

# HARLEQUIN



ONE

SHILLING

HEAT



# WEL SHOD LTD.

AERE SITE

and

Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford

can accept

SHOES for repair in their own Modern  
Oxford Factory

LAUNDRY for Thame Mill Laundry

DRY CLEANING for Chiltern Dry  
Cleaners

## GIFTS ...

At Beesley's you can be sure  
of getting gifts suitable for all  
your family and friends.

Even the most difficult cases  
can be solved.

Beesley's are at their very  
best for last minute shopping.

### E. H. BEESLEY

HIGH STREET  
ABINGDON

OPEN ALL DAY  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.

(THURS. 9-1)

TEL. - - - - 33

AT BAILEY'S NOW —

## K Bootees -

sheepskin-lined for winter



Defy the winter in the  
wonderful warmth of these  
K Bootees. They've  
real sheepskin linings to  
keep you warm. Moulded  
rubber soles to keep you  
dry

ICELAND

*In black or  
brown suede.  
Available in  
wide fittings*

79/9



**CHRISTMAS AHEAD**

*Give Winter Warmth in lined Bootees and  
Slippers — in attractive array at Bailey's now*

6  
BATH STREET  
ABINGDON

*Bailey's  
of Abingdon*

233  
BANBURY  
ROAD  
OXFORD

E. Bailey & Son  
(Footwear) Ltd.

and at  
LONDON ST.  
FARINGDON



# HARLEQUIN

NUMBER 21

PRICE : ONE SHILLING

*Leisure Magazine of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment*

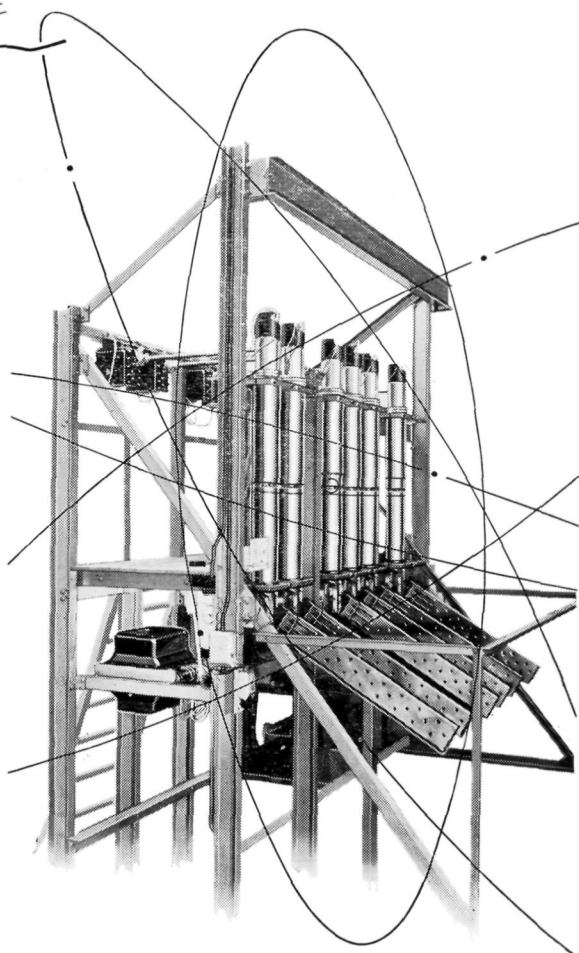


AN AERE HOUSING ESTATE — WANTAGE



## step in a nuclear direction

H. M. HOBSON LTD. have for many years specialised in the design and manufacture of aircraft components calling for the highest degree of ingenuity and precision engineering. Although these activities continue in full swing, the Company have now entered the nuclear field and are engaged in the design and production of reactor control components and other ancillary equipment in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Authority. These items include the control systems for the following important Research Reactors: E.443 (Dido) for Harwell, A.E.443 for Sydney, Australia, and the R.E.775 (Pluto) for Harwell and Dounreay. Design, development and manufacture is proceeding on an automatic machine for introducing isotope specimens into the reactor and removing them after the requisite irradiation time; precision small pressure vessels and other experimental equipment for testing samples of various materials in the reactors; and control mechanisms for a new zero energy reactor.



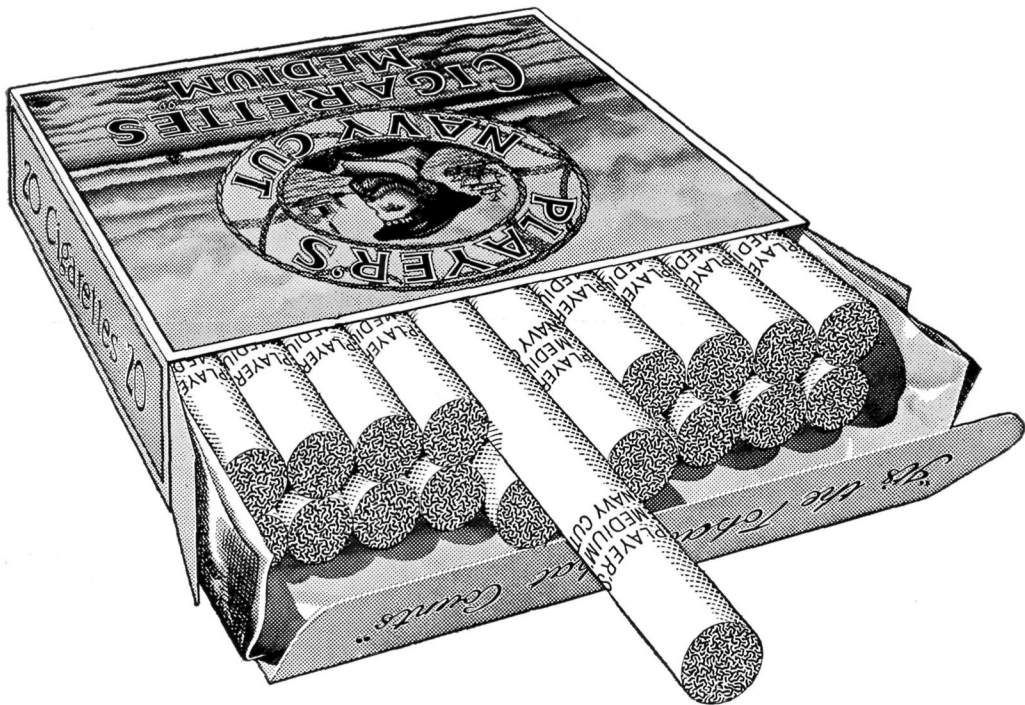
# Hobson

SPECIALISTS IN PRECISION ENGINEERING PROJECTS

H. M. HOBSON LIMITED WOLVERHAMPTON ENGLAND



**I always say  
please  
to Player's**



**PLAYER'S ALWAYS MEANS  
PLEASURE FOR ME**

[NCC 154U]

*yttrium*

*lanthanum*

**rare earths** of highest purity . . . .

*cerium*

*praseodymium*

The chemistry of the rare earths has for some years been one of the research projects in the Johnson Matthey laboratories. Methods for the extraction and separation of the oxides of these elements have been steadily developed, and today all fifteen of the known rare earths are available in a state of high purity.

*neodymium*

*samarium*

*europium*

*gadolinium*

*terbium*

*dysprosium*

*holmium*

*erbium*

*thulium*

*ytterbium*

*lutetium*

*Details of purity and availability of the rare earths will be forwarded on request. Salts of any of the elements can be prepared to meet individual demands, and several rare earth metals can now be produced.*

**Johnson**  **Matthey**

Johnson, Matthey & Co., Limited, 73-83 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1.  
Telephone: Holborn 6989.

Telegrams: Matthey London Telex.

REL



# WHEN ABOUT TO START MOTORING

consult

## WEST ANGLIA SCHOOL OF MOTORING

*The first R.A.C. registered School  
in Oxford*

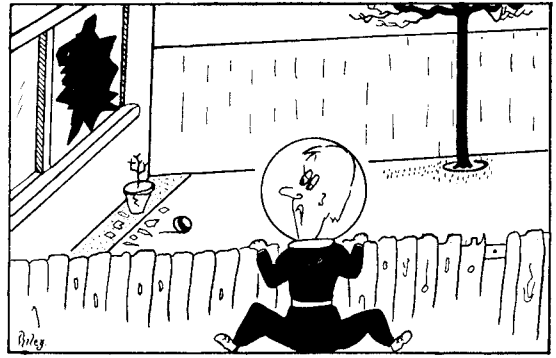
who are now operating in  
ABINGDON, DIDCOT,  
NEWBURY and OXFORD

— — — — —  
This school has the unsurpassed record  
of **3190** successful pupils, of whom over  
**80%** passed their test **FIRST TIME** in  
OXFORD or NEWBURY  
— — — — —

*Head Office: 29 St. Aldate's, Oxford*

*Telephone: OXFORD 48812*

*ABINDON 583, DIDCOT 3227, NEWBERRY 622*



"Please may we have our asteroid?"

### Proof Readers' Competition

Results of the Competition based on the last issue will be found on page 41.

There were several red herrings again. The telephone number of Barnes & Avis (Reading) is *not* 5536114 but 55361/4; Rubber and Engine-powered Gliders *are* sold by A. Niven (page 36) and the "Knowl" (page 6) does not end with an 'e'; 'Collaro' and 'Henlys' *were* correctly spelt (page 5) and the '£498 and £250 7s.' (Wheeler's, page 9) were correctly aligned.

Errors have again been inserted in co-operation with some of the Business Houses, and *one guinea* is again the first prize for the most correct list.

### Get all your Radio Components and Electronic Equipment

from

L. WESTWOOD 46 GEORGE STREET

ACOS  
B-LEE  
BRIMAR  
COLLARO  
ENTHOVEN  
MULLARD  
BULGIN  
DENCO  
ACRU  
J.B.

E D D Y S T O N E S  
F. M.  
phone  
OXFORD 47783



E D D Y S T O N E S  
R E C E I V E R S

G.E.C.  
HUNTS  
HENLYS  
GOODMANS  
CONNOISSEUR  
RELIANCE  
GARRARD  
TANNOY  
LEAK  
W.B.



"THE KNOWL"  
ABINGDON, BERKS.

The  
headquarters of the old-established  
INSURANCE BROKING FIRM of  
**POPE & CO. (Insurance) Ltd.**—  
a business set in the very heart of  
England, with its finger on the pulse  
of the London insurance market.

## 50% No Claims Bonus

If you are a careful driver, we can offer attractive "No Claims"  
Bonuses, which will be as high as 50% if you have been free of claims  
for eight years

Telephone : Abingdon 966 & 967

Established 1897

*Same Old Faces, Same Old Wish for Christmas and the New Year*

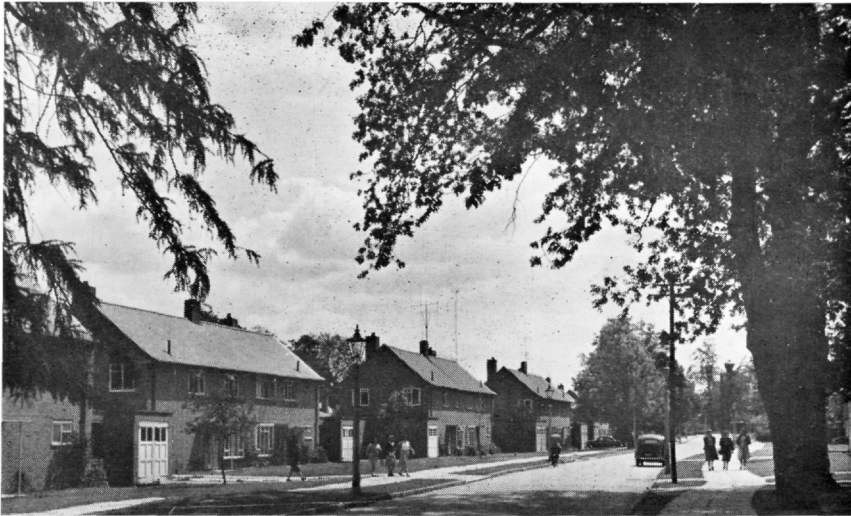


from  
THE DIRECTORS  
AND STAFF

*Rowstock*  
*Corner Garage*  
*Ltd.*

HARWELL





One of the AERE Housing Sites at Abingdon

**BRETT'S** SCHOOL of  
DANCING  
SWINBURNE ROAD  
ABINGDON



**Absolute Beginners**

MONDAY and FRIDAY  
7.15 - 9.45 p.m.

3/-

**Beginners and  
Intermediates**

EVERY WEDNESDAY 3/-

**Practice Dances** (Members  
Only)

THURSDAY 8 - 10 p.m.  
SATURDAY 7.30 - 10.30 p.m.



PRIVATE LESSONS DAILY

PHONE

ABINGDON 195

**CAMP - 1958**

Let us suppose we get  
*"The Mixture as before"*  
— to be taken annually!

**RAIN !**

**FLOODS !**

**GALES !**

BE SURE YOU ARE  
WELL AND TRULY EQUIPPED  
by the

**'GRAYS INN'**  
**Tent Shop**

17 THE TURL - OXFORD

PHONE 47110

## FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

- A Prudential Endowment Assurance will provide for your old age.
- A Prudential "Heritage" policy will provide for your dependents in the event of your death.
- A Prudential Houseowner's Comprehensive policy and a "Hearth and Home" policy will protect your home and its contents.
- A Prudential "Prudent Man's" policy will make up lost earnings if you are ill or have an accident.



**ASK THE MAN FROM THE PRUDENTIAL**

THE LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE IS AT 11, CORNMARKEt, OXFORD

TELEPHONE: OXFORD 2455

MORE THAN 10,000 Sq. Ft. of SHOWROOM SPACE



Pianos - Television - Radio - Records - Music - Hi Fi Equipment  
Electric Domestic Appliances

**Barnes & Avis** LTD

138/141 FRIAR STREET,  
READING. Phone 55361 / 4





(I. J. Belcher)

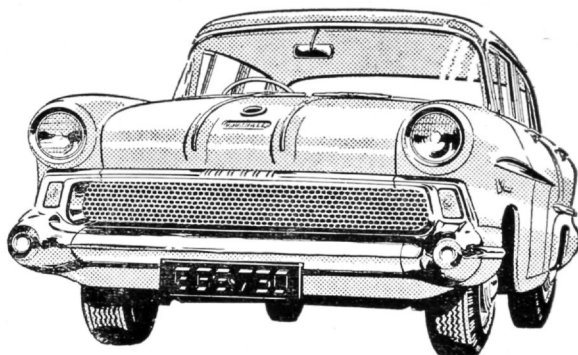
Winter sunshine on the stony roadway leading to Rye Farm, Abingdon.

