

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE  
WATERWORKS COMPANY.

# NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,  
SHEPCOTE STREET

JANUARY, 1951.

VOL. 1

No. 1.

# Foreword

It is now nearly eighteen years since Mr. Beale wrote the Foreword to the first number of "The Review" and nearly four years since I had the pleasure of writing the Foreword to the first number of "Main Topics" the plucky, if necessarily inadequate, successor to "The Review" of which we had all been so justly proud.

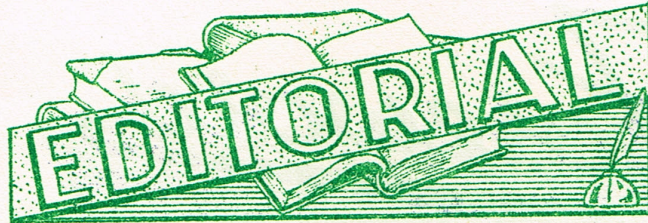
I am very grateful for the opportunity now afforded me of wishing a successful run for our newly launched "News Review". Those who are combining to make this effort a success are deserving of all the support and assistance we may be able to give and which I am sure will readily be forthcoming.

Times change; but the spirit behind those of us who have the honour to serve our Company seems to me still to remain unassailable. Long may it so remain.

(signed) A.H.S. WATERS.

January, 1951.

CHAIRMAN.



Many regretted the decision to cease publishing the Staff Association "REVIEW" which appeared quarterly from its first issue in January 1933 until the rise in the cost of printing made it impossible to continue financing the venture in 1946. In 1947, Mr. C.H.F. Gilbert tried to continue keeping the Company's staff informed in matters of common interest by the publication of a periodical newsletter which he named "MAIN TOPICS". Owing to the lack of contributions and financial support he was obliged to abandon his efforts after only two issues.

The Staff Association Committee has long felt that an Undertaking of the size of ours should have a means, such as a newsletter, of keeping in touch with one another. With this purpose in mind, the Board was approached requesting the Company to finance a free copy of a quarterly newsletter to all employees of the Company. It is a pleasure to report that the Chairman and Directors gave this suggestion their support resulting in this issue being in your possession today. We thank them wholeheartedly and are indebted to the Chairman of the Company for the encouraging message expressed in his Foreword to this first issue.

Whilst the Staff Association initiated this new venture, an Editorial Committee has been formed from members of both the Staff Association and the Benevolent Fund and their Policy is to bring you the NEWS REVIEW every quarter with news of present and former members of the Staff and of other items of general interest. The assistance of all readers is requested to make this periodical a success. This can best be achieved by informing the Editor of any items of general news, however small, which may come to the reader's notice.

Although practically one month of the New Year has passed, we wish all readers the "Compliments of the Season" and may 1951 go down in the Company's history as the year in which the NEWS REVIEW was first published.

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# Around nd about

SUTTON

We extend to the Editor, the NEWS REVIEW Committee and to all our readers, "A Happy and Successful Year".

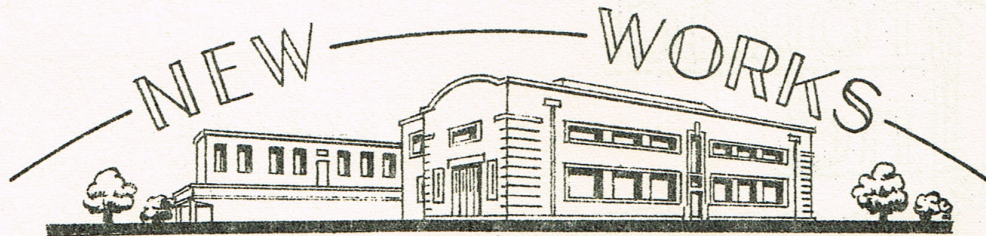
Sutton Coldfield welcomes the glad tidings of the institution of the NEWS REVIEW and our small, militant and impecunious army extends to its Chief its appreciation of his kindly gesture of giving personal support to the enterprise. We are looking forward to our copies of the NEWS REVIEW and hope to learn from its pages that we alone are not the Company, but that we still have four Big Active Brothers. To them (if still of this blessed earth) we extend in full reverence our respectful and sincere greetings. Our Brother Cannock will be glad to learn that we now lay 3" mains in addition to the 2" for which he has always given us credit.

