar to the storage radiator but they have thicker thermal insulation and incorporate a fan to discharge the warm air into the room as required. The fan is connected to the normal tariff supply and, in this way, the amount of heat dissipated can be exactly suited to specific needs and times of use. A small amount of heat coming from the unit at all times is enough to keep the chill off a room.

Storage fan heaters cost from about £65 each installed—but because of their extra flexibility of control they are even more economical in use than the storage radiators.

It is often a good idea to incorporate one or more storage fan heaters in a storage radiator system. In this way, overall basic heating is provided for some parts of the home throughout the day, and in areas like the lounge, storage fan heaters give precise temperatures as required for they can be thermostatically controlled. An additional advantage of storage fan heaters is that people who are out at work all day can get quick warmth on arriving home in the evening.

Storage radiators and storage fan heaters have been slimmed down in size due to the development of new and more efficient storage materials.

The larger unit of stored electricity is the **Electraire** system, and this warm air central heating is now being put into many of our new buildings. About 50,000 have been installed nationally since 1956, and every District of MANWEB have put in a fair contribution to this total.

#### **Future Developments**

In electricity's growing central heating market an interesting development is the recent introduction



**This 'fish-eye' picture is of an all-electric house on a new estate. An eight kilowatt Creda Electricaire unit sited in the hall provides ducted warm air heating to the lounge/dining room, hall and two bedrooms. An electric furniture unit fire makes a pleasing focal point in the lounge.**

of **Centalec** units, suitable for small bore hot water radiator systems. Here again, the cheap rate **White Meter** tariff can be used.

Among other new ideas, still in the research stage, is a thermal storage wall, which is a means of storing heat in precast concrete blocks assembled to form an interior wall. It shows great promise for the future as a low-cost warm-air central heating system. Another possible development is heat reflective wallpaper, which will reflect radiated heat back into the room.

**So, if you don't want to be a poor cold Fred, and you decide to have central heating—use your head—go electric—it really does make sense.**

## **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. (STAFF) SUPERANNUATION SCHEME**

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty-First Annual General Meeting of the members of the above Scheme will be held in the offices of the Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London, S.W.1., on Thursday, December 3rd, 1970 at 2.30 p.m.

Copies of the Report of the Committee and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1970, can be obtained by application in writing to the Chief Accountant, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

# Sales Staff Training at Wallasey

The Winter's session of Sales Training for members of our Commercial staff began a few weeks ago at the Wallasey Sales Training Centre under the guidance and direction of Mr. Eric Richardson (senior instructor—sales) and Mr. Anthony Dobson (sales training instructor).

Part-time sales staff made up the first two courses, featured on this page, and these ladies spend two days at Wallasey every three or four weeks until they have completed a total of twelve days in training. During this time they learn the basic principles of selling the many and varied electrical appliances on sale in our shops. They also learn how to find out exactly what the customer wants and how best to satisfy that need.

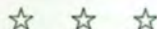
All the staff who spend some time at Wallasey seem to enjoy their return to 'school' and come away better equipped to carry out their duties.



*Above: The girls on Course 245. . . From left to right, standing: Mrs. V. Roberts (Mold) and Mrs. P. Owen (Prestatyn). Seated: Mrs. D. Cliff (St. Helens) and Mrs. S. Hughes (Birkenhead).*



*Top left: On Course 246, Mrs. D. Walker (St. John's) goes through the watts-amps-volts formula watched by her colleagues, Mrs. D. Blease (St. Helens) and Mrs. O. Mitchell (St. John's).*



*Bottom left: The rest of Course 246, from left to right: Mrs. M. Scregg (Moreton), Mrs. J. Curtis (Crewe), Mrs. R. Richards (Birkenhead) and Mrs. M. Hughes (Run-corn).*



# Warrington Staff Conference

Most people who are lucky enough to live close to a well-kept public park or ornamental gardens like to take advantage of these amenities, particularly in these days of tiny house gardens and the increasing pressure of motor car on the countryside.

Not many of us however, have much idea of the planning and forethought which must go into the design and maintenance of these oases in our brick-and-concrete deserts, and the 80-odd people who attended the recent annual employees' meeting, organised by Warrington District Local Advisory Committee, had a behind-the-scenes standpoint.

Guest speaker for the evening

was Mr. A. E. Harper, Warrington's Parks and Cemetery Superintendent, and Mr. Harper based his talk on one of the more rewarding aspects of his work—the maintenance and improvement of Walton Hall Park, a former country estate on the outskirts of the town.

With the aid of the large selection of colour slides he treated the gardeners in his audience to



Mr. Trimble address the Conference at Warrington

a running commentary on the art of creating beauty from nature and introduced others to the finer points of local beauty spots.