---

# This is the *Vauxhall* **VICTOR**

Heralding a new generation of cars with its new, low-swept good looks and full circle, panoramic vision. You must ride in the Victor to appreciate its new flat-ride suspension . . . its vivacity . . . its top gear flexibility . . . its steadiness on corners. You must own a Victor to appreciate its economy. The Victor awaits your personal inspection in our showroom now,

**Price : Victor Saloon £498**  
plus P.T. £250 7s.



## **WHEELERS (NEWBURY) LIMITED**

MAIN DEALER

The Broadway, NEWBURY

Tel. 1020-1

# TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

- ★ Interest allowed — General Department ... .. 2½%  
(first £15 interest income tax free)
- and a higher rate in the Special Investment Department
- ★ Up to £50 repaid on demand, if required.
- ★ Special facilities for Thrift and Share-out Clubs.

Branches throughout the Area—including  
 Carfax, OXFORD ★ 1 Stert St., ABINGDON ★ Broadway Corner, DIDCOT

A Representative of the Bank attends at A.E.R.E. (Social Club) each Friday  
 between 12.30 and 2 p.m. when Savings Bank facilities are provided.

## Special keys for special cases



Imperial 'Good Companion' portable typewriters  
 can be fitted with keyboards containing symbols for  
 professional and foreign language requirements.

For example, if you are a doctor you will  
 welcome the medical keyboard. There is a wide  
 range and we can, in fact, meet any particular need

*There are Imperial 'Good Companion' portables*

*from £27 and deferred terms available.*



## Imperial



## Hunts (Oxford) Ltd

### 'Good Companion' Portables

45 St. Giles' and 18 Broad Street

Telephone 47683



**T**HIS COLOPHON will be found on the title-page of all our  
 scientific and technical publications and there are few branches  
 of science and technology not covered by one or more books on  
 our list. We shall be pleased to send you detailed information about them and  
 about the books published by John Wiley & Sons Inc. and Reinhold Publishing  
 Corporation, both of New York, whom we represent in this country. Messrs.  
 John Wiley & Sons this year celebrate their 150th Anniversary, and we have  
 been their sole agents in Great Britain for over sixty years.

CHAPMAN & HALL - 37 ESSEX STREET - LONDON, WC2.





EDITOR: D. A. TYLER

TREASURER: L. P. THOMPSON

SALES MANAGER: J. CROSS

DR. R. B. JACOBI

M. D. CREW

DR. J. B. SYKES

# EDITORIAL

**W**HAT devilish inventions these Russian satellites are! Even Santa Claus has to change his plans, and the big department stores of the world are in a high state of confusion. Instead of arriving by "helicopter" or "nuclear-power submarine", Father Christmas—complete with beard and red suit, of course—has had to arrive by "motorised satellite"!

Shops stocked up with what they thought were topical toys have been forced to revise other Christmas plans. A "rush project" was called for in the toy department for more and more space products: earth satellite balloons and satellite stations. For the more studious children the "nuclear chemistry set" was replaced by the "geophysical calculating instrument". Even the old space suits, pushed off the market by Davy Crockett, are on sale again.

Yet these happenings in the progressive toy shops of the world merely reflect the present scientific trend. Today, changes follow each other with such speed that their significance is barely perceived before it is eclipsed by the Bigger and Better. Life seems a sort of chain reaction in which the wonders of yesterday become the commonplace necessities of today—to become in turn the museum pieces of tomorrow.

It is hard to realise that a hundred Christmasses ago railways were still in their infancy, and that fifty years ago the horse tram was the typical mode of travel along streets lit by naked gas burners. Electric power, of course, became universal only within the last half century, and radio and television even more recently. Aeroplane flight—even at the speed of birds, let alone at the speed of sound—has only within this period become practicable and already is for some purposes obsolete.

With the splitting of the atom came what, in our Editorial of five years ago, we called "perhaps the greatest scientific discovery of all". One might ask now: has this wonder of yesterday already become the commonplace necessity of today, and will the nuclear physicist of tomorrow be like the ancient alchemist in our new Age of Space? But is it not more true to say that the Atomic Age is itself still dawning and that many new adventures remain?

The project of the controlled thermo-nuclear reaction, that of drawing power from the relatively abundant light element, "heavy" hydrogen, instead of from the heavy element uranium, is one such project that the Director has aptly described as "exciting". Beside competition in the conquest of space, is not this control of the fusion reaction for peaceful uses a project equally worthy of attention? Success would make an almost inexhaustible source of power available to mankind. This could bring greater leisure for creative pursuits, and the luxuries of today could indeed become the necessities of tomorrow. Perhaps, to quote from another "Harlequin" Editorial of five years ago, these words, instead of being a pipe-dream, could then become a reality:

"PEACE ON EARTH! GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN!"

*Guaranteed accuracy on our*

# SOCIETE GENEVOISE JIG BORERS

ONE OF THE MANY SERVICES  
AVAILABLE TO YOU AT . . .

**MOORE'S**  
(BOURNEMOUTH) LTD.

Design and  
Manufacturing  
Engineers

ESTABLISHED 1931

**WALLISDOWN ROAD  
BOURNEMOUTH**

Telephone: WINTON 5810-5811

Min. of Supply A.I.D. Authority Ref. No. 5076/51  
Air Registration Board Authority Ref. No. A1/3455/52

*Christmas is a time for looking back into the past, and our first article records in one page the social history of the early 'Harwell Wives.'*

# IN THE BEGINNING

WHEN we first came to Harwell, 11 years ago, only one experimental pre-fab had been erected. We had to live in the old R.A.F. "married quarters", where bedrooms were allocated according to family, and where those with no children had above their heads the third bedroom of the family next-door! The pre-fabs multiplied rapidly, however, and with them the social life. One of the first and most flourishing organisations was the Women's Club, whose ramifications included dress-making classes, and baby-minding in the lobby of the social club while afternoon meetings were in progress. Rumour had it that it was suggested to the Women's Institute that a branch should be formed at Harwell, but that that august organisation did not feel Harwell would be sufficiently permanent!

Contact with Didcot was maintained by the grey "Harwell bus", a most obliging vehicle which waited in Harwell village while the ladies queued up at the butcher's. It was kind-hearted to late-comers, and a breathless "Tell them I'm coming" to a neighbour was usually enough to prevent being left behind after too much shopping.

The ordinary 'bus services looked upon us with some suspicion. "Any more for the Devil's Playground?" asked one conductress as we reached the main gates. After a while, of course, they took over the special service, and the housewife's farewell to her transport took the form of a parody of "Goodbye, Dolly Grey" . . .

"Goodbye, grey bus, we must leave you,  
Though it's very hard to go.  
In the past we've had to grieve you  
When we've held you up, we know.

Meatless days are looming o'er us  
Though more buses are in sight,  
So we sing in doleful chorus  
'Goodbye, Mr. White'."

Mr. White, of course, was the obliging conductor.

As we dispersed to the various housing sites it seemed that the social life we had enjoyed at Harwell had come to an end, but it was not long before various organisations, in particular the Townswomen's Guilds, had done very good work in enabling the "Harwell wives" to know one another, and to mix with the townspeople. They were at first inclined to regard us with suspicion as "The Atomics". Today, however, we notice that they are disposed to taking Sunday afternoon walks around the estates, and to showing them to their visitors as one of the amenities of the town. And the shops, at first the despair of those used to London, have installed refrigerator cabinets, but not lost the personal touch. They are not just impersonal branches of multiple firms, but shops in which the shop-owner himself will serve you and where a queue can be kept waiting while he helps an old lady down the steps.

Whatever the small frustrations, life in a small country town has much to offer over London-dwelling—not least ease of access to the country without a three-hour queue home. That this is appreciated is shown by the demand for garages on the housing sites. But perhaps the last word should come from the countryside itself:

"The Downs

Don't approve of towns.

They could read a caustic lecture  
On Harwell's architecture".

"EARLY SETTLER"



# The Re-birth of Steam described

**I**N this age of jets and atomic propulsion, it is perhaps surprising to learn of the tremendous enthusiasm which has been aroused for the steam traction engine, not as a practical working proposition—obviously uneconomic to-day—but as an entertaining hobby and sport appealing to many thousands of people in all age groups.

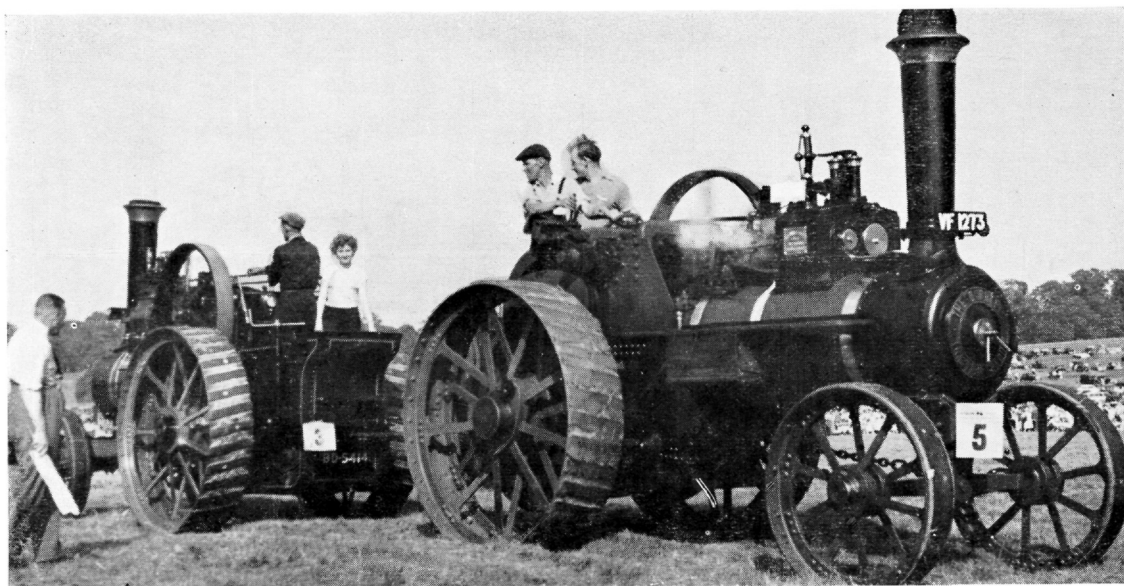
Many employees here at A.E.R.E. are keen enthusiasts; in fact, enthusiasm for these ancient contraptions is particularly keen in North Berkshire. It was at the village of Appleford, between Abingdon and Didcot, that Traction Engine Rallies were originated in 1950. Two farmers, Mr. Arthur Napper and Mr. Miles Chetwynd-Stapylton of Didcot, were discussing the merits of their engines when they allowed pride of ownership to get the better of discretion, and a challenge was issued.

This first race was held in a field, watched by only about twenty spectators. The winner was Mr. Napper with his 1902 Marshall

engine "OLDTIMER". Later Dr. Giles Romanes (a member of the staff of the East Grinstead Eye Hospital), hearing about the race, threw out a challenge on behalf of "Eileen", his 1919 engine. The race took place at Nettlebed in the following year, when quite a large crowd gathered, with Lord Nuffield as official starter. Once again it was "Oldtimer" who romped home an easy winner, although conceding seventeen years, at a speed of four minutes a mile!

This Nettlebed race established traction engine racing and quickly caught the imagination of those who witnessed some of the events on television and newsreels. Enthusiasts from all over the country now descend upon the quiet village of Appleford for the annual event in June, and numerous rallies are staged each year throughout the country. The most successful to date took place on August Bank Holiday Monday, 1957, by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Bedford, in the grounds of Woburn Park. Forty-three engines of various types were on parade, and over





and photographed

by Ivan J. Belcher

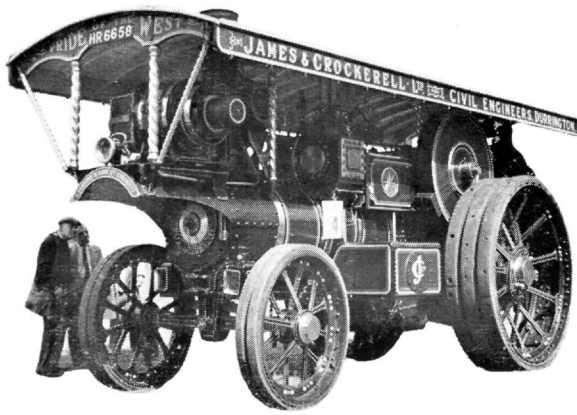
25,000 spectators were present (arriving in 7,000 cars which jammed every road leading to Woburn). To open this historic event the Duke and Duchess journeyed from the Abbey to the course in the cab of "Kitchener", a 16½-ton former showman's-engine of 1920.

The original uses for which these engines were made vary greatly. "Oldtimer" was used by a firm of agricultural engineers for threshing. Several engines and steam lorries were pressed into service again during the Suez crisis and petrol shortage. Unlike the motor car of to-day, they become more valuable now with the passing of time.

Like all enthusiasts, traction engine men are slightly mad about their hobby. One would think that one machine was enough, but many have several in their collection. The late Mr. C. W. Lambert of Horsmonden, Kent, prior to his death in 1955, was the proud owner of 30 steam engines and rollers, and even organised his own rallies.

Most owners spend many hours painting and cleaning, particularly on the ex-showman type road locos with their ornate twisted brass stays and gleaming fittings. The powerful dynamo fitted on the front of these engines is itself a symbol of power and strength. The capabilities of the eight nominal horse power traction engine, even by to-day's standards, are suprising. With few exceptions they have been rescued in a state of rusty decay from scrap heaps and breakers' yards, for expensive restoration as near as possible to original condition.