Sutton Depot Sports Club trust that the NEWS REVIEW will prove to be the long wanted mediator for bringing inter-depot social and sports meetings into being. Our Sports Club still functions, concentrating happily on Darts and Snooker. In addition, an occasional cricket match compels us to seek the assistance of our local friends the Lawyers and Scavengers Association in completing a team.

Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the Head Office Team who brought with them the real spirit of comradeship and hilarity, leaving behind happy memories of both home and away matches fought out during 1950. Gee!! what a "thirst" they have, for victory. Greetings, Head Office, and may we meet again this year, and prove to the remainder of your family and our Big Brothers that "There's still a lot of good fun in this 'ere Social and Sports game".

Incidentally, the Sutton Coldfield Depot Staff are to hold their Annual Dinner on a date to be fixed in late February. It is hoped that our good friends at Head Office and the Depots will again honour us with their presence. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Hendley, will be pleased to receive the names of anyone intending to be present.

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### THE RIVER BLITHE SCHEME.

The River Blithe Scheme is now taking shape and the final form is quite easily discernible to the most casual visitor. On the dam site at Blithfield, work below ground level is almost complete. Messrs. John Mowlem & Sons Limited (the Contractors) will be very pleased to see the cut-off trench completed as this has been a troublesome section of the work; this pleasure will be shared by Mr. Ball, the Resident Engineer and his Inspectors. The overflow and control works associated with the dam are now well above ground level and are developing into a local landmark. Mr. Borley and men from Cannock Depot have spent several days at Blithfield on the 36" dia. outlet main from the reservoir and also diverting existing mains near the new road now under course of construction at Admaston. Mr. Vivian, Senior Inspector on the dam site, had a long illness during the summer and his many friends will be very pleased to know that he is very active again and we hope that the Arctic weather conditions which have recently been experienced will not worry him unduly.

The waters of the River Blithe, which will be stored in Blithfield Reservoir, are derived from the Catchment Area approximately 18 miles long and 2½ miles wide, running in a north-westerly direction from the reservoir. This Catchment Area is predominantly rural in character, except at the north-western extremity where the outskirts of Stoke-on-Trent encroach upon the valley. The sewage from this urban area is now treated in small purification works which is not an entirely satisfactory arrangement in the vicinity of a waterworks project of this magnitude. A combined sewage works has been planned for construction in the neighbouring valley of the River Tean, and the sewage at present treated by the various local authorities in existing works adjacent to the River Blithe will eventually be diverted into the River Tean valley. Mr. T. Kirkland acts as the Company's watchdog on the upper reaches of the Blithe Valley and his recent report announcing that the Contractors for the sewage diversion scheme had started erecting offices on the site was obviously given with very much relief.

## NEWS REVIEW

Seedy Mill grows steadily, sometimes impatient murmurs are heard regarding progress but Mr. Waller (Clerk of Works) and Mr. Sam Lack, (Contractors' foreman) treat these criticisms with customary good humour. One cannot escape the fact that a scheme of this magnitude and complexity inevitably takes time to construct, but we can now look forward to the familiar skyline of three Scotch derricks giving way to the more pleasing features of the Engine House, Filters and Chemical House.

