

1886

1961

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**DRAKE  
& GORHAM**

Some account

of the

first 75 years...

*The electrical contractor Drake & Gorham was founded in 1886 and in 1964 merged with the mechanical services contractor Arthur Scull to form Drake & Gorham Scull later Drake & Scull.*



Mr. R. H. M. Drake, M.A., the present Chairman, was appointed to that office in 1931 on the death of his father who was the first Chairman of the Company. He was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, and served in the Royal Horse Artillery in Palestine during the first World War. He has been three times President of the Electrical Contractors Association and President of the Electrical Industries Benevolent Association.



# DRAKE & GORHAM

# 1886

**I**N 1886 Bernard M. Drake, then 28 years old, borrowed £500 in order to set up in business as an electrical engineer. Shortly after he began work he invited John Marshall Gorham to join him and the partnership of Drake & Gorham was formed. They had a great faith in the future of their industry and from the very beginning they were determined that the business should be built up by insistence on fine craftsmanship and the use of the best available materials.

Mr. Drake had faced a good deal of family opposition nine years earlier when he announced that he wanted to become an engineer, not in the Army like his father, Major-General Mervin Drake, C.B., R.E., who had fought in the Crimean War, but in industry. He got his own way in the end, however, and went as a pupil to Sir Joseph Whitworth, a noted Manchester engineer of that period.

Four years later, seeing the possibilities of being in on the ground floor of a new industry, he joined the Brush Electrical Company. Very soon he was in Madrid, winning a race with German competitors for the honour of providing the first electrical installation in that city.

At twenty-four, as managing director of both the Midland and the Great Western Brush Companies, he was in charge of the early central stations at Bristol, Cardiff and Cleethorpes.

In 1884 he was appointed managing engineer to the Electrical Power Storage Company and, by solving the mystery of the rapid failure of accumulator plates, he turned a company that had been losing money into one making a profit. Associated with him in this work was Mr. Gorham, the works manager, and they read a joint paper on the subject before the Royal Society.

J. Marshall Gorham was another young man who had gone a long way in a comparatively short time. A gifted mechanic with an inventive mind, after training with a Lincoln engineering firm he had been in charge of the power plants at the earliest electrical exhibitions ever staged in this country. He had also spent some years as electrical engineer to the King of Roumania.

Drake and Gorham began their partnership with a very clear idea of their first objective. It was to bring "the electric light," as it

# - 1961

was then called, to the stately homes of Britain. Although by that time gaslight was commonplace in even the most modest town house, in the country oil was the only practicable alternative to the wax candle, even in the homes of the great. Doubtless there was an initial conservatism to be overcome; to the older generation of country landowner the partners' offer to provide the means of turning night into day at the touch of a switch must have sounded

*Mr. Bernard Drake (left) with Mr. Gorham.*

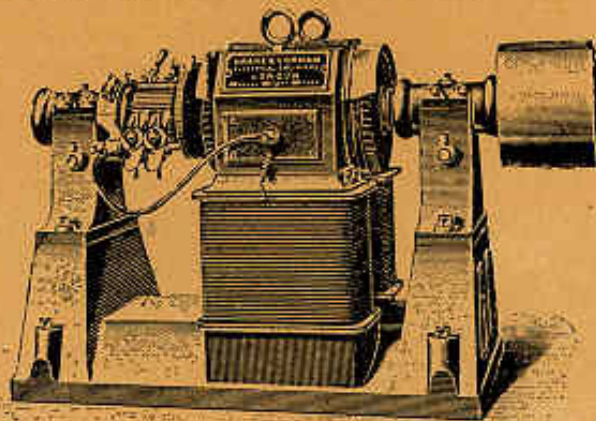




SEND FOR  
**BOOK**  
ON  
**ELECTRIC LIGHTING APPARATUS**

*Price 2s. 6d., which will be credited to clients.*

**CONTENTS: Initial Outlay—Working Costs—Relative Costs of Working Steam, Gas, and Oil Engines, &c.**



*Lighting.*—“ \* \* \* The earlier part of the book is occupied with the requisites for Country House and other isolated installations, in which class of work the firm has a long and wide experience. \* \* \* There is more in the catalogue than is covered by the title, for electric fans, telephones, and farm machinery with or without attendant electric motors, to say nothing of pumps and cream separators, take up many pages. It all adds, however, to the completeness of the book. \* \* \* The catalogue must have cost a good deal to produce, for the illustrations are many and good, the paper is superfine, and the cover is built to last.”