Owners and enthusiasts need no excuse for their hobby. Traction engine rallies have come to stay, and the originators can be proud of the fact that they are providing increasing funds for charities. Through maintaining their engines in good working order they are preserving fine examples of British workmanship, for the steam road locomotive was built by engineers of ingenuity and skill and played an important part in the technical progress of this country. ★



# Contrasting Locomotion

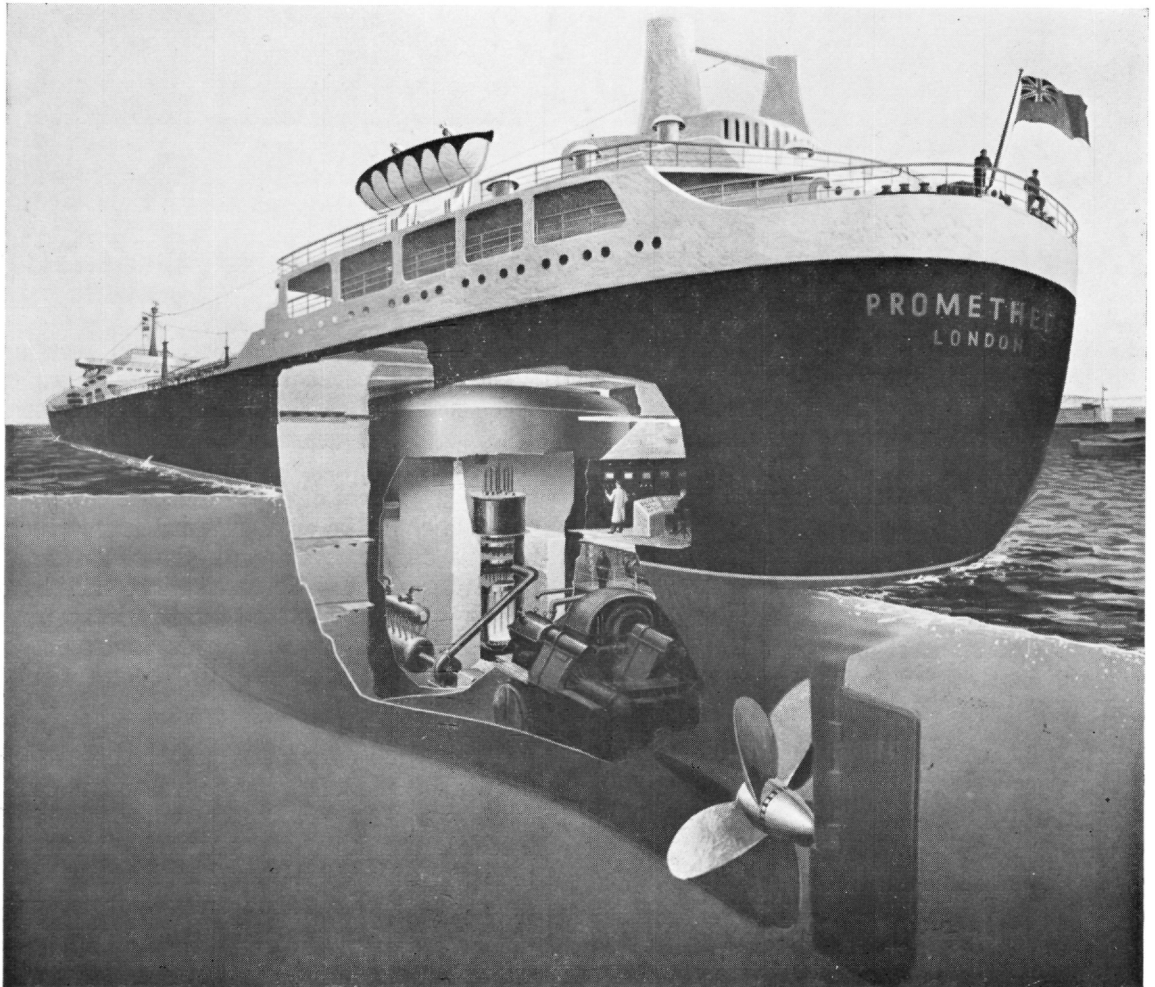
The Royal School of Mines itself possesses a fine specimen of Road Loco which attends rallies, charity functions, etc.

Those who are interested should get in touch with one of the undermentioned so that effort in this direction may be investigated and co-ordinated:

J. G. Griffiths, Electronics Div. Workshops, Ext. 2868

I. J. Belcher, Photographic Section, Ext. 2178

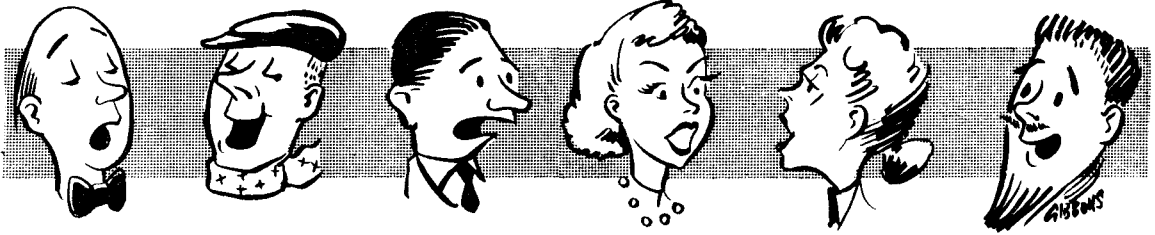
J. S. Stansfield, Electronics Div., Ext. 2679



## CALDER HALL—AT SEA

Our artist's impression of an oil tanker propelled by nuclear energy.

Among the possibilities for nuclear propulsion of large oil tankers is this 'scaled down' Calder Hall type reactor.



# TALKING POINT

## HOMOLKA

**S**AYING something entails talking, and speech is one of the chief tools at Harwell—in some cases, the only tool. Let us consider for a few serious moments, then, the intricacies of this gift of speech, not as linguists or dialecticians, but from the more human angle of everyday use and abuse.

First, the speakers. Speakers are either Pure or Applied. The pure speaker's first consideration is the dulcet tones of his (or, more often, her) voice emanating to an appreciative audience. It is an art for its own sake, sometimes an instinct. The subject matter is not important. Varicose veins, giant marrows, car trouble or my unhappy childhood—all are grist for the purist's mill.

Applied speakers are dedicated people. Here, speech is a means to an end. They want to impart something to you, not the sounds of their own voices, but a fact, an opinion, a blessing or a curse. Frothing at the mouth, thumping the table, poking a finger in your thorax or throwing a fit—always the subject matter is the thing. The Labour Party, Home Rule for Oxford, Buddhism or Cheap Petrol—the topic is paramount, the voice only the medium.

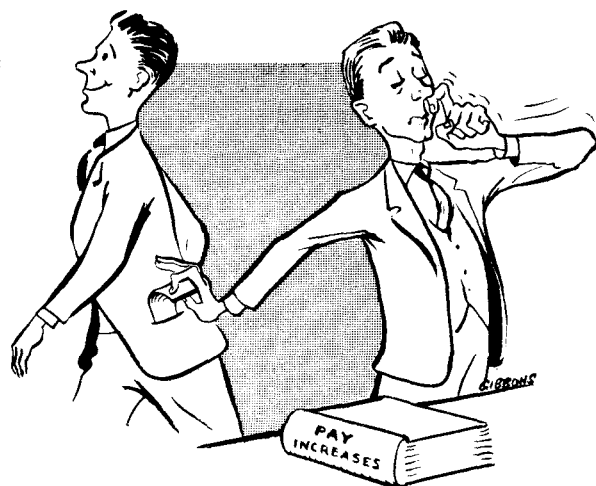
Now let us dwell for a few odd lines on the gymnastics of talking. It is interesting—although very ill mannered—sometimes to watch people talking rather than to listen to them. The old joke about “if you tie his hands he is speechless” is not so whimsical as it

sounds. Few people remain rigid while they speak. Head-scratching is quite common. In applied speakers it denotes concentration. In pure speakers it suggests dandruff. Nose-rubbing is said by some authorities to indicate insincerity, while chin-fondling is supposed to imply that the speaker is not sure of himself—although it might merely mean that a new razor blade is due. Ear-pulling is said to mean that the speaker thinks his listener is rather a fool.

Many people have their own characteristic gesticulations and gyrations. Alfred de Musset, it is reported, used to pull the buttons off his clothes when he was talking intensely. Fortunately, belts were fashionable in those days. One chap I know unconsciously snakes out a long, thin leg and hooks it around the nearest chair or stool. If there is no furniture within range, the leg waves about like a frustrated tendril.

It is a curious fact often overlooked, or ignored, by talkers that, with a few exceptions, nobody really listens to them. This is very marked if the subject matter happens to be the speaker's self. The chief exception is if the subject matter is about someone else—especially if slightly derogatory. The other exceptions include such things as praise for the listener, promise of promotion, higher wages and expressions like “Your house is on fire” or “Your slip is showing”. As a rule, listening is a necessary adjunct of talking.

Some people do talk in the absence of listeners, but this is often viewed with suspicion. Listeners (if you will overlook the change of subject) might be classed as Passive, Impassive and Impending. Passive listeners are fair game for pure speakers and it is heart-rending to watch them squirming and grimacing, nodding and agreeing in submissive, unhearing agony. Nothing much can be done about them. Impassive listeners are experienced, hardened people. They have trained themselves to do things like nail-filing, reading books, mental calculations or sleeping, at the same time giving an occasional grunt in appropriate places. Oddly enough, impassive listeners seem to be popular with pure speakers, who dislike being interrupted. The cream of listeners are, of course, the Impendables. These are *not* just frustrated talkers avidly waiting to chip in with *their* life-stories. They are artists who have studied the fine points of self-preservation in the face of rabid talkers, both Pure and Applied. Their methods cannot be generalised on, as they vary to meet the circumstances, but some of the common measures adopted are (1) Staring fixedly at the talker's left ear as if there were something odd about it; (2) Continual loud blowing of the nose with some coughing (excellent against hypochondriacs); (3) Leering (excellent against most—but not all—women); (4) Laughing violently in the wrong places (quite good with the hearty jocular talkers); (5) Nose twitching (useful with hygienic, fussy people). Desperate cases naturally require desperate measures. Some of



"Nose-Rubbing is said by some authorities to indicate insincerity"

them are surprisingly simple in execution and quite effective. Franz Liszt used to faint after exactly five minutes of a boring conversation, while Balzac kept repeating every other word the talker said, but these are rather lacking in tact. One very efficient method used by some Harwell people consists of arranging with an assistant or fellow worker to slip out and telephone from another room. Replies like "I'll come right away, Sir", or "Don't touch it until I get there", usually suffice to discourage the most rabid talkers without hurting their feelings.

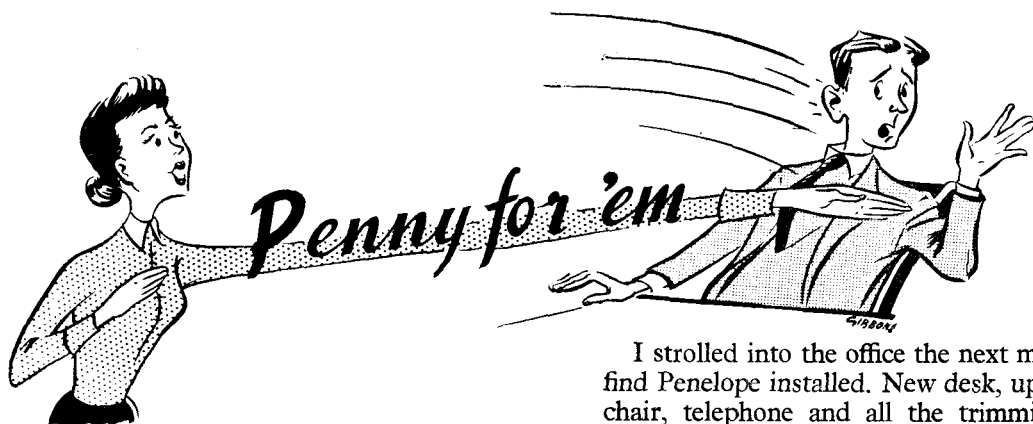
Saying something does not always entail talking (in contradiction to my opening sentence). Apart from the obvious speech-play of ogling, sneering, eye-brow raising, etc., silent men are often considered deep thinkers. This assumption is based on a very human reasoning, to wit, that those not talking back to us must be agreeing with us and therefore possess excellent judgement. Their intelligence, of course, is beyond proof and they are more likely to be bored stiff, petrified or just have nothing to say.

If the reader's morbid curiosity has taken him this far, he will no doubt have tumbled (if you will forgive the rustic expression) to the fact that the writer is a pure writer. And in all probability the reader is a passive reader. ★



One type of talker:  
"If you tie his hands he is speechless"





THE rain splattered in gusts on the window behind me as I stared at the girl who had just walked into my office. It was a dull November afternoon and as depressing as they come. Not that I felt despondent. In fact I felt pretty pleased with myself, having just been promoted Chief Information Officer to Sir George Robertson. You, no doubt, have often read of Sir George, the Director of the Research Establishment at Ringford Court? Probably you have heard him speak on the radio and T.V. Who writes his speeches? I do. Well, almost.

No, I didn't feel depressed at that particular moment. Just amazed that the girl standing in front of me could have the nerve. She had tapped on the door, walked in and demanded to see Sir George. Nothing strange about that, you say? But wait.

"I'm Penelope Jones," she said, "and I want to work with Sir George. You see, I can read people's thoughts, and I know he will find me useful".

I was saved from making an inane remark by the appearance of Sir George. Penelope struck home straight away.

"I'm Penelope Jones and I believe I can help you, Sir George. I can read people's thoughts".

It was then that I realised why Sir George was a Director and I wasn't. Did he show surprise? Not in the slightest.

"Step inside my dear and we'll talk it over", he said. Just like that. They disappeared into his inner office; the door slammed. I closed my mouth.

That, on a wet November afternoon, was the start.

I strolled into the office the next morning to find Penelope installed. New desk, upholstered chair, telephone and all the trimmings were there. The following day the curtains came. No one had ever considered my efforts worthy of curtains, but Penelope asked for curtains and they arrived.

Within a week I had become accustomed to sharing the office with Penelope. My first antagonism abated and within a month I was enjoying her company, and to my surprise she seemed to be enjoying mine. Of course, I was a little envious of her popularity with Sir George. Wherever he went, she accompanied him. By early New Year she had been with him to Edinburgh and Sheffield; together they had attended dozens of lectures and meetings in London and Paris.