Messrs. Thomas Lowe and Sons, Limited, the main Contractors at Seedy Mill, maintain a small but excellent canteen on the site. At appropriate hours one could find Messrs. Smith, Truman and Groves (Head Office), Mr. Waller, Mr. Sam Lack and others, all engaged in earnest topical conversation around the "top table". We now find that foreigners are gathering in their midst as the 36" dia. main from Barr Beacon has now approached within easy striking distance. Messrs. Whittaker Ellis Limited, the Contractors responsible for the laying of the 36" dia. main, have been quietly burying steel and cast iron pipes for the past two years under the directions of Mr. Percival, the Resident Engineer. Though a very high percentage of the main has now been laid, it has only been possible to test a relatively short length, but this gave extremely good results. A long length of main will be subjected to stringent hydraulic tests during the coming months, and it is confidently hoped that the results will be satisfactory and confirm the care bestowed upon this work by Messrs. W.I. Forks, F.H. Shelton, the late Mr. C. Brotherton and others.

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### Editor's Note

In this brief review of new works, progress and personalities, many important schemes have not been mentioned. It is hoped, however, to deal with these in our next issue and subsequently keep our readers fully acquainted with this important aspect of the Company's life.

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Mr. W.H. Smith, formerly Service Department, is now living in retirement near Aberystwith. He paid us a flying visit during his short stay in Birmingham this month. Readers will be glad to know that Mr. Smith is fairly well and that Mrs. Smith's health has shown some improvement recently.

# Personalia

## STAFF CHANGES

The following have recently entered the Company's service. We welcome them and hope we may long enjoy their association.

Mr. George Eades - Order Department  
Mr. F.R.Lyndon - Accountants Department  
Miss J.B.Froggatt - Service Department

## RETIREMENTS

Mr. J.Borman, Foreman at Little Hay, after 28 years' service.

Mr. J.E.Chamberlain, Commenced with Company at Burton in 1905. Was later transferred to Birmingham and subsequently became Company's Buyer. He was Secretary of the Staff Association for four years from 1927. He became Chairman of the Canteen Committee and was the first buyer for the Canteen. Retired 30th June 1950.

Mr. H.H.Gee, Lorry Driver at Fradley, after 25½ years' service.

Mr. R.H.Hixon, Trenchman at Tipton, after 21 years' service.

Mr. A.James, Fitter at Wood Green, after 31 years' service.

Mr. W.A.Newton, Commenced with the Company in 1919 and was Personal Secretary to the Engineer-in-Chief. He was at one time Editor of the original REVIEW and was responsible for the "Chapel Window" in that magazine.

Mr. T.H.Pickett, Stoker at Wood Green, after 35 years' service.

Mr. G.Warren, Clerk at Wood Green, after 51 years' service.

Mr. W.Whitehouse, Engine Tenter at Wood Green, after 31 years' service.





# LADIES' PAGE



## ATTENTION LADIES.

It has been suggested that at least one page of the NEWS REVIEW should be devoted to Ladies' interests. This seems an excellent idea. With your full co-operation, instructive, entertaining and stimulating articles should result.

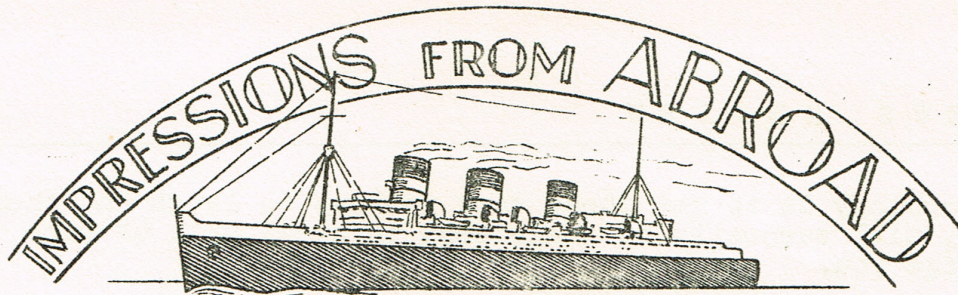
Special informative articles, suggestions to the housewife or knitting enthusiast, general news etc. will all be welcome and if you have any pet ideas you would like to air, albeit fearfully, now is your opportunity. We might institute a quiz; questions asked by us in the one issue to be answered by the menfolk or a team of men in the next issue. For instance, why do our respective Chiefs invariably ring urgently for us, and then on our arrival, pick up the telephone, say soothingly, "shen't be a minute" and then proceed to forget our existence. Enlightenment on the reason for this provoking habit and many others that doubtless you could all mention would be greatly appreciated. But more of this anon.