*Electrical Review.*—“ \* \* \* Very useful, well printed, and fully illustrated.”

*Electrician.*—“ \* \* \* At the start some useful notes are provided on the subject of initial outlay involved in the installation of the electric light in country houses, and the working costs. Messrs Drake and Gorham's long experience in this special class gives additional value to their views on these matters. \* \* \* To those contemplating putting down electric plants this catalogue will prove of particular service, as all the information is of a special character.”

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rather like moonshine, but within twelve years Mr. Drake was able to tell the Royal Institute of British Architects:

"The electric light is no longer the light of the future; it is essentially the light of the present, and has come to stay. Only a few years back its use in a country house was regarded as a curiosity; now, the redolent oil lamp and guttering candle have been laid aside with the high-wheeled bicycle and other relics of bygone days."\*

Perhaps the finest example of country house electrification of that period was at Chatsworth. Certainly it received the best Press, for, showing a flair for what would nowadays be called public relations, Mr. Drake arranged for about forty newspapermen from London and the provinces to see the result for themselves.

The many columns of type inspired by the visit are preserved, in a handsome, leather-bound cuttings book, in the archives at Chatsworth and one report gives so lively an account, both of the installations and of the contemporary layman's views on electric light in general that it is worth quoting just as it appeared in the Pall Mall Gazette on December 11, 1893:

#### INGENIOUS APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLATION AT CHATSWORTH

*Chatsworth House, the Derbyshire seat of the Duke of Devonshire, is now lit by electricity. In several respects the installation, which has just been completed, is practically unique. Works have been carried out elsewhere on a larger scale, but not in such elaborate fashion as at Chatsworth. In London the mention of electric light suggests the bluish icy-cold gleam of the arc-lamps in railway stations and streets, or the warmer but still chilly glare of incandescent burners, one and all in glass bulbs of about a swan's egg size. The installation, moreover, in an old building seems almost necessarily to imply the running of wires along the ceilings of passages, with a pretence at their concealment in unsightly strips of grooved lath. As to the electric power, you either have to get it from the mains of one of the monopoly companies, or else you have an engine of your own in the basement, which roars and rattles and gives off a warm smell of oil that recalls a mid-channel steamer. The electric light at Chatsworth House knows none of these drawbacks. There are no arc-lamps at all, and the unobservant might even fail to remark on any of the 850 incandescent lights which are distributed about the house, so deftly have they been introduced. The mansion used to be lit with oil lamps and candles, and to outward appearance no change has been made, save of course in the enormously increased volume of light.*

##### *The New Light in Old Fittings*

*The original lamp-fittings in ormolu or bronze have received with their old-fashioned ground-glass shades the brilliant Swan burners of to-day. The chandeliers in crystal or cut-glass, the girandoles in ormolu,*

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\*From "Some practical hints on the production and use of electricity for lighting country houses", a paper read before the R.I.B.A. in December, 1898.





Above: View of Chatsworth House. Left: An artist's impression of an early lighting fitting typical of the early days of "the electric light".