Sir George was like a kid with a new toy. You see, she really *could* read people's thoughts, and he was using her ability at every opportunity. The secret was well kept, of course, with only the three of us in on it.

It was a secret worth keeping, so simple but so useful. Sir George would meet his foreign opposite number at a lecture or conference and ask the most pointed leading questions. Inevitably, he got an evasive reply. But whilst the poor chap was thinking up his smooth non-committal answers, he couldn't help thinking of the real solution. That was where Penny came in. She focussed on the fellow and there it was, the whole answer as clear as daylight.

The Paris run proved what she had often suspected, that the language difficulty didn't arise. Sir George had some theory that they were pure thought pulses, probably of an electrical nature, that she was intercepting before the pulses had been changed by the nervous system into any particular language. He had a lot of medical jargon to prove this, which I for one didn't understand; nor, I think, did he.

Penny came in one morning just after her Paris trip, full of the joys of spring. "We are going to Moscow" she announced. By this time nothing was surprising, but her announcement depressed me.

That afternoon I spent day-dreaming. I suppose I'd been looking at Penny for about five minutes in a sort of daze when she suddenly walked over to my desk and gave me a resounding slap across the face. "Any more thoughts like that", she said, "and Sir George will be looking for a new Information Officer". She was right, my mind had been wandering a little. But it was all for the best; we announced our engagement the next day.

The Moscow trip was an undoubted success. Even Sir George admitted that. Over there he'd asked his usual leading questions and Penny had concentrated on picking up the answers. They came home and set to work tabulating their latest information. Life in the office, and outside it, was very enjoyable in the following months.

About a year after we had met, Penny and I were married. Sir George insisted on Penny continuing work and, indeed, took us to an International Conference on Nuclear Power in Washington. Penny worked wonders again and Sir George confounded the Yanks quite a bit in the months that followed. They couldn't understand how he had been told so little but knew so much. As for the Russians, they were still trying to discover who had "leaked" at our visit of six months earlier.

We christened our child Jennifer. Penny gave up her work for good and gradually our life settled down. Sir George sometimes recalled our "game", as he called it, and he often sent small presents to Penny and our small daughter.

On Jennifer's third birthday we gave her a party. A crowd of toddlers came, and Sir George was the distinguished guest. After the cake had been cut and mounds of jellies and ice creams devoured, the kids rushed away to play.

Shrieks of laughter were coming from the playroom and Sir George, a child himself at heart, quietly opened the door. For a moment he stood watching; then smiled and beckoned us over, and the three of us stood quietly in the doorway, unnoticed by the children.

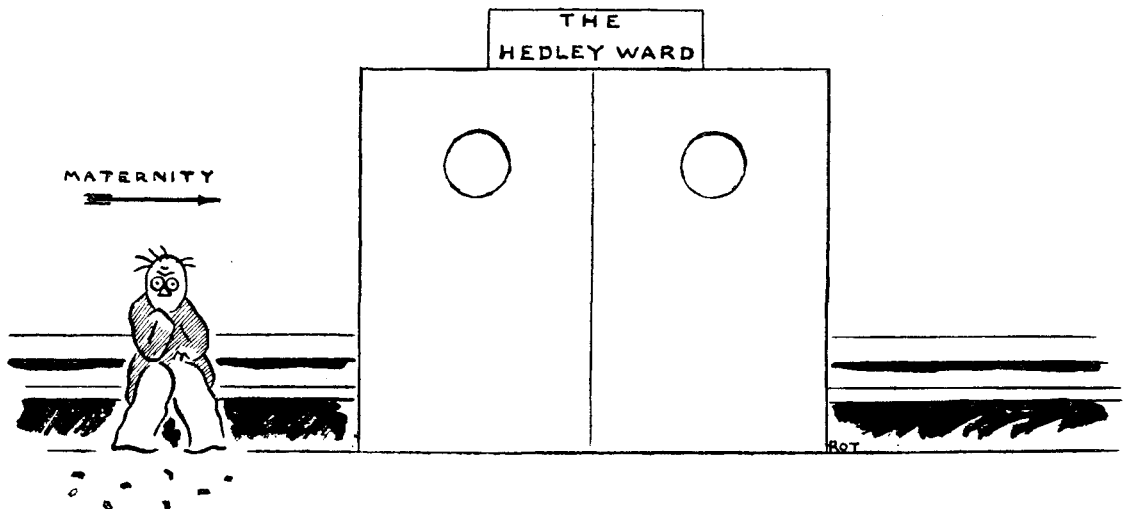
They were grouped by the fire in a wide circle. Between them on the carpet was an assortment of toys, comics, cups, shoes and odds and ends. One youngster was quickly moving round, touching each article in turn.

In the corner, blindfolded and face to the wall stood Jennifer. And to the delighted cheers of the other children she was rapidly naming the articles as they were touched: and every time correctly.

We closed the door and stepped back into our own room.

Sir George was beaming: "Only 15 years to wait and we are back in business". ★

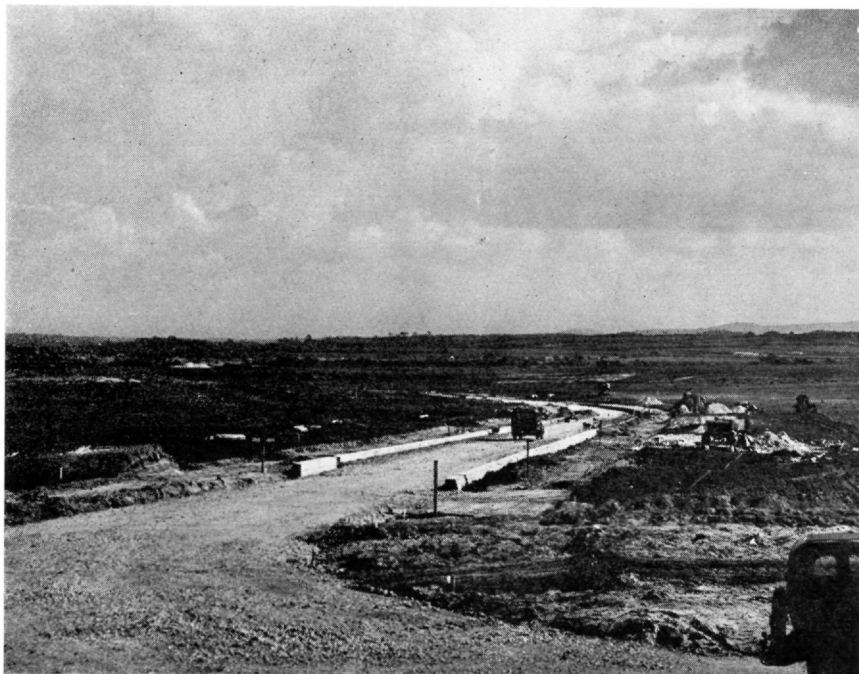
GIBBONS.



An entry in the Chance and Uncertainty Competition—more entries are on pages 28 and 29.

# COLUMBINE

A "HARLEQUIN" SUPPLEMENT ON THE SECOND SITE



ROAD CONSTRUCTION



BORE HOLE No. 4

Winfrith Heath

# Ballard Point School

SWANAGE

Telephone 2273

## A PREPARATORY BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL

*(Recognised by the Ministry of Education)*

GIRLS 5 — 13 years

BOYS 5 — 9 years

Nursery Class 2½—5 years



Children take Entrance Examinations to Public or Secondary Schools

*Games include Netball, Tennis, Swimming and Riding*

The house overlooks the sea and has its own sandy beach

*Transport from a distance can be arranged, and dinners are provided for Day Children*

*For Prospectus apply to the Headmistress*



# James Drewitt & Son

LIMITED

C. G. DREWITT, F.I.O.B., Governing Director  
M. L. DREWITT M. J. DREWITT G. J. PRIOR

**BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING  
CONTRACTORS**

**PLANT HIRE CONTRACTORS**

**Specialists in Pre-Stressed Concrete Construction,  
Concrete Vibration & Pressure Sprayed Concrete Work**

*Post-war Contracts include:*

Re-building Messrs. Beales Department Store,  
Bournemouth. Value £400,000

New Maintenance Works and Garage for Bourne-  
mouth Corpn. Value £300,000

Extensions to Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey,  
C.I. Value £65,000

Conversion of Winter Gardens Concert Hall,  
Bournemouth. Value £20,000

Extensions, Castel Mental Hospital, Guernsey C.I.  
Value £70,000

Re-building Southern Newspaper Offices, Weymouth.  
Value £60,000

Extensions to Power Station and New Engine Beds,  
Guernsey, C.I. Value £20,000

New Dining Room and Kitchen Block, St. Joseph's  
Convalescent Home, Bournemouth. Value £12,000

Pre-stressed concrete Omnibus Garage for South-  
down Motor Services Ltd., Hilsa, Portsmouth.  
Value £40,000

Pre-stressed concrete Omnibus Garage and Bus Sta-  
tion for Southdown Motor Services Ltd., Chiches-  
ter. Value £150,000

New Factory for The Loewy Engineering Co., Poole.  
Value £200,000

Poole Power Station Extensions. Construction of  
Superstructure for Main and Ancillary buildings.  
Value £200,000

Erection of Barrack Blocks, Bovington Camp, Dorset.  
Value £85,000

Glenmoor Secondary School for Girls, Bournemouth  
Value £210,000

*Office and Works:*

**Ringwood Rd., West Howe,  
BOURNEMOUTH,**

**Hants.**

*'Phone: NORTHBOURNE 1144 (5 lines)*

# HARWELL II.

**M**ANY of the "ifs" and "buts" associated with the Research Group's second site in Dorset are now almost matters of history and the last remaining months of a busy year echo with the hum of trucks and bulldozers engaged in the initial opening-up of the heathland.

A momentous year began with a Public Inquiry in January and approval was granted, at the end of that month, by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for development of the site. Then came the problem of Commoners' Rights and the piloting of a Bill from its draft stage to the Statute Book, within five months.

Not wishing to surrender too readily to the nuclear age, the Heath began disgorging unexploded bombs during the summer. A concentration of troops is now, temporarily at any rate, as much a part of the construction team as the civilian workers employed by the contractors.

It was not until the early part of September that entry to the site was obtained, and since then the scale of activity just north of Blacknoll has steadily mounted. A section of roadway some  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile long can now carry traffic into the centre of the site, and the lane running from Winfrith Newburgh towards the railway bridge has been converted into a widened and strengthened roadway. A contract for civil engineering work on the site has been secured by Messrs. Turriff Construction Corporation and by the time this article is available to "Harlequin" readers the first real impact of the new Establishment in Dorset will be discernible. Construction sites have little in the way of aesthetic attractions, and whilst the excavations on Winfrith Heath will not yield the mountains of chalk familiar from time to time in Berkshire, the pits and trenches now appearing within a mile of Blacknoll are interspersed with heaps of sandy greyish black sub-soil noticeably free from stones. The contractors' labour force, reminiscent of the 1948/49 days at Harwell, is steadily building up in strength and those building operatives who are imported into the County will rapidly become familiar with the Dorset countryside between Winfrith Heath and the labour camp at Warmwell.



First to appear on the Winfrith scene will be site offices to accommodate the Authority's construction staff and personnel belonging to the contractors. A canteen building will follow and the latter facility will enable work to proceed on the essential opening-up services necessary on a site of this size and character. Soil drainage, sewers, water supplies, electricity and gas, whilst not peculiar to any new undertaking, are essential as primary facilities in most building development, and these, in the case of Winfrith, will be followed by laboratory buildings and the other structures appropriate to a nuclear research establishment.

One cannot avoid comparisons with the Research Establishment at Harwell, where in the course of rather more than ten years vegetation has obliterated the scars in the chalk downland which was once an airfield. Although the construction works on Winfrith will inevitably alter the topography of some parts of the Heath, they may not succeed in challenging the natural features of "Blacknoll" and its neighbour — "Whitcombe Hill" — to the west. Whatever the outcome, the landscaping of spoil heaps and tree-planting on a generous scale will do much to blend fabrications of steel and concrete into a countryside where, at all seasons, the colours are warm and soft.

WAREHAM, WOOL and  
SOUTH EAST DORSET

## Miles & Son

*Auctioneers & Estate Agents*  
*Surveyors & Valuers*

---

10 West Street, Wareham

TELEPHONE 206 and at

3 Institute Road, Swanage

TELEPHONE 3333/4

WINFRITH HEATH A.E.R.E.

FOR

HOUSES ★ BUNGALOWS ★ PLOTS ★ FURNISHED HOUSES

**EARDLEY-BROOKE**

H. R. Brooke, F.A.L.P.A., F.V.I.

AUCTIONEERS, ETC.

HIGH STREET, SWANAGE

PHONE 2059

## "WOOL WELCOMES WINFRITH"

"Benefits are hoped for from Winfrith Station."

—*Bournemouth Echo*.

BASE HOLE No. 3 (Winfrith) 32ft.



From the village of Wool  
Comes a little leg pull—  
Or perhaps, do you think,  
You might label it "bull"?  
With surprise you may blink,  
But our hearts are too full.

We think that they oughter  
Bring drainage and water  
To wash out the stinks  
From our old stones and mortar  
And flush down the sinks  
For both Mother and Daughter.

DON'T FORGET THE DIVER . . .



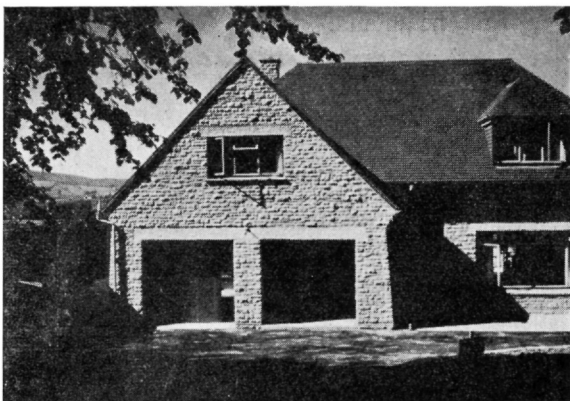
It may be symbolic—  
We think, not atomic—  
To live from our wells:  
Discomfort most chronic;  
And by soiling our dells  
To incur risk of colic.