In these days of equality of the sexes, never let it be said that we lag behind the men in versatility of ideas. Let the one fair white page allocated to us be a monument to our wit and enterprise. In fact Ladies, "Let's up and at 'em".

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Fill as many pages as you can. - Ed.

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## J A M A I C A

News has recently been received of Mr. J.W. Whitaker A.M.I.C.E., formerly of C.E.D., who left the Company's service just over a year ago to take up an appointment in the sunnier clime of Jamaica.

Mr. Whitaker sailed from Avonmouth on the S.S. Cavina accompanied by a large group of Engineers. Apart from the second day when he was "laid-low", the voyage was all that could be desired. By the time they had reached the Azores the sea had become as smooth as the proverbial mill-pond, and from there until they 'tied-up' in Trinidad it was (I use Mr. Whitaker's own words) "wonderful with a beautiful warm breeze blowing continuously."

On arrival, he was soon put to work preparing a supply scheme consisting of a deep well pump, and a diesel generator for providing the necessary electrical power. His branch of the Public Works Department is responsible for the design, building, operation and maintenance of a number of small country water supplies of approximately one million gallons per day each. The supervision of these necessitates a considerable amount of travelling, for which he appears to have acquired a Vanguard. The jobs on the North coast of the Island are the favoured ones, because it is there that one experiences a cool, refreshing sea breeze. So pleasant is it, that those who have retired to Jamaica, such as Lord Beaverbrook, Noel Coward etc. have built their homes there.

The Hydraulic Inspector is a real Mr. Waller type and they have now just about succeeded in teaching the West Indian Contractors the technique of good reinforced concrete construction. In fact, they are thinking of venturing to suggest that the shuttering should be made smooth enough for a cement mason's finish to be supplied to the wall surfaces.

Anyone who is thinking of going to Jamaica to look after one of these constructional jobs, must be prepared to live in the Bush and feed on salt cod and Acki ( a vegetable). Politicians would not allow him a concrete mixer on the site and for mainlayers he must expect local plumbers with a hazy knowledge of how to caulk a joint!! However, the

## NEWS REVIEW

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psychology is to get these dark fellows to laugh and then they will earnestly do their best to crawl up a 4" pipe to oblige you.

Mr. Whitaker has visited the famous Montego Bay but does not think it as good as the books describe..

He finds his work satisfying in that by providing a piped supply, they are able to relieve the hardship of many communities who previously, in the dry season, have had to trek miles for water and although the schemes are not big, every endeavour is made to utilise the utmost modern machinery and apparatus.

Many a true word is spoken in jest, it is said. How often this is true. Before leaving Birmingham, Mr. Whitaker's leg was pulled by members of C.E.D. to the effect that he would find himself trying to repair the leak that has occurred in the Mona Reservoir. Recently, he has been appointed by the Acting Governor to sit on a Committee to advise on future Policy concerning the Mona Reservoir. The Chairman of the Committee is Sir Jonathan Davidson, formerly Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water Board, who arrived in Jamaica on December 18th to take up his duties.

The climate of the island, apart from the months of August and September, when it is very hot and humid, is like the ideal June day in England, and is very enjoyable. Those who knew Mr. & Mrs. Whitaker and their family will be pleased to hear that their new domicile suits them well and that the warmer climate has so much improved the health of their elder daughter that she has now practically recovered from the ailment which troubled her in this country.

In concluding this report, I am sure that I am voicing the thoughts of all his former colleagues and friends, when I say; we hope and pray that he and his family may enjoy in the future the good fortune that has been theirs in the past year.