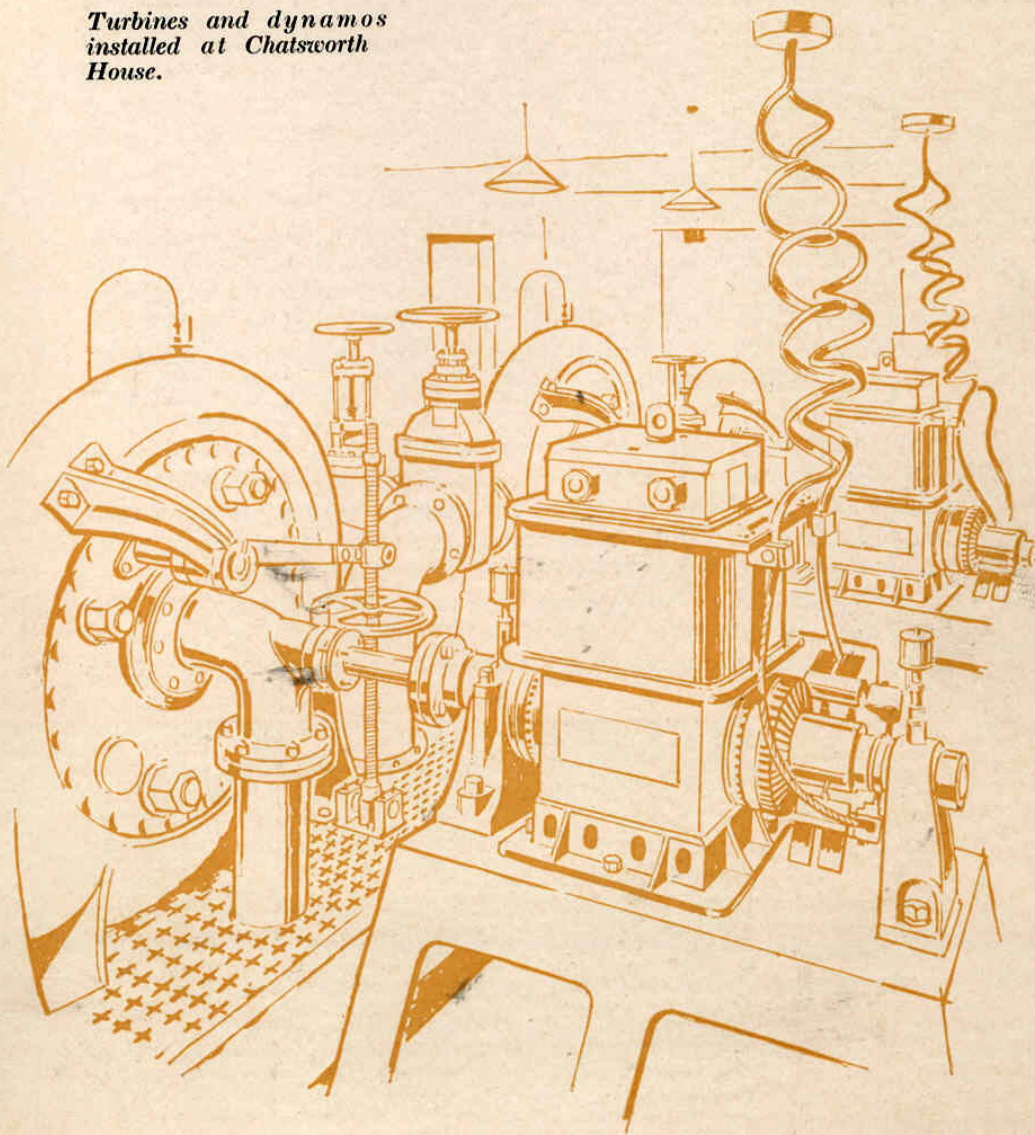
and the many-branched silver candlesticks are still seemingly fitted with shaded wax lights. There are two new features in connection with these pretence candles. They are specially constructed of a transparent porcelain which is indistinguishable by the eye from wax, and the inevitable glass bulb at the top, instead of being the conventional size, is made only just large enough to contain its flaming carbon-

thread. In the bedrooms and other less formal portions of the house full advantage has been taken of the portability of the electric light, and all manner of novel devices have been introduced. Throughout the house the installation has been accomplished without a single wire or its receptacle being visible. How this has been done is in many cases a secret with Mr. Bernard Drake, the well-known electrical engineer, who devised and carried out the work in all its details. But the most striking feature of the Chatsworth electric light is the simplicity and economy of its production. Visitors will remember the great Emperor fountain, which is one of the highest in the world. The water for this is brought down the hillside from a lake of nine acres at a height of four hundred feet above. Here was the requisite power ready to hand. Such a fall means a pressure of some 150 lb. to the square inch, and the existing fifteen-inch pipe, whose joints had to be carefully tested and strengthened, implied any amount of hydraulic horse-power. Even when the dynamo turbines are running at their full strength it makes but little difference to the fountain. The turbine house has been excavated out of the rock below the level of the terraces, and is consequently invisible. The dynamos run on the same shafts as the turbines; there is thus no gearing or noise, although they spin at 1,000 revolutions a minute. And the whole plant is so arranged that it is without danger to the most ignorant. No electrician, in fact, is employed, everything is completely boxed up, and one of the men on the estate has merely to turn on the water and control the supply of electric current to the house.