This, then, is our creed:  
Drains and water we need.  
Our Pipe Dream, we pray,  
May the Powers-that-be heed,  
And appropriate authority, sanctions,  
approval and permit, one day,  
Let them graciously cede.

J.P.

. . . nor the conscientious photographer! (Ed.)

# YOU WON'T BE TAKING A CHANCE

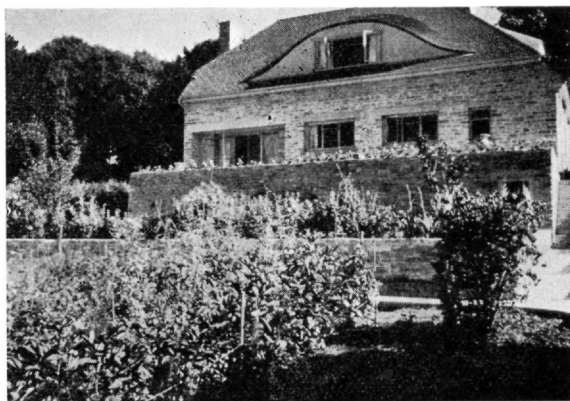


*with*

PURBECK STONE-BUILT  
BUNGALOWS  
or HOUSES

OLD AGE MATERIALS — NEW AGE METHODS

*Freehold sites available for the  
erection of homes to your own  
requirements, or houses and  
bungalows available with  
vacant possession*



CONSULT

## JEFFERSON POND LTD.

*Building Contractors*

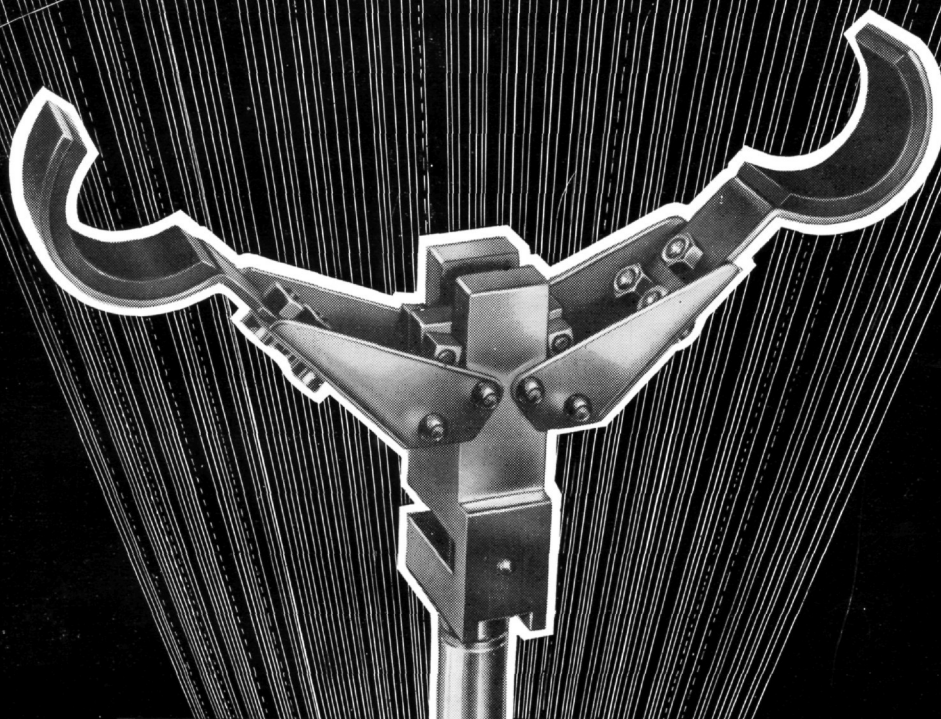
**KINGS ROAD - SWANAGE**

*Telephone 2542*

**Awarded Ministry of Housing Diploma 1954**

## **Remote Handling Equipment**

**for radioactive and toxic materials**



**SAVAGE AND PARSONS LIMITED**

WATFORD • HERTFORDSHIRE • ENGLAND • TEL: WATFORD 6071

*Also manufacturers of static and dynamic recording equipment.*

TGA RH3

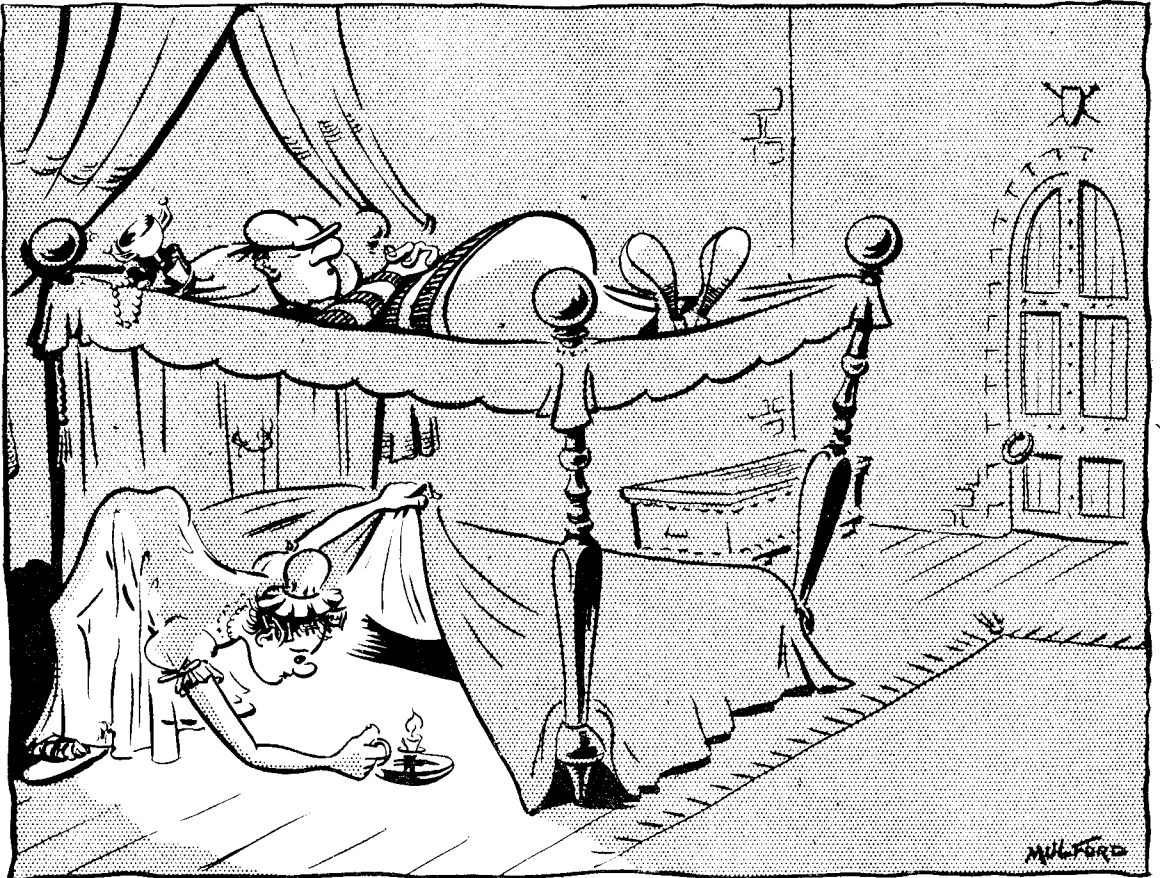




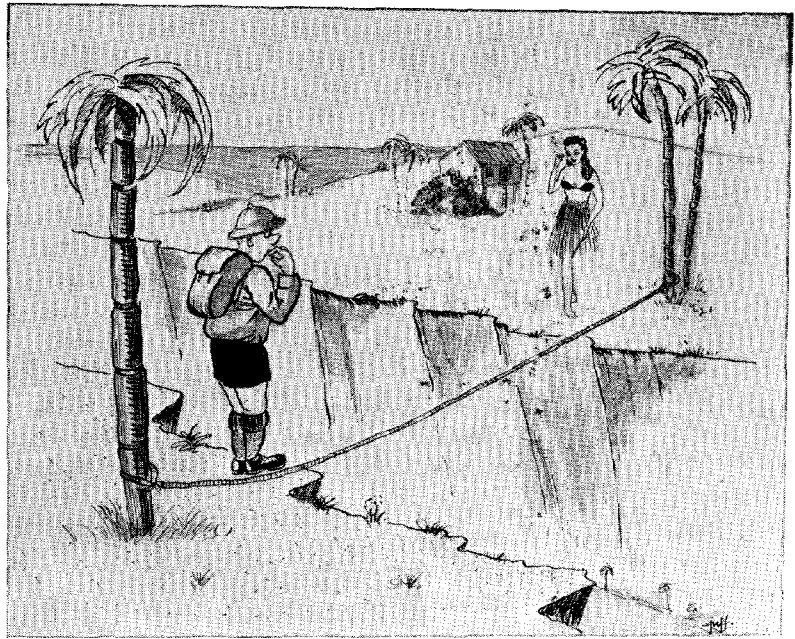
Some most valuable replies have been received in response to the survey, details of which will appear in the next issue.

## ***CHANCE AND UNCERTAINTY***

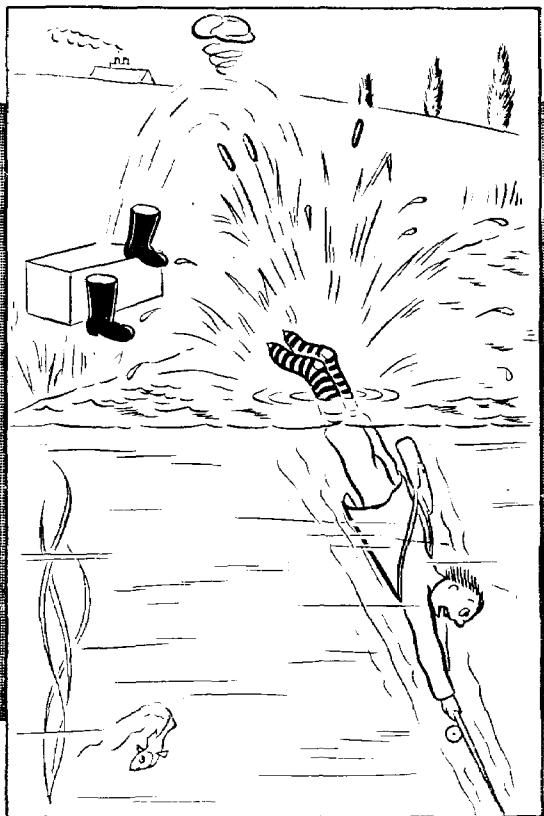
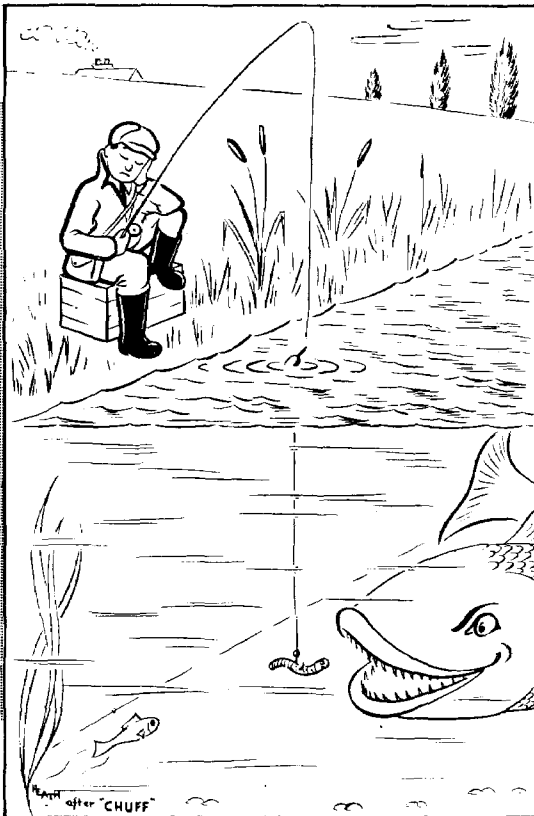
ON THESE PAGES ARE SOME  
OF THE ENTRIES RECEIVED  
IN OUR ONE GUINEA  
COMPETITION FOR ARTISTS



**"Harlequin"**  
 was faced with  
 considerable  
 difficulty in  
 assessing the  
 best humorous  
 drawing.  
 Compare your  
 verdict with  
 that given on  
 Page 46.



C. G. Griffiths (Eng.)



S. D. H. Hughes (Isotopes)

A.E.R.E.  
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION

# INSURANCE SCHEME

Members are reminded that they may enjoy specially reduced premium rates and valuable bonus concessions for their particular insurance requirement, and are invited to seek quotations without obligation on the prepaid enquiry form obtainable from:

**MISS CROKER**  
**BUILDING 77, EXT. 2223**

Full information and free advice are also obtainable from:

**MR. C. H. T. LEESON**  
of the Midland Assurance who attends the

**SOCIAL CLUB**  
**EVERY TUESDAY 12 NOON—2 P.M.**

You will secure better protection at reduced cost operated through the Branch office of the

**MIDLAND EMPLOYERS'**  
**MUTUAL ASSURANCE LTD**

**70 London Street, Reading**

'PHONE: READING 50010



Self-Service at Carter's Store

## Chandler's *of* WANTAGE

*Transport Services*

- ❖ Luxury Coaches for all occasions
- ❖ Hire Car Service
- ❖ Furniture Removals to all parts

**Grove Street Garage, Wantage**

Phones 123 and 277



Nomi Burnstock (M.R.C.) in the centre of the photograph once ski-ed down the snow-clad volcanic slopes of Mount Rua Pehu, New Zealand, having had to rise in the early hours before the thaw. Yet this spirit of adventure—in things and in ideas—is to be found throughout Harwell, where ski-ing is done without snow!

The next few pages are dedicated to the Spirit of Inventiveness.