Mr. Whitaker's address is :-

20, Windsor Avenue,  
Half Way Tree,  
Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.



### CRICKET

It is difficult to think of cricket when the temperature is way down in the thirties and the wicket is buried under about twelve inches of snow. Also there is not much comfort to be drawn from the recollection of last season's cricket, spoilt as it was by the weather, but one bright point stands out in the memory and that was our match with Bristol Waterworks Company. True, the actual play was ruined by the weather but the warmth of our welcome and lavish hospitality with which we were entertained will never be forgotten by those who made this delightful trip. I think, too, that above all this, the match re-awakened our interest in cricket which had been dormant since the war.

This year it is our turn to entertain our friends from Bristol and although at the moment we are finding it a little difficult to hire a suitable ground for the match, we are hoping that this matter will soon be arranged and that we shall be able to give preliminary details in our April issue.

It is also proposed in view of our renascent enthusiasm, to arrange a few matches for the coming season both for a team representing the whole Company and for a Head Office XI. Unfortunately, having no ground of our own, these matches will probably have to be evening fixtures and for the same reason the old problem of how to give our players practise, will I fear, still be with us, unless someone has some bright ideas.

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### DARTS

We have some enthusiastic Dart players at Head Office who are anxious to compete against teams from the Districts. Sutton Depot team was challenged last year and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

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Is there any support for, say, an Inter District Darts Competition? - Ed.

TABLE TENNIS

Some nineteen years ago a small band of enthusiasts in Birmingham Office formed themselves into a Table Tennis Club. They were only half-a-dozen strong in those early days and it was in the following year that they entered the Birmingham and District League, Division 6 and they immediately distinguished themselves by finishing third and gaining promotion to Division 5 in their first season. They won the Division Five Championship Shield the next year (1935/36) and gained promotion to Division 3.

These early players were really the founders of our Club as we know it today; and names such as Vaughan (killed on active service) Burton, Williams and Waddington immediately spring to mind, the last mentioned, incidentally, is Captain of the Club this season, and plays as well as ever.

In 1935, Mr. Fred.J.Dixon presented us with a Trophy for annual competition and in the ensuing year Mr. H.Kirk was also the donor of a silver cup; These trophies have been played for each season (apart from the war years) and as many as 50 players have taken part.

In 1934, a second team was entered in the Birmingham League, and this catered for the up and coming players and formed a nursery in which apprenticeship was served before its members reached first team standard.

The club went from strength to strength and in 1939 the "A" Team were holding their own comfortably in the Second Division of the Birmingham League, at which point hostilities ended organised Table Tennis.

During the war years the Club was far from dormant and a number of Friendly matches were played with other Clubs in the City. We frequently had difficulty in raising a team in those dark days and Guest Players were invited to help us out, and so we carried on.

In post war years we have been definitely struggling to hold our own in League Table Tennis owing to the loss of players who have left the Company for various reasons and the dearth of up and coming youngsters. We have slipped down to Division 4 but I am confident that with the encouragement of the young players, we can again weld together a team that will bring us back to our rightful place in the top flight of Birmingham Table Tennis.

Our "B" Team has won glory for the Club in recent years by winning the Business Houses League Handicap Cup

in the 1948/49 Season and last year were Runners Up in Division 3 of the Business Houses League.

To our friends at the Depots and Pumping Stations, I should like to say how much we should welcome you at any of our matches. We play in the Canteen at Birmingham Office and below you will find a list of Home matches for both 'A' and 'B' Teams up to the end of the season. We also look forward to hearing from any players who would like to join our ranks. Any information may be obtained from the Table Tennis Club Secretary - Mr. R.Mc.C.Stanton, (Head Office).

"A" TEAM

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"B" TEAM

Jan.16. Handsworth Vic. "B"  
 Feb.14. Moseley Old Boys  
 Mar.7. B'ham City Transport  
 Mar.21. South Birmingham TTC.