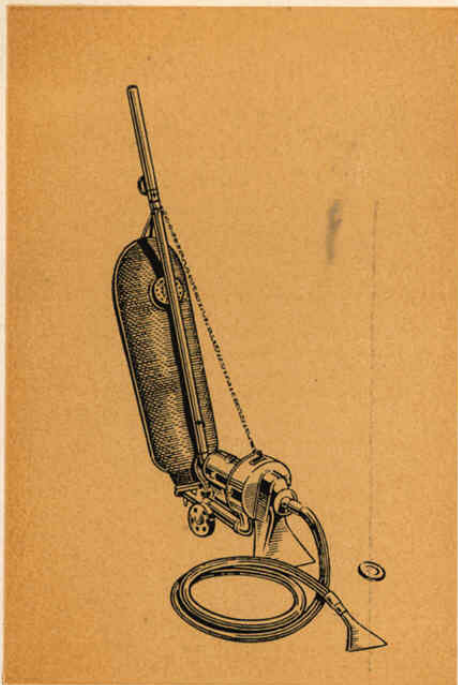
Although water was considered the most efficient source of power for country house lighting, landowners not fortunate enough to possess a suitable lake or stream could be supplied with plant using steam, petroleum or gas. One of the most highly valued features of the Drake and Gorham service was the periodic check of machinery and wiring carried out by the partners' inspectors.

Dealing with the more aesthetic aspects of lighting, one is surprised to find technique generally considered as comparatively modern being taken more or less for granted by the partners at this period. For example, full use was made of reflected light—

*Turbines and dynamos  
installed at Chatsworth  
House.*







*Vacuum Cleaner of the period.*

prospective clients could see excellent examples of it in the Drake and Gorham offices—and it is clear from the already quoted address to the R.I.B.A. that Mr. Drake fully appreciated the inimical effect of top lighting on the appearance of the weaker sex.

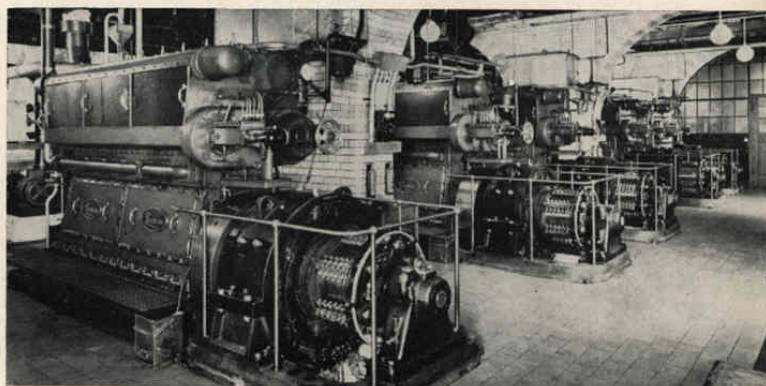
In 1901 the firm which had started in business fifteen years earlier on a borrowed £500 was converted into a limited liability company with a capital of £125,000. At the first annual general meeting Mr. Drake, chairman of the new company and joint managing director with Mr. Gorham, was able to announce a net profit of £12,081, which the following year rose to £16,052.

During the first decade of the new century, and even as late as the outbreak of the first World War, country house installation continued to form a very substantial part of the Company's business.

A particularly interesting installation undertaken in 1905 was at Gordon Castle. For this power was supplied by the water of the River Spey and, thanks to the economic working of the system, it was also possible to supply the inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Fochabers with unlimited electric lighting at an annual fixed charge of five shillings, probably the cheapest rate enjoyed by any rural community in the United Kingdom at that time.

During those pre-1914 years, however, the Company was also extending its activities in other, even more rewarding directions. It had a factory manufacturing electrical equipment for sale both

*Diesel generating plant installed at the Prudential Assurance Company's head office in 1931.*





at home and overseas; it was acting as agent for a host of patent electrical devices, and, perhaps most important, it was undertaking an increasing amount of installation work for industry, commerce, Government departments, and local authorities.