**YOU  
CAN DEPEND  
ON  
AUSTIN  
and  
the distributors:**



**PARK END ST. - OXFORD**

*(Austin Distributors for 40 years)*



*EQUALLY DEPENDABLE FOR  
INDIVIDUALLY SELECTED*

**Guaranteed  
Used Cars**

Any 2, 3 or 4 wheeled vehicle  
taken in Part Exchange

*Confidential Hire-Purchase*

**RING OXFORD 47631**

## **Harwell's Non-Secret Weapon**

It has been rumoured that the Editor, while exploring Darkest Oxfordshire in his car, was chased down a hill by a madman who was apparently trying to ride two scooters at once. The Editor has scotched the apocryphal half of the rumour by explaining that it was only an M.R.C. type called Philpot, and the two scooters were in fact a pair of "castor skis" intended for practising skiing turns on tarmac roads without snow.

Before petrol rationing Mr. Philpot ran a small lunch-time ski-school towed along the runway by car. At the M.R.C. Christmas party he was hailed as "Sportsman of the Year" and was presented with a beautifully made model of a penny-farthing bicycle, possibly as an indication that the invention (a spare-time private venture) was thought to need further development.

In practice gloves are worn, and an air kilt protects the hips when they slide along the tarmac after a fall—present experience is that no further protection is necessary. A broom-handle is used as an emergency hand-brake, but normal braking is by means of turns, as with real skis. Voluntary rules for avoidance of motor cars are being formulated as experience accumulates, and if all castor skiers obey them the present high standard of safety will be maintained.

Unlike most Harwell inventions, this one is classified, not merely as "non-secret", but as actively seeking publicity, in the hope that it will be taken up by some adventurous retailer.

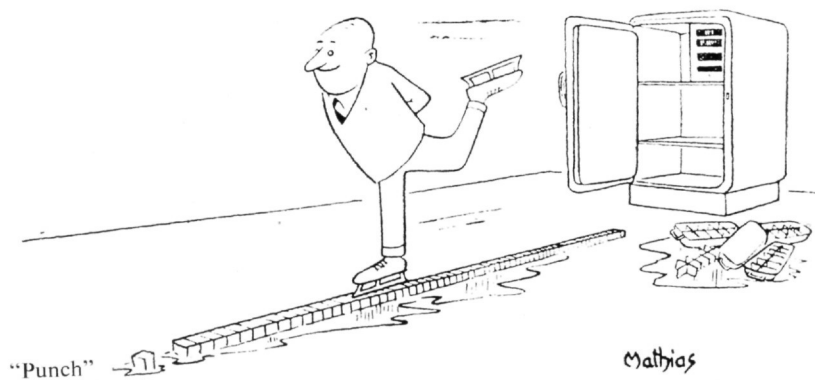
### **Details for the Technically-minded**

Castor Skis, as the name implies, can move sideways as well as forwards like real skis, which they further resemble in that when they are tilted sideways there is a graded sideways braking action in one direction and a sudden digging-in in the other. Thus all the conventional skiing turns can be done if, and only if, the bodily movements and ankle control are correct. The sideways movement is made possible by two "compound-wheel castors" (patent applied for), one at each end of a chassis about half the length of a real ski. Each compound-wheel castor is eight inches in diameter (large enough to run fast on fairly rough roads) and contains fifteen three-inch "tyre-wheels" strung like beads on a circular ring which is loosely caged between two hub-discs, against which the tyre-wheels are automatically pressed when the ski is tilted, giving the required sideways braking action. A simple binding is readily adjustable to any low-heeled footwear, and special skiing boots are unnecessary, though they help the ankles.



# DRY LAND SKI - ING —

— ON THE  
HARWELL RUNWAY  
WITH THE  
LUNCH-TIME SKI-SCHOOL



Protective gloves, knee-pads and  
air-cushions are needed for speeds  
up to 30 m.p.h. are attained.



← See article and a further  
photograph overleaf →

# READ & PARTNERS LTD.

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS  
and CONTRACTORS**

*At A.E.R.E. Harwell  
continuously since 1946*

28-32, HATFIELDS,  
STAMFORD STREET,  
LONDON S.E.1.

*Telephone: Waterloo 5858-9*

*Site Office:*  
**A.E.R.E. HARWELL, BERKS.**  
*Telephone Rowstock 238 (Ext. 11)*

❖ **DECEMBER 25** ❖

*Give Gifts that give LASTING pleasure !*

SOMETHING FOR THE FAMILY HERE

Electric Cleaner · Hair Dryer · Clock  
Lamp · Toaster · Percolator · Kettle  
Fire · Iron · 'Wolf' Drill · Shaver  
Hair Clipper · Paint Spray

**A. NIVEN**

32 Bath St. Abingdon-on-Thames  
*Telephone 483*

# WOULDN'T YOU RATHER PAY BY CHEQUE ?

More and more people  
are discovering the convenience  
of a cheque book and are opening  
accounts at Lloyds Bank



*Ask for a copy of our  
booklet "Banking for Beginners"  
at any of our branches*

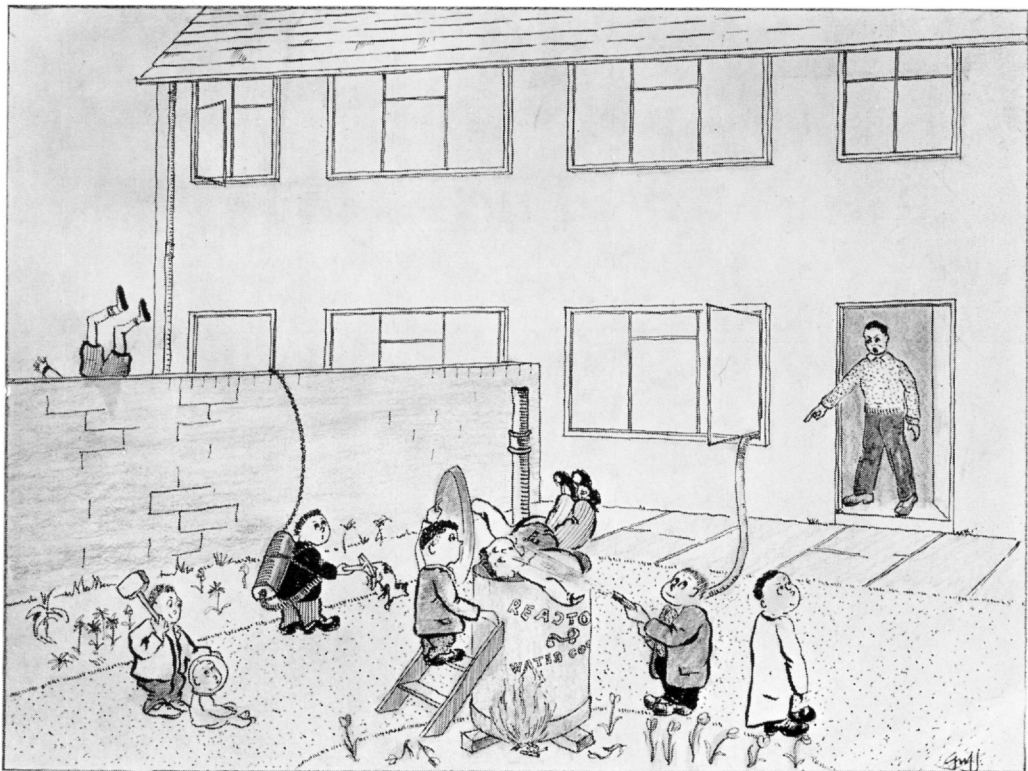
## LLOYDS BANK

LOCAL OFFICE : BUILDING 155, A.E.R.E. HARWELL  
Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 11.15 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.



**Homolka, who supplies the motive power, prepares to "take-off".**

The inventor is no longer faced with the ridicule of less ingenious colleagues, but may now be threatened by the road traffic act. Under this the skier may constitute a trailer only one of which may be towed by one vehicle, and which must bear the registration number of the towing vehicle upon the rear: it may not therefore be too easy for the small car enthusiast to include Mother-in-law on the Sunday afternoon ride! As in our drawing below of the younger Harwellians, the voice of authority is very much inclined to damp the spirit of inventiveness!



# COOPER'S

## EVERYMAN'S TOOL SHOP

ENGINEERS - CARPENTERS - PLUMBERS - BUILDERS  
STOCKISTS FOR BLACK & DECKER, WOLF AND BRIDGES ELECTRIC TOOLS

WRITE FOR PARTICULARS

**G. R. COOPER** OXFORD LTD. ST. EBBES CORNER  
OXFORD  
PHONE 47601 7 LINES

# £5000

at death within 20 years costs as little  
as £20 a year for a man who is aged 30

Apply for details at your age to

## The Equitable Life Assurance Society

19 Coleman Street, London, E.C.2

## TELEVISION

INSTALLATION

£16 16s. 0d.

BBC - ITA  
complete.

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

£5 15s. 0d. per annum

EKCO

DECCA

KB

FERGUSON

PHILIPS

## B. BOSLEY LTD.

131-133 THE BROADWAY, DIDCOT  
2210 — 2161

In keeping with our Christmas nostalgia Dr. J. B. Sykes reviews another  
of the world's reference books

# Come into the kitchen, Maud

My erudite readers are doubtless aware that Mrs. Beeton, the celebrated *cuisinière*, departed this life in 1865 at the age of 29, having completed her immortal treatise six years earlier, and that her husband originated the idea of Christmas annuals, which he proceeded to convert into a vehicle for pungent political satire.

It should not be supposed, however, that the lady's accomplishments were confined to cookery. The copy of **Beeton's Every-Day Cookery and Housekeeping Book: comprising instructions for mistress and servants, and a collection of over sixteen hundred and fifty practical receipts** which I obtained some time ago for a mere song (a song of sixpence, in fact) prefaces its practical receipts with 64 pages of 'Philosophy of Housekeeping', covering every subject from when to get up ('A mistress should rise at latest at seven o'clock') to how to clean looking-glasses ('Sponge the surface with equal parts of gin and water').

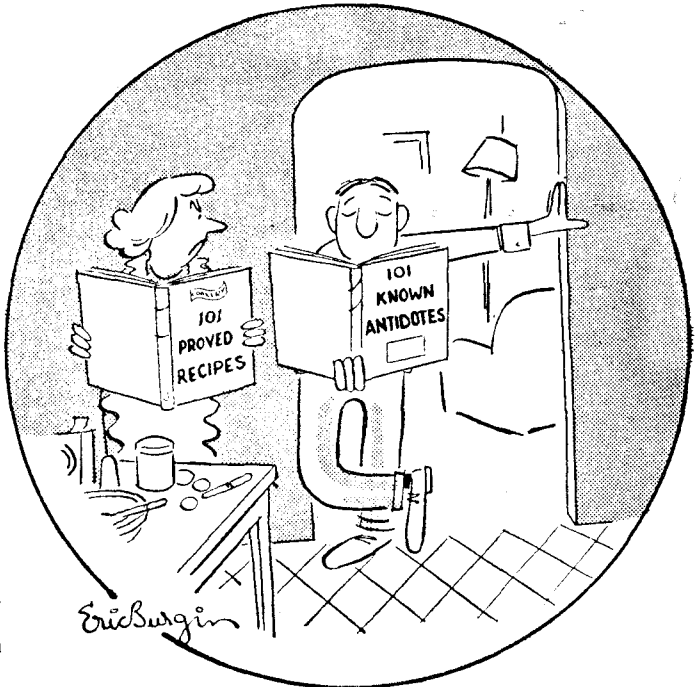
The reader at whom this compendium is aimed is a person whose linen is marked E. J. Brown, who keeps a cook, housemaid, and a nurse, and who has several children, but does not know how to keep accounts or bath a child. She may **think** she does, but Mrs. Beeton knows better: 'A hip-bath should be used for the morning bath, and the child rapidly sluiced all over, and then enveloped in a large well-aired sheet of fine huckaback, not less than two yards square; rub quickly but not roughly, and see that the little limbs glow before you part with them'. There are other stumbling-blocks, too, for the unwary: 'On entering the kitchen, invariably say "Good morning, cook" (a courtesy much appreciated below stairs)'; 'Firegrate adornments are to be avoided by chilly persons, whose health demands that every wet evening, every cold evening, shall see a cheerful fire in the **salon**'; and woe betide her who ignores the oracle's injunction 'Do not employ anyone from the stable to assist the footman'.

When we turn to 'The Dictionary of Cookery', however, E. J. Brown steps forth as a hostess on the grand scale. An entire page is devoted to a 'supper, bill of fare for a ball, or a cold collation for a summer entertainment, or wedding or christening breakfast for 70 or 80 persons (July)'. Mrs. Brown is also equipped with bills of fare for a winter ball, a game dinner and a picnic, while every month she can give a dinner for 18 persons, one for 12, one for 10, one for 8 and four for 6; and 14 'plain family dinners' are also described. There are listed 55 ways of preparing beef and 36 for mutton, and many an entrancing prescription for such things as 'Cake, Common (suitable for sending to Children at School)'; 'Carrot Jam, to Imitate Apricot Preserve'; 'Soup à la Cantatrice (very Beneficial for the Voice)'; a 'Soup Useful for Benevolent Purposes' (it contains half a pint of beer); and Brillat Savarin's 'Roast Pheasant à

la Sainte Alliance' ('Do not be uneasy, Savarin adds, about your dinner; for a pheasant served in this way is fit for beings better than men').

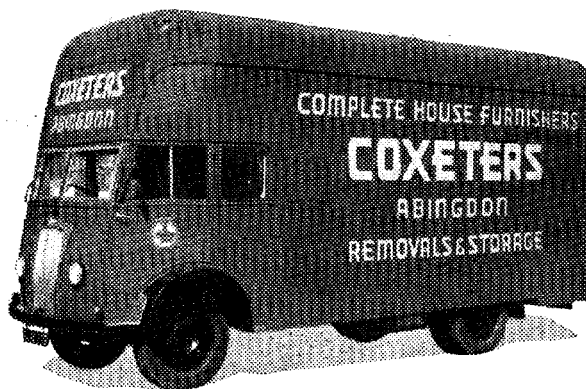
Besides the actual recipes, the work includes lengthy dissertations on such things as Dinner ('the grand solid meal of the day'), Invalid Cookery, Curing of Bacon and Hams, and The Chemistry and Economy of Soup-Making, together with instructions on how to carve everything from a lamb to a landrail. Carving is a subject which seems to inspire the authoress to her most lyrical style. 'A Christmas dinner', she intones, 'with the middle-classes of this empire, would scarcely be a Christmas dinner without its turkey; and we can hardly imagine an object of greater envy than is presented by a respected portly paterfamilias carving, at the season devoted to good cheer and genial charity, his own fat turkey, and carving it well'.