The Conference, held at the Masonic Hall, was opened with a Report on the L.A.C.'s, year by Mr. R. G. Monk (*Chairman*), followed by an analysis of the Board's working by Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Area 2/3 Manager*).

The Open Forum session included questions on the cost and benefits of L.A.C. activities, organisation in the Warrington District Office, car parking, fire precautions, and pay and productivity.

## Home Modernisation

Electricity Boards in England and Wales are supporting local authorities in their drive to modernise nearly four million homes with the aid of improvement grants.

The way in which homes can be modernised with equipment eligible for grants was shown by The Electricity Council on their stand at the National Housing and Town Planning Exhibition held at Brighton a few weeks ago.

Basic amenities such as baths and hot water supplies, which are missing in more than two million of these homes can be installed with the aid of local authority standard grants of up to £200. Discretionary grants of up to £1,000 which may include the installation of home heating, and rewiring electric circuits, associated with necessary repairs, are also available.

A new prefabricated plumbing unit (described in last month's *Contact*) is typical of the new

equipment developed for installation in modernised and new homes.

An Electricity Council brochure, "Money to Modernise Your Home," provides easily understood explanations of standard, discretionary and special-grants available from local authorities for home modernisation.



### 60 YEARS WED.

Our sincere congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones of Birkenhead who recently celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. Mr. Jones, who is now 81, retired from his job as cable excavator with the Board in 1954.

#### WANTED

Long case (Grandfather) clock—brass dial. Get in touch with Mr. M. J. Caird, Warrington District. Home Tel. 051 489 6668.

## Electrical Gifts Campaign

A campaign to increase sales of small electrical appliances, from food mixers to focal point fires, as Christmas gifts commenced in October. It is sponsored by all the Electricity Boards in Great Britain and fourteen electrical manufacturers: the biggest-ever joint venture of its kind.

Five different 45 second television commercials will be screened in all areas during the nine weeks promotion, which has the theme "The Gift Place—Your Electricity Board." Each commercial features several of the wide range of appliances included in the campaign. Supporting press advertising will be used nearer Christmas and there will be extensive point-of-sale displays in Electricity Board shops.

## What the Customer Wants!

**"THE HOUSEWIFE** wants above all a thoroughly reliable product that performs the job she expects from it—and she wants to know exactly what to expect. She wants it to go on performing its job without going out of date too quickly."

This was said by Mr. P. A. Lingard, a Member of The Electricity Council, speaking at an Institution of Electrical Engineers colloquium in London recently on "Review of the Testing, Manufacture and Approval of Household Electrical Appliances."

Explaining how Electricity Boards strive to satisfy these needs, Mr. Lingard said that they provide training to all their staff although there are sometimes difficulties as in common with the retail trade generally the Boards suffer from a high level of turnover of junior staff. The sheer volume of the Electricity Boards' purchasing enables them to play a part in influencing the design and manufacturing standards of appliances and they offer the customer highly competitive products made to high standards. Representatives of the Boards also sit on important British Standards Institution Committees.

Through the Appliance Testing Laboratories at Leatherhead and Electricity Boards' own test houses, domestic appliances are tested for safety and performance and the vast majority of appliances now sold are within the British Electrical Approvals Board scheme and carry the BEAB label.

*Electricity Boards offer a double guarantee. "They not only pass on the manufacturers' guarantee in relation to the parts to be replaced," said Mr. Lingard, "but they also offer a guarantee in relation to the labour cost for the replacement of those parts. In addition the guarantee applies all over the country and covers customers if they move from one Board's area to another within the period of guarantee and*

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*Boards don't ask their customers to sign away their common law rights."*

On servicing, Mr. Lingard explained that Electricity Boards handle up to 100,000 calls a week. The volume and variety of products causes some problems and now and again mistakes are made but Boards are trying constantly to improve the efficiency and to limit the number of times when a customer is kept waiting. A committee formed from the Electricity Boards and the manu-

facturers are currently looking at ways of improving appliance servicing and have agreed maximum periods within which spare parts are to be despatched from the makers.

Looking at future methods of meeting the wants of the customer Mr. Lingard said retail organisations like the Electricity Boards may set up central warehouses for spare parts assisted by a computer to speed spares' delivery.

"The customer expects the ideal, she expects perfection, she doesn't like paying out large sums of money to get it, and she's right! Our task in the '70's is to deliver that ideal, to deliver that perfection, and to see that our customers are satisfied," concluded Mr. Lingard.

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## AIDS FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

Handicapped people can be helped to become more independent at home with the aid of a number of simple ideas featured by The Electricity Council at the Institute of Housing Managers Exhibition held at Scarborough recently.

Aids for disabled people may consist of no more than an easily gripped six inch ring, instead of a small knob, at the end of a bathroom ceiling light switch cord. And this is the simplest idea shown on the stand. The same ceiling switch, which can be bought in most High Streets for about eight shillings, can be made to operate most small electrical appliances. Similar switches, designed to carry more current, are available to control electric heaters. They cost only ten shillings.