An example of one of the many industrial installations of this period was the electrification of a famous Lancashire cotton mill consisting of 818 looms and 39,000 mule spindles.

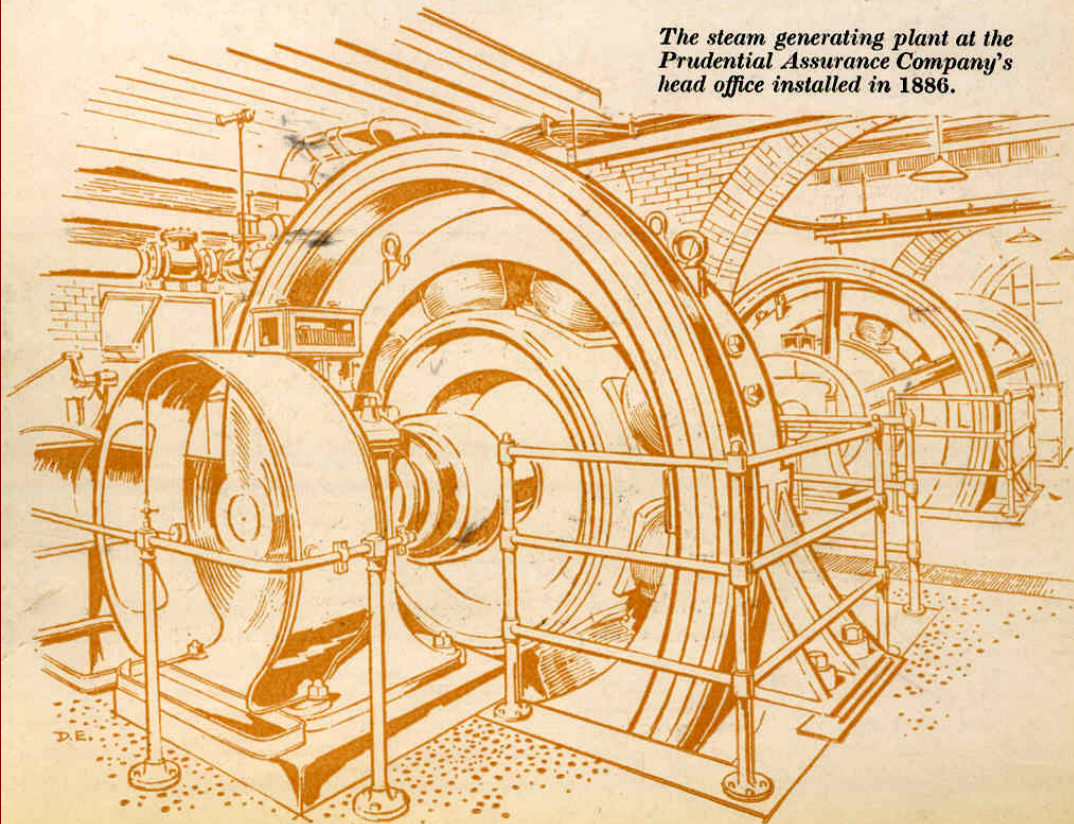
During 1886 Drake and Gorham had been responsible for installing a Marshal steam-generating plant at the Prudential Assurance Company's head office at Holborn, and in 1904 this was extended to comprise a total of some 8,000 lights. This installation was replaced in 1931 by a diesel generating plant.

The same year work was carried out at St. Michael's Mount and at Port Sunlight and a contract was secured for a central generating station at Church Stretton, this last being powered by one of the few suction gas plants then in use in this country.