The whole is illustrated **With Numerous Wood Engravings** (many of them totally undecipherable) **And One Hundred and Forty-Two Coloured Figures, Showing The Proper Mode of Sending Dishes to Table.** The only omission seems to be a remedy for indigestion. ★



Instead of illustrating this article with an ancient wood engraving we reproduce—by kind permission of "The Daily Sketch"—this recent cartoon on The Chemistry of Cooking.





## COXETERS LTD.

### Complete House Furnishers

Furniture Removed and Warehoused  
China, Glass, etc.

Bedding Re-covered and Re-made

Cabinet Repairs Upholsterers

Undertakers

TRY ABINGDON FIRST

21-27 OCK STREET, ABINGDON

Telephone Abingdon 47

*We are pleased to arrange Hire Purchase facilities*

## R. G. Bradley & Son

*Watchmakers and Jewellers*

See our Selection of

ROLEX, CYMA, MARVIN, AVIA  
ROAMER, ROTARY, SERVICES  
INGERSOLL, NEWMARK AND  
AVIATION WATCHES

208 THE BROADWAY, DIDCOT

Tel. 3113

32 WANTAGE ROAD, DIDCOT

Tel. 2162

# MORLAND & CO. LTD.

## UNITED BREWERIES, ABINGDON

*Telephone 770*



BREWERS SINCE 1711

BEST BEERS ON DRAUGHT  
AND IN BOTTLE



### Shuffle-Coated Figures Duffling Along !

#### INFORMATION PLEASE !

#### THE DUFFLE

Once more the advent of winter weather paints the Harwellian scene with grotesque, duffle-coated figures, shuffling along, bending their backs against the biting downland winds, but snug and warm in their coarse woollen cloth.

Apart from Harwell, and of course Oxford, duffle coats in the colder months seem to be the favoured uniform of Chelsea, Cowes and Cambridge, and its present popularity might lead one to believe that it is yet another product of this atomic age. Some might suspect that it was designed during the Second World War for the Navy, to battle against the cold North winds. Yet nothing could be farther from the truth.

The duffle is first mentioned in a book by Capt. William Cornwallis Harris entitled "The Wild Sports of Southern Africa, being the Narrative of a Hunting Expedition from the Cape of Good Hope through the Territories of the Chief Moselekatse, to the Tropic

of Capricorn"; which lengthily titled volume was first published around 1840.

In it the author relates how he bought a coat in Cape Town as a present for one of the savage chiefs of the hinterland. "It was composed of drab duffel, a coarse shaggy cloth commonly worn by the colonists, surmounted by six capes and provided with huge bone buttons".

This, being one of the best, also had a red lining, for which we should have to pay much today. Although our modern ones have lost their six capes, they appear to differ little from this old description, and although Capt. Harris does not comment upon it, the cloth was probably imported by the colonists from the Dutch town of Duffel, hence the name—despite a new spelling.

But it is a far cry from the savage hinterland of the, then, unexplored Africa to the downs of Harwell! Clive Spinage.

#### THE HARWELL SAILING CLUB

A few enthusiasts, who had for some time considered the possibility of forming a Sailing Club at A.E.R.E. finally organized a General Meeting on the 17th of September. To their surprise about 150 turned up and a club was formed.

The club is at present negotiating for sailing amenities on the River Thames in the vicinity of Sutton Courtenay, and a club boat has been purchased. This is a twelve foot, family type of sailing dinghy which has been bought, primarily with the object of giving sailing instruction to novices.

Several members are commencing to build their own sailing dinghies in the club accommodation at A.E.R.E. A Canoeing section has been formed, and

a number of members own canoes, ranging from racing types to general cruising.

A series of film shows and lectures have been planned for the winter and a Club Dance will be held on the 14th of February. Interested people, with the urge to 'mess about in boats' are invited to join the club and can be assured of a welcome.

The Officers of the Club are:—

Commodore—Hugh Roskell  
Vice-Commodore—R. Bateman  
Rear Commodore—J. R. V. Dolphin  
Treasurer—D. N. Fletcher  
Joint Hon. Sec.—R. Hurley.

#### THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Of interest to all ex-R.N., R.N.V.R., Wrens or Commonwealth Navies: It has been suggested that you may wish to join the Newbury and District Branch of the Royal Naval Association (your nearest

branch). If enough members are forthcoming to make it possible it is hoped to have some of the meetings in Abingdon, Didcot and Wantage followed by social evenings. Social Secretary: R. H. Burgess, Bldg 49.

**Motor Cycles and  
Autocycles are Our Business . . . .**

*B.S.A. Main Agents*

New Hudson and Norman Autocycles  
Norman and Sun Lightweights

*Large Stocks of*  
B.S.A. SPARES ACCESSORIES  
AUTOCYCLE SPARES

**Faulkner and Son**

(Established 1910)

**Cardigan Street, Oxford**

Phone 57279

J. McNEIL (CAMERAS) LIMITED

# The Camera Shop

**Seven The Turl**

**Oxford**



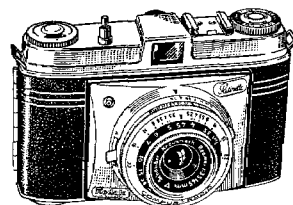
**Oxfordshire's Leading  
Photographic Dealers**

**for all types of Cine and Still  
equipment**

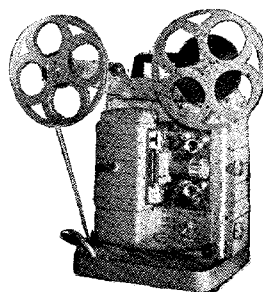
**TAKE IT IN COLOUR**

The KODAK  
RETINETTE  
3.5 Lens -  
Compur Shutter

**£25 : 0 : 5**  
with case



We carry a complete range of 2x2 Projectors  
ALDIS - KERSHAW - KODAK - BRAUN - ARGUS



**G.B. 625**  
**500W Film Projector**  
**£35 : 0 : 0**

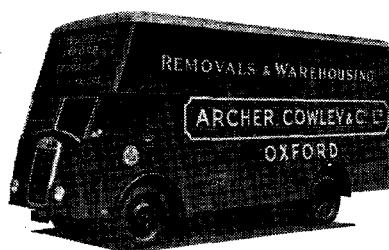
**All Makes of Cine Projectors In Stock**  
*May we demonstrate these to you?*

**XMAS PRESENTS**  
**GIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC GIFTS THIS YEAR**

Flash Equipment from	£1.3.9
Slide Boxes	17s. 6d.
Albums	10s. 6d.
Mikeroscopes	£5.0.0
Cine Projectors	£6.19.6
Exposure Meters	£4.19.6

**MINIATURE CAMERA & CINE SPECIALISTS**

**1857 A CENTURY OF SERVICE 1957**



**Household Removals and Storage**

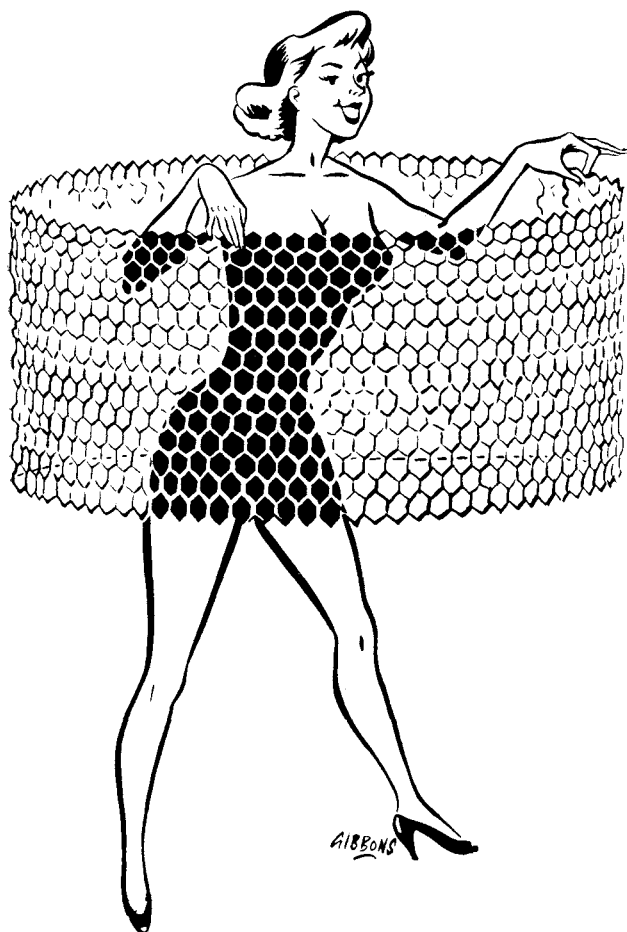
LOCAL, LONG DISTANCE AND  
OVERSEAS REMOVALS  
EXTENSIVE, SPECIALLY BUILT  
WAREHOUSES for the STORAGE  
of FURNITURE

**ESTIMATES FREE**

**Archer, Cowley & Co., Ltd.**  
**36-39 PARK END STREET, OXFORD**

Telephone: Oxford 2397 & 3756

Telegrams: "Removers, Oxford"



A Preview of a young lady who will shortly be seen (in the above fashion) throughout Harwell—on the notice boards that is, and in the interest of safety!

## PROOF READERS' COMPETITION

Of a total of about 40 errors in the last issue only Mr. R. Jenkin of Coseners House, Abingdon, succeeded in listing more than 50%. To him, therefore, goes our first prize of 1 guinea. The following is a selection of the errors contained in his list and those of other competitors.

1. p. 4 Johnson Matthey Ltd.—Punctuation in addresses inconsistent.
2. p. 5 West Anglia School of Motoring—'convenience' (for 'conveneince').
3. p. 5 'inquiries' (for 'inquires').
4. p. 5 'successful' (for 'succesfull').
5. p. 5 Punctuation in telephone nos. inconsistent.
6. p.10 Trustee Savings Bank—'Share-out' (for 'our').
7. p. 28 Norman Frizzell Ltd.—'Frizzell' (for 'Frizell').
8. p. 32 Jefferson Pond Ltd.—A small 'i' in 'Materials'.
9. p. 38 J. McNeil (Cameras) Ltd.—'Miniature' (for 'Minature').
10. p. 38 Archer, Cowley Ltd.—'O' in 'Oxford', wrong fount.

In second place with 18 errors was Miss E. Jackson of South Drive. An error in the Eardley-Brooke advert gives Miss Jackson a book token also. This was the insertion of a redundant "Establishment" (Winfrith Heath, A.E.R.E. *Establishment*) on page 34.

So much for the errors in the last issue. For the competition in this issue we have inserted, with the co-operation of the business houses concerned, a further ten errors. The first prize will be 21/- with book tokens for all unique errors not spotted by other competitors.

## Oxford Educational Supply

'What an interesting shop' for

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Fountain Pens    | REPAIRS and NAME ENGRAVING |
| ❖ Typewriters      | SALES and AFTER SERVICE    |
| ❖ Books and Games  | FOR CHILDREN               |
| ❖ Office Equipment | COMPLETE SERVICE           |
| ❖ Stationery       | COMMERCIAL and SOCIAL      |

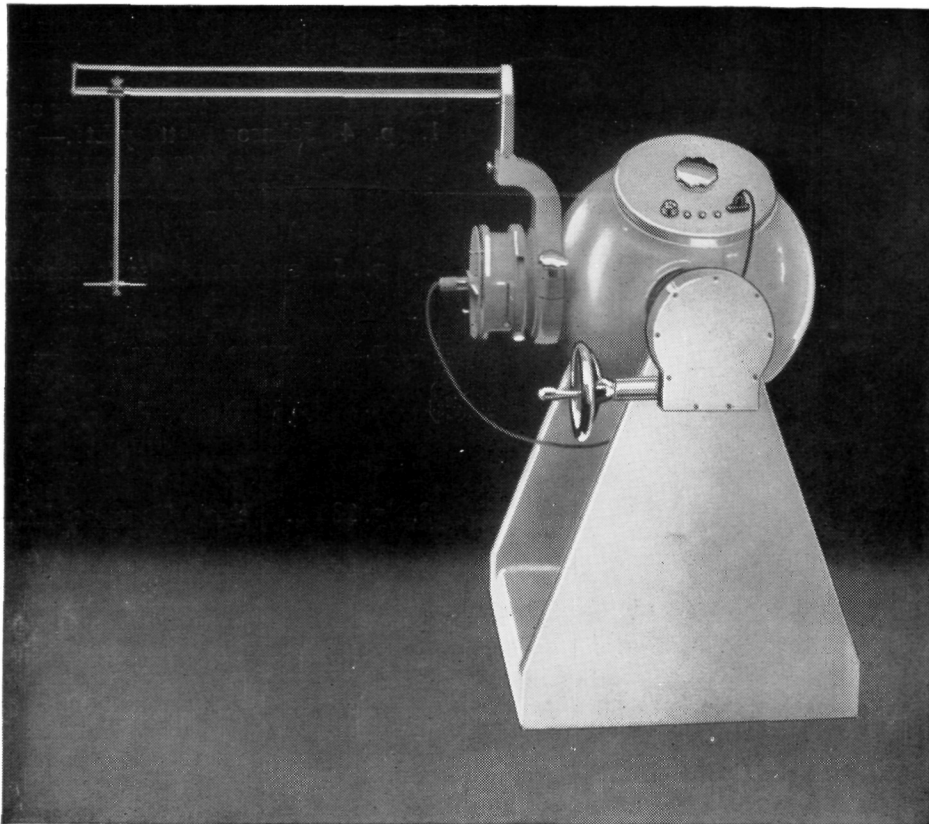
Gifts in All Departments

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

8 Queen Street

Close to Carfax

Telephones 2505, 1717



A CAESIUM TELETHERAPY UNIT

*Designed in conjunction with, and manufactured for*  
**THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH  
ESTABLISHMENT, HARWELL**

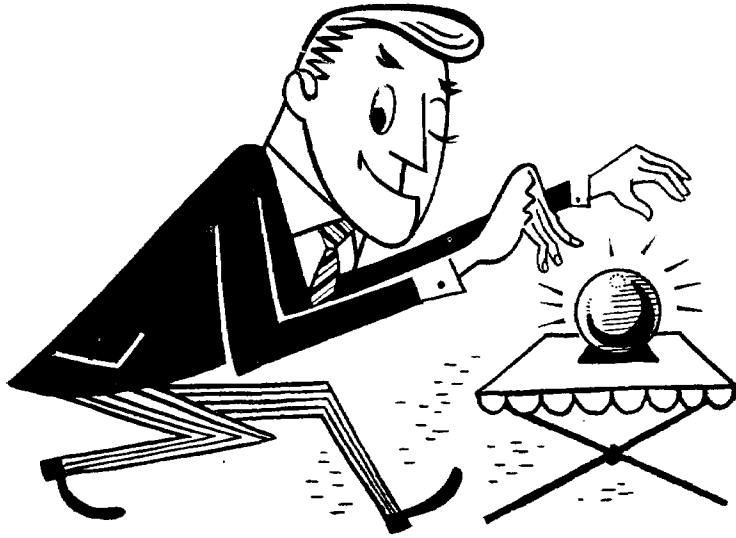
# **Chatwood**

**SPECIALISED ENGINEERING**

*Suppliers of* — SHIELDING DOORS · FLUX SCANNER TUBES  
GRAPHITE RESTRAINT EQUIPMENT · ZINC BROMIDE WINDOWS  
PRESSURE VESSELS · ISOTOPE CONTAINERS · STORAGE AND  
TRANSPORT COFFINS · VACUUM MELT FURNACES.