Jan.29. Kynoch Social  
 Feb.19. Tyburn Athletic  
 Mar.12. Wm.Newman & Sons

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1 a.m. The telephone bell rings at the home of the District Superintendent . --

Tinkle, tinkle, little bell,  
 Now I wonder what you'll tell;  
 Surely not another burst!  
 This of all things would be worst.  
 P'rhaps someone has dialled wrong;  
 Nuisance, still it won't take long;  
 Better than a major fire  
 Or a leaking reservier.  
 Drat that shrill persistent ring!  
 Who invented the darn thing?  
 Chief disturber of the night;  
 Ooh! my toe, where is that light?  
 Well, here goes "Hello! Hello!  
 Yes, it's me, 1-2-3-0".  
 Did you say you're Turncock Brown  
 and you cannot shut it down?  
 Only just the upper part  
 showing of a horse and cart.  
 I am sure your words are sound  
 Asking, 'Would I please pop round?'  
 "Thank you dear, good Turncock B.  
 I'll be there, please wait for me.  
 Goodbye Brown, I'm leaving now".  
 And I say, if you'll allow,  
 As I place this object here  
 And collect my boots and gear  
 Having not a slight misgiving  
 "What a way to earn a living".

L.B.S.

(With acknowledgments to the well-known rhyme)

# STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The successful Christmas Dinner on Friday, 22nd December 'put paid to' all the pessimists who said this was the wrong date for such a venture and did not lend it their support.

Mr. Tyldesley (Caretaker) and the Canteen Staff as usual, excelled themselves with the help of the Honorary Secretary of the Staff Association, who was seen in his shirt sleeves at one stage of the proceedings.

The occasion proved the necessity for members of the staff to meet and gossip without any formality and we heartily congratulate the Chairman of the Staff Association on sticking to his word - almost - and leaving out speeches. He welcomed Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Robertson and said how pleased he and the members of the Staff Association were to see them with us and to know that any social function attempted is always sure of their full support. The Chairman also passed on messages from Major Waters and Mr. H. Kirk, who regretted they could not be with us owing to prior engagements. Their good wishes for a successful evening and a happy Christmas to everyone were received and reciprocated with acclamation.

The hard work of the Honorary Secretary prior to the Dinner showed itself in the smooth running of the evening and the entertainment was fully appreciated by everyone. Although some people wondered whether they dare laugh at the comedian, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the two singers. Two wives of members of the staff came forward and very charmingly assisted the conjurer and various other members of the staff volunteered when called upon, hoping to find out the secrets of his profession. Mr. W. Hardiman appeared in his old role as organiser of the entertainment. It was good to see him once more creeping across the back of the stage.

Full use was made of the intervals and it was good to see that everyone wished to renew their acquaintances made with members and visitors of the staff at the Whist Drives and Dance held earlier in the season.

This was a really good ending to our office contacts before the Christmas Holidays and the words "Happy Christmas" could be heard echoing round the building at Head Office for some time after the proceedings closed. Our only regret was that the Honorary Secretary, Canteen Staff and other helpers had to come in on the Saturday morning to clear up and we do thank them most sincerely for all they did.

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WHIST DRIVES.

In this first issue of the NEWS REVIEW it is with pride that we report the revival of the monthly Whist Drives held in the Head Office Canteen on the third Friday in every month.

Despite inclement weather, the past months have seen a large number of enthusiasts gathered together for four very enjoyable evenings. The ages of those taking part have ranged from sixteen to eight-two and all have been pleased to have had the company of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Robertson. It is hoped they will be able to come again in the future.

There is still room for more players, so please make a point of coming along and bringing your friends with you. Remember, it is possible to become a prize winner even if you sit at one table for most of the evening. Do not let your past lack of success deter you from coming. You will be most welcome.