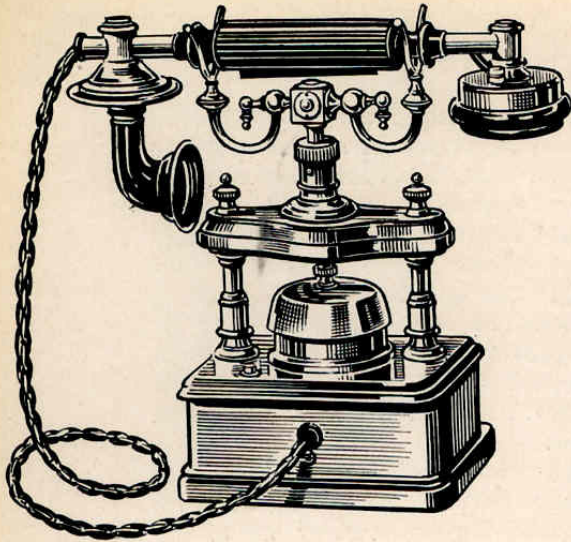
Other notable installations carried out during this period were at Kensington Palace (remodelling the entire installation for H.R.H. Princess Louise), the Manchester Assize Court, the Fountain Hospital (960 incandescent lamps and six arc lamps), the Royal Ear Hospital, Windsor Castle, Eton College, Lambeth Palace, Westminster Cathedral, Marshall and Snelgrove, the Imperial Tobacco Company, and the Albert Hall, Manchester, where, in addition to electric light, "organ blowing" and "kinematograph" apparatus was installed.

Purchasers of the Company's switchboards, switch gear, and other electrical fittings included the Admiralty, Buckingham

*The steam generating plant at the Prudential Assurance Company's head office installed in 1886.*







*An early telephone set.*

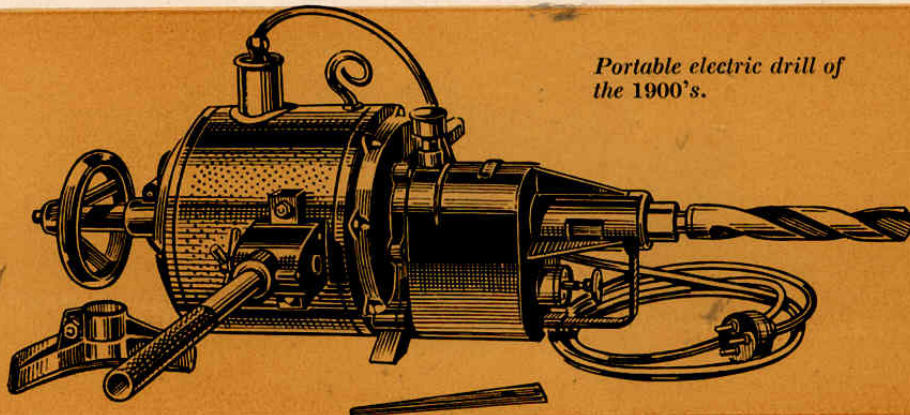
Palace, the British Museum, the Home Office, and Marlborough House.

Progress was also being made overseas. In 1902 there were contracts in hand at Cape St. Vincent and Aden; a few years later electrical gear was being exported to Australia, the Argentine, Ceylon and South Africa.

For many years the Company had operated a Trade Department later to become Drake & Gorham (Wholesale) Limited as a subsidiary company in 1919 with its offices at 77, Long Acre, and

reading through the Company's sales literature of the Edwardian and early Georgian era one comes to the conclusion that there really is surprisingly little new under the sun, even in the field of electrical gadgetry. Outwardly at any rate the hair dryer of 1914 is very similar to the 1961 version, and the electric sewing machine and vacuum cleaner of the same date are also of reasonably modern appearance. And, even though it does fall just the wrong side of our period, a 1919 advertisement of a washing machine boasting many of the refinements, such as double washing action and electric wringer, considered good selling points today does seem a little in advance of its time.

Generally speaking, the functional and "ornate at all costs" schools of thought both seem to have taken a hand in the design of early electrical products. A convector heater of 1910, for example, would not seem out of place in a modern shop window but the telephones illustrated in the same catalogue are pure Betjeman.