**ENGINEERING DIVISION OF CHATWOOD-MILNER LIMITED, SHREWSBURY**





## My future is assured! Is yours?

There is little likelihood of an improvement yet in the availability of money for House Purchase generally, but we are happy to say that funds are still available for A.E.A. personnel.

If you are not buying for at least a year or two, take advantage **NOW** of *deferred terms* which would make it possible for you to obtain a larger advance than would normally be possible.

As a form of personal saving there is still no substitute for Life Assurance—it is still the most popular form of saving in this country. Our **SPECIAL TERMS** for members of the Authority are the best available anywhere today, both for Short Term Saving and Educational Policies.

<b>Example</b> (10 year term)	<b>Educational Policy</b> 35 next b'day	<b>Short Term Saving Policy</b> 45 next b'day
Annual Premium	£42 7 10	£45 12 6
Tax Relief at 8/6, say	£5 19 0	£5 19 0
	£36 8 10	£39 13 6
Value at Maturity*	£500 0 0	£500 0 0
Total Nett Cost	£365 0 0	£397 0 0
Profit	£135 0 0	£103 0 0
Investment Value Equivalent		£7 7 10% (Compound)
*or on previous Death.		

Please send me, without obligation, details of the following:—

1. **House Purchase:** Immediate or Deferred.
2. **Short Term Saving Policy.**
3. **Education Policy.**

Name .....

Address .....

Date of Birth..... Ages of Children.....

Present Total Income £.....

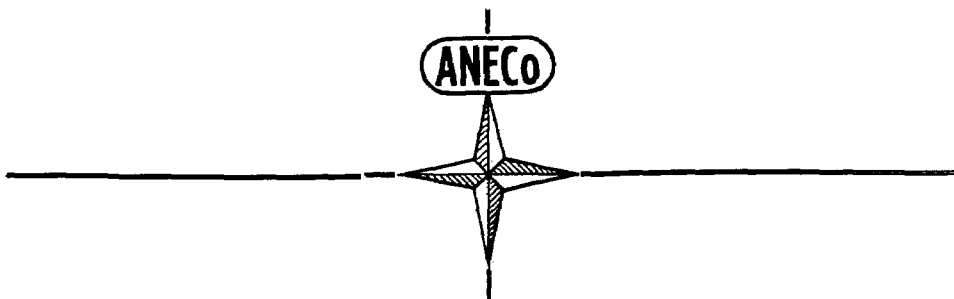
Purchase Price £.....

Approx. Deposit Available £.....

Employees may take advantage of special Motor and other Insurance rates through Norman Frizzell & Partners Ltd.—our associated company.

## NORMAN FRIZZELL

(LIFE & PENSIONS) LTD. 24 Tower Street, London, E.C.3. Tel. Mincing Lane 1000 (20 lines)



The combined resources and experience of a group of companies having been engaged in varied nuclear projects for over seven years covering fine precision components to 10 ton fabricated units complete with machining and test facilities are available through

## **ANECO**

Glove and Dry Boxes  
*Electro-Magnets*  
Pressure and Vacuum Vessels  
*Furnaces*  
Reactor Components  
*Handling Tongs*  
Electronic Equipment  
*Electrical Control Desks and Panels*  
Laminated Plastics  
*Signs, Diagrams and Labels*  
Vacuum and Fibreglass Mouldings  
*Printed Circuits*

# **AYLING NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT Co.**

**AYLING HOUSE, KINGS ROAD**

**HORSHAM, SUSSEX**

TEL.: HORSHAM 3391

# HOMOLKA

# REPLIES



*I have worked at Harwell for ten years as an A.E.O. and am courting a girl in the Typing Pool. With all this talk of irradiation, mutations and genes and things, I am a bit worried about our future. Do you think it is wise for us to marry?*

**"PERTURBED".**

**GENERAL PHYSICS, A.E.R.E. HARWELL.**

★ Mutations etc. apart, unless your fiancée is earning a good salary, we should be surprised if you can afford to marry. However, if in another ten years you have advanced beyond the A.E.O. stage, then the question of marriage must, in all decency, be faced.

On this problem of mutations the experimental findings have been very encouraging and a few statistics might ease your mind. 2,000 of a host of "Pseudococcus citri" found in the woodwork of a luminous paint factory in Fife and calculated to have been exposed to an almost lethal dose of irradiation were presented to the M.R.C. for observation. 925 of these produced perfectly healthy little "Pseudococci citri", 124 were found to be neurotic and died of Evan's Blue disease and 951 were later discovered—accidentally—to be male. These results were considered to be favourably significant. So you see, your fears are rather ill-founded.

Actually, a recent survey has indicated that the major source of danger at Harwell is probably located in the vicinity of the Canteen, and your offspring are more likely to inherit chronic indigestion than to have two heads each. Finally, we might make the point

that the persons most likely to suffer from your marriage are your fellow workers who will be coerced into subscribing towards a present for you. ★

*Who or what is the M.R.C. and what is their exact function in Harwell? Can you give me any information about its workers?*

**J. L. MACALISTER, M.B.,**

**STOKE POGES.**

★ The initials "M.R.C." are rather elastic ones. Long ago, doctors used to do all their own experimental work, getting appalling results. The job of getting these results was then given to a body called "M.R.C.", thus exonerating the doctors who had their patients' confidence to think of. At that time the initials stood for "Medical Research Council", but nowadays the interpretation depends on the unit's particular location. At Harwell for example, the letters stand for "Motor Rehabilitation Corps". In London they mean "Mediaeval Reaction Conservation".

The most interesting work to date at Harwell has been the study of the anatomical aspects of the Borg and Beck Clutch and Schrader valvular disorders. Minor investigations on Universal Joints are also carried out. These are essentially summer projects. In winter, they are mainly concerned with irradiations, getting married, breeding small animals and entertaining visitors.

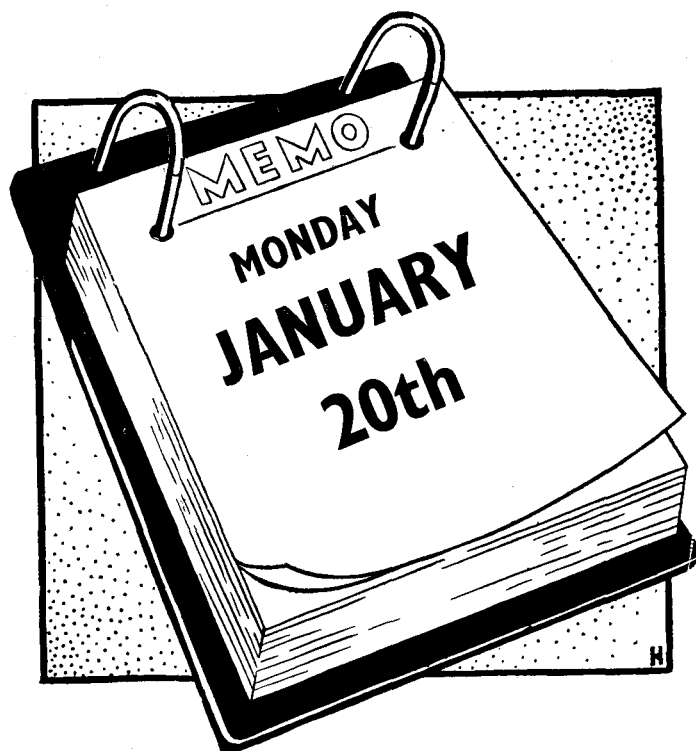
Not much is known of the workers. The essential qualifications seem to be youth or resilience, a decent batting average and a private income. ★

**TEN-GUINEA COMPETITION.** The first prize, of five guineas, was divided between I. J. Belcher (Photographic Section), a new contributor, and Homolka, one of *Harlequin's* earlier discoveries. The rest of the prize money was divided between Harwell wife Mrs. B. L. M. Murray, of 5 Tirrold Way, Wantage, who wrote 'In the Beginning'; G. Gibbons, who wrote and illustrated 'Penny For Them'; and old Harwellian, Clive Spinage, who regularly receives *Harlequin* in Kenya.

**CARTOON COMPETITION.** Selected as the best idea on the subject 'Chance and Uncertainty' was that of the burglar on the canopy, but all the others were of a high standard. We have, alas, mislaid the name of the lady who submitted the idea on which this cartoon was based, but a cheque will be forwarded when we hear from her. A similar competition, on another subject, will be described in the next issue. Meanwhile, artists, remember that you can win cash prizes in the general competition for all entries.

**FINANCES.** At the time of writing, *Harlequin* is again temporarily in debt, the credit squeeze having apparently rendered some advertisers unable to settle their accounts. It is hoped that the situation can be remedied without further resort to private loan, but, as it may not be possible to repeat the ten-guinea competition, do not be late with your contribution.

**EDITORIAL BOARD.** Dr. J. B. Sykes has been co-opted to the Board after three years' continuous interest in the magazine as a contributor. Interest in creative ideas is the only qualification for membership of the Board. If this description fits, let us hear from you.



This is the **CLOSING DATE** for all "Harlequin" Competition entries. In addition, 5 **GUINEAS** will be awarded the contributor of the best article or drawing that is received. Consolation Prizes bring the total Prize Money for this issue to:—

## **TEN GUINEAS**

Would-be contributors are invited to send an outline of article or rough of drawing *before* the above date, if they desire comments, but the Editor particularly requests no visits or telephone calls during official hours on any matters regarding this leisure-time magazine.

*Remember this date. The address is*

**HARLEQUIN REVIEW, A.E.R.E., HARWELL, DIDCOT, BERKS.**

The next issue will be *Spring Harlequin*, when the magazine's tenth birthday will be celebrated in a special issue.

*Harlequin* is the longest-established magazine, and has the greatest sales per issue, within the U.K.A.E.A.

*Harlequin* will now be published quarterly. The yearly subscription is 4/-, post free.

***For Dependability  
and Accuracy***

***Western Detail  
Manufacturers Limited***

A.I.D., A.R.B. Approved

Refrigerating Engineers

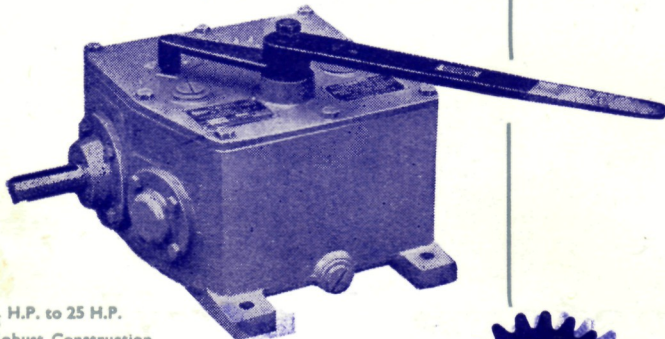
**Western Works, Staple Hill, BRISTOL**

Telephone Bristol 652825

***Manufacturers of High  
Quality Equipment***

# VARATIO & STRATELINE GEARS

## VARATIO Variable Speed Gearboxes



1/2 H.P. to 25 H.P.  
Robust Construction  
No Friction Drives  
Positive Drive — Up to 26 Speed Changes  
Gear change under load without clutch

*High  
Efficiency*

*Sturdy  
Compactness*

*Co Axial  
Shafts*

*Total  
Enclosure*

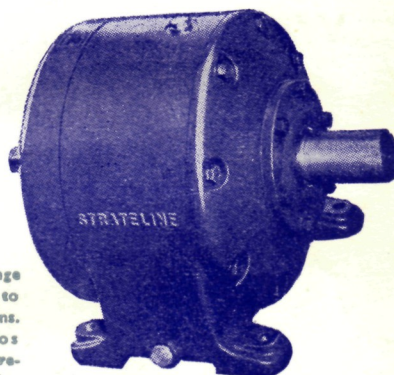
**The  
Positive  
Answer**

**to Your  
Drive  
Problems**

The "DAVID" Units  
For "GOLIATH" Jobs!

We shall be pleased to supply  
Full Details on Application

## STRATELINE Fixed Reduction Speed Reducers



Torque range  
46 lbs. ins. to  
48,000 lbs. ins.  
Exact ratios  
to suit your re-  
quirements be-  
tween 3 to 1 and 1,000,000 to 1. Motorised with any make or type of  
Motor or Non-Motorised. Positive drive in either direction. Reduc-  
tions up to 1,000,000 to 1 obtained in incredibly small space.

NON-STANDARD UNITS PRODUCED TO INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS

**VARATIO-STRATELINE GEARS LTD.,**

**278 Aberdeen Avenue, Trading Estate, Slough, Bucks**

Telephone: SLOUGH 20271-2

Telegrams: VARATIO, SLOUGH

Printed at The Abbey Press, Stert Street, Abingdon, Berkshire.  
Part Advertising Matter set by J. P. Davenport, 57 High Street, Oxford.  
Blocks made by Progressive Engraving Co., Newbury.