People with arthritic hands, who find water taps difficult to turn, can have small electro-magnetic valves plumbed into their bathroom and kitchen pipes and "switch" the water on and off. No bigger than tennis balls, these valves cost just over £5 each and can be operated from any of a wide variety of different switches chosen to suit the user. However severe a disability may be, there

is a switch that can be operated easily.

Many handicapped people can operate floor pressure switches and two of these are shown controlling hot and cold water taps, fitted with electro-magnetic valves, at a bathroom hand basin.

Air operated switches can be adapted for use by more severely disabled people. Consisting of a small plastic pressure pad connected by up to 100 ft. or more of PVC tubing to a low pressure air switch, they can be used anywhere with absolute safety. Those on the stand have been fixed on walls at shoulder height so that they can be operated by someone leaning lightly against them.

These remotely controlled air switches are very useful to bed-ridden people. Mounted within reach of the bed they can be used to ring bells to summon help, switch lights, electric heating and the radio on and off, or even draw electrically operated curtains.



Mr. Cashman, centre right wearing glasses, with some of his colleagues who went along to his farewell presentation ceremony

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## RETIREMENTS

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### Mr. W. E. CASHMAN

Joining the former North Wales Power Company in 1927 as a clerk, Mr. W. E. (*Bill*) Cashman later became a sales representative for a couple of years. In 1935 he went over to the Wayleave Section and remained there until his recent retirement from his job as Administrative Assistant (*Estates & Wayleaves*) Area 4.

Before leaving for a life of leisure (!) Bill was presented with a parting gift from his colleagues by Mr. A. Kidd (*Secretary, Area 4*).

### Miss N. WINSTANLEY

Staff at Derby House Accounts Department in Liverpool presented Miss Nora Winstanley (*Winnie*), with a number of gifts

on the occasion of her recent retirement after serving the industry for the past twenty-five years, a large part of this time being spent at the cash office enquiry counter.

Now with time on her hands, Miss Winstanley intends taking art lessons and devoting more time to her interests in music.

### Mr. R. H. PORTER

Well-known in all the Liverpool Districts is Mr. Robert H. Porter, who until recently was the mail courier.

Mr. Porter has now retired after 25 years' service and his friends at Pumpfields presented him with a cheque as a farewell gift.

We wish him a long and happy retirement and couple this with

our wishes for an improvement in health for Mrs. Porter.

### Mr. S. BELL

Starting his working life as a telegraph boy with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department back in 1927, Mr. Stanley Bell recently retired from his job as installation inspector at the Marsh Lane Depot of North Mersey District.

He is keenly interested in golf and baseball and at various times during his life he has been active at both. He now enjoys playing bowls, reading and driving.

Mr. Bell also took an active part in trade union activities as a shop steward.

Many of his friends gathered to say their farewells and to present him with a cheque with which he will buy a new set of bowls.

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**Members of the Retired Employees Visiting Panel in Liverpool. From left to right, standing : Messrs. J. Hughes, A. Rimmer and A. Kinrade. Seated : Messrs. J. Docherty, E. V. Holmes, J. P. Roper (Chairman) and T. W. Jones (Secretary, No. 1 Local Sub-Committee).**

## Retired Members News Page

When the day for retirement comes for most of us, it means a terrific break in our daily routine and adjustments have to be made in our lives. The far-seeing prepare for this day years in advance and find hobbies and outside interests which gradually take up more and more of their spare time so that when retirement does come, it is welcomed with open arms because now full time can be devoted to these other things.

On the other hand, it is a sad fact that at some of our retirement presentations, the man-in-the middle often doesn't know what he is going to do on the following day.

Many who retire jokingly say that after working for twenty, thirty or sometimes forty years with a group of people, it will be nice to get away from them. In almost every case, this is not meant to be taken seriously as links with the past are often uppermost in the minds of the retired. Indeed, many take the opportunity, after a month or two away,

employees visit their colleagues at regular intervals. It was just over four years ago that the General Committee of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society recommended a scheme such as this.

**In Area 1, members of the Visiting Panel have made 1,339 visits in these four years, and have reported to the General Committee a number of cases when assistance was needed by members being visited.**

In North Wirral, some few years ago, an unusually large number of members of the engineering staff seemed to reach retirement round about the same time. They decided to try to stick together and agreed to meet every month, usually for a meal and a drink—but most of all for a “natter.” Since then, more retired employees from the District have joined the group, and now they go on the occasional visit to places of interest. . . . the most recent being a trip to Chester to have a look round the Board's new Head Office block.

### **Keep in Touch**

If your District or Area is actively engaged in doing anything constructive to help our pensioners

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