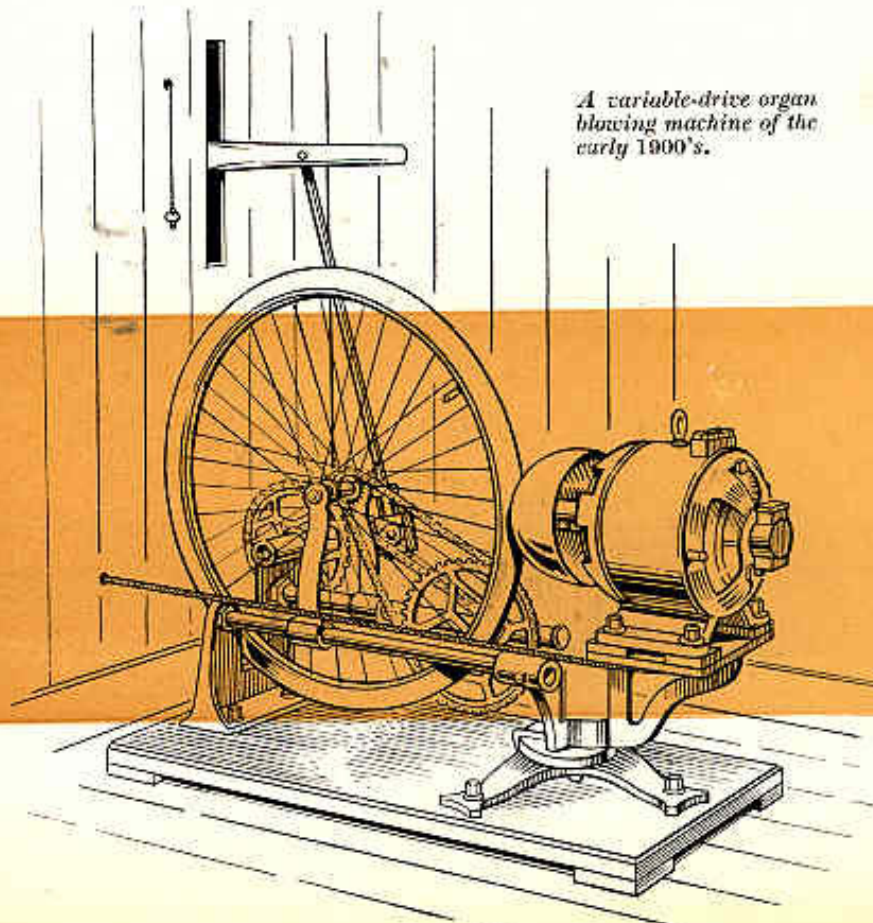
*Portable electric drill of the 1900's.*

An admirably versatile piece of household equipment of about the same date was the combined table heater and toaster. Run off the lighting circuit, it could toast a slice of bread on both sides in a minute, keep a kettle on the boil, roast chestnuts, boil an egg, and maintain the bacon "at that temperature at which only it is fit to be eaten."

There is an old world charm about electric curling iron heaters and shaving pots and an "electric bath" which, it was claimed, could produce perspiration "more quickly than any other agent and without any inconvenience." Recommended for the treatment of rheumatism, gout, sciatica, and the common cold, the bath sold at from £25 to £28 10s. 0d. according to the wood used for the cabinet in which the patient chose to incarcerate himself.

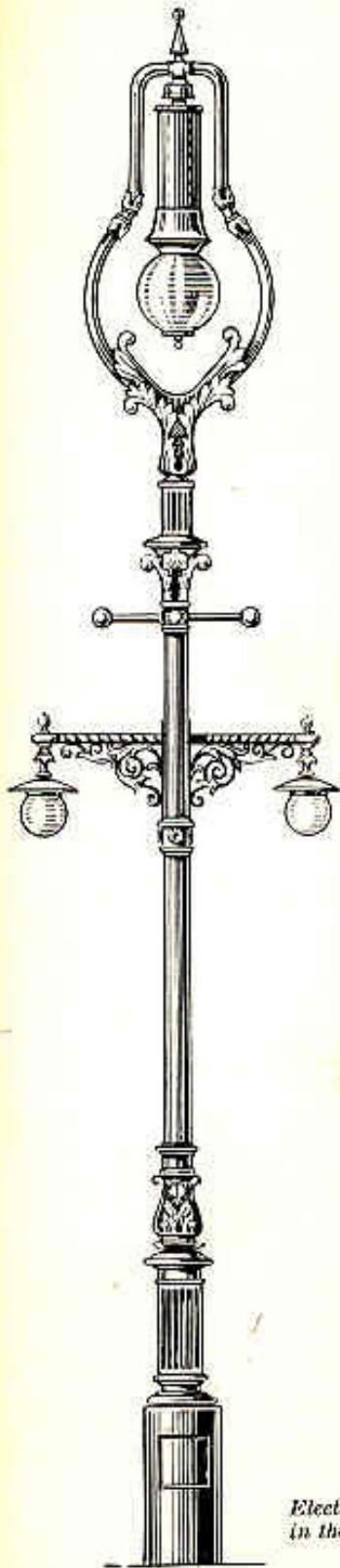
Side by side with the installation of the electric light in the landed gentry's residences went the sale of a variety of electrically powered implements for use on estate and farm. These, including circular saws, planing and wood turning machines, chaff cutters, corn crushers, horse clippers, and cream separators, were on show at the Olympia in 1905.