Please do not forget to let Mr. C.H.F. Gilbert (Head Office) have your "slips" by return so that he can be sure of getting sufficient refreshments prepared.

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THE FILM SHOW

An appreciative audience packed the canteen on Friday, 24th November last to enjoy a somewhat unusual film show, presented by Mr. Garnet F. Peirson of the Midland's Electricity Board. The main film was of a recent visit to America which Mr. Peirson had filmed in technicolour, commencing at the gang plank of the Queen Mary at Southampton and finishing with a parting vista of the Statue of Liberty as the ship slipped down the Hudson River on the homeward journey.



## NEWS REVIEW

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For approximately an hour we were delighted with "shots" of a trip made from New York to Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Toronto, Detroit and so back to New York. The film received added realism when taken from the front seat of a car revealing the countryside in all the beauty of its natural colour and contour.

Mr. Peirson, who brought along and operated his own extensive apparatus, whilst only an amateur cinematographer, proved by his cameracraft and presentation of the films that he is no novice at the art.

In addition to possessing a faultless eye for producing a good picture, he is a musician of taste. One remembers some remarkable glimpses of the Niagara Falls, the beauty of which were enhanced by the accompaniment of Grieg's Piano Concerto, and again, the War Memorial of Washington with Walford Davies's Solemn Melody.

Other films were shown of a holiday in Criccieth, of Ballet Dancing and scenes at a Circus. The recordings, the twin turn-tables, the commentaries and the projector were all operated in total darkness. This adding a touch of realism to the entire evening.

Mr. W.H.B.Fellows, Chairman of the Staff Association, in a few well chosen words expressed the thanks of the assembled audience for a most enjoyable evening. We re-echo our appreciation and hope that we may be similarly favoured on other occasions in the not too distant future.

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### D A N C E.

The first Dance of the Winter Season was held in the Canteen at Head Office on Friday, 1st December last, when some sixty people danced to the music of the Grosvenor Dance Orchestra. Excellent refreshments were provided by the Canteen Staff, whilst Mr. Bob.Stamps presided over the bottles.

A delightful evening was spent by all present and it seems unfortunate that even more members of the staff were not present to enjoy the programme arranged by the M.C. - Mr. R.Mc.C.Stanton.

The versatility of our staff was demonstrated during a "Forfeit Dance" when Mr. and Mrs. Angus McSmith (Cash Office) performed a quite terrifying Scottish Reel and Mr. Robert "Helpman" Wright (D.D.) gave some brief but edifying excerpts from "Swan Lake".

Later in the evening, despite many protests from people who still had dry cleaner's labels fastened to their clothing, Mr. Stanton again presented his "String Game". The dancers, proceeding round the room, had to pass under a hurdle of taut string, held at an ever diminishing height. Couple by couple fouled the string and were disqualified, the winners eventually snaked home with the string only six inches from the floor. One bad loser darkly remarked afterwards that "some people start with a natural advantage for that sort of thing".

Thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. C.H.F. Gilbert and others, whose efforts culminated in so successful a function.

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

On the small ground available, Lichfield has supplied nearly 1 ton of vegetables for the Canteen during 1950.

During the summer months, the walks around Stowe Pool are used extensively by the public; its situation makes (this a very pleasant and restful pastime.

The show of flowering bulbs was greatly admired and appreciated by the public. We look forward this year to having even better results. For 1951, the Lichfield Branch of the Round Table have sought permission, which was readily given, to plant crocus bulbs at Minster Pool. This should be a very pleasant view with the Cathedral in the background.

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His many friends will be pleased to learn that Mr. Theo Wood is keeping fit and well in his retirement. Readers of the old REVIEW will remember his cycling articles, and will be interested to know that Mr. Wood cycled to Edinburgh and back last June.

# BENEVOLENT FUND

We have received a copy of the Fund's Annual Report for the year ending 30th September 1950, which was presented to Members at a meeting held at "The Harden", Coalpool Lane, Walsall, on Friday, 10th November last.

It is gratifying to all to note that the Fund had another successful year from a financial point of view, finishing up with a surplus of £28.14.2d after all demands had been met.

The membership of 540 showed a decrease of 15 as compared with that at the end of the previous year. This was due to fewer enrolments than the members retired, left the Company, died or been transferred to the Staff.

It is recorded with extreme regret and echoed by all members of the Staff who knew him, the death of Mr. C.E. Jones, Chairman of the Fund. Mr. Jones had been a Committee member of the Fund since its inception in 1926 and had been Honorary Assistant Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman since 1944. His keen interest and assistance so willingly rendered at all times will long be remembered not only by those associated with the Fund but by all.

The deaths during the year are also regretted of Messrs. C.B. Brotherton, (Cannock) H. Pickering and G. Mills, (Walsall) J. Dovey and C. Yarnold, (Tipton) S. Wareing, (Burton) and A. Morcom, (Shavers End) Our sincere sympathy goes out to their relatives.

The report concludes with acknowledgments of support and services rendered during the year.

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Mr. Ernest Rabbage is living in Devonshire and writes to say that the late summer was the worst on record in North Devon. As late as the end of November, farmers were endeavouring to get in their harvests. He is keeping well and wishes to be remembered to his old friends and colleagues.

# Obituary

## Mr. W.V.Perkins.

WILFRED VIVIAN PERKINS, who died on November 18th 1950, at the age of 50, was a well known and popular member of the Secretary's Staff, his services extending over a period of thirty-one years.

Mr. Perkins was closely connected with the Thrift Fund from its inception, acting as Assistant Secretary, and from 1929 as Secretary.

"After a long illness bravely borne" is a trite phrase, but in Wilfred's case it was a true one. For some time it had been apparent that he would not be with us a great deal longer, yet his courage and sense of humour triumphed over failing health and almost total loss of sight. He loved a joke, and it seemed that should that joke be against himself he enjoyed it the more. He preferred to make a jest of his physical disabilities rather than to bore his friends with a sorry tale of his symptoms. That was the measure of the man, and in mourning his passing we honour him for the manner of it.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Perkins and her daughter, and to his brother Mr. A.B.Perkins in their sad loss.

## Mr. A.E.Stokes.

We regret to record the death on the 7th December last of Mr. Albert Edward Stokes, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Company.

Following Army service in the 1914/18 War and considerable Municipal Accountancy experience at West Bromwich and Smethwick, Mr. Stokes entered the Company's service on the 1st January 1934, and exactly three years later became Assistant Secretary of the Company and Secretary of the Superannuation and Widows' and Orphans Funds.

Always interested in Staff activities, Mr. Stokes became Chairman of the Staff Association in 1939 and his wise guidance served the members during two very difficult years.

NEWS REVIEW

Although his health had been poor for quite a while, his general cheerfulness of manner deceived his friends into the belief that his condition was better than was actually the case, and there was consequent surprise when he was forced to accept a Sickness Pension in September last.

Mr. Stokes, whose age was only 52, resided at Wylde Green, and his many friends will join us in tendering very sincere condolences to Mrs. Stokes and her son Philip.

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In addition to those reported above and elsewhere in this issue, we deeply regret the deaths of the following:-

Mr. J.T.Ward on 16th November 1950 at the age of 79. Until his retirement in 1936, Mr. Ward was employed at Walsall Depot.

Mr. F.L.Rawcliffe on 26th October 1950 at the age of 72. Mr. Rawcliffe was employed in the Secretary's Office until his retirement in 1946.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to their relatives.

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We extend our sympathy to Miss B.Evans of Revenue Department, on the recent death of her Mother.

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Editor	Mr. A.A.Smith	{ The Editorial Committee desire to place on record their sincere apprec- iation of the generous help given to them by Mr.F.Carnall of "Gestetner" in the prod- uction of this "NEWS REVIEW"
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