Another of the Company's early enterprises was the sale of fire fighting equipment. This ranged from the modest chemical extinguisher to a petrol driven fire engine capable of discharging 500 gallons of water a minute and projecting a jet to heights of up to

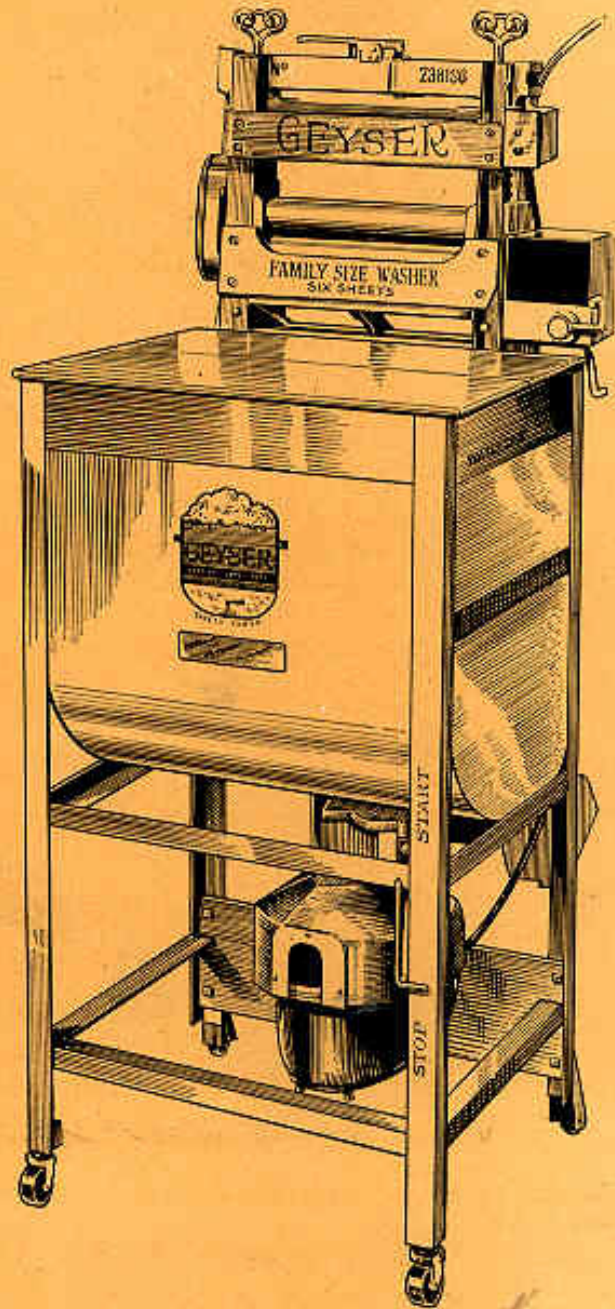


*A variable-drive organ blowing machine of the early 1900's.*





*Electric light  
in the streets.*



*Twin action washing machine  
with powered wringer, circa, 1919.*

150 feet. The services of an expert, qualified to form and instruct private fire brigades, were also at the disposal of clients.

Financial depression and a sense of insecurity are the last things one associates with the Edwardian aristocracy but afflicted with them they were and one of their reactions, it seems, was to cut down on unnecessary trimmings, such as electricity, and buy motor cars instead. So far as Drake and Gorham were concerned, though, this, thanks to the far-sightedness of one of the founders, turned out to be a case of gaining on the swings; Mr. Drake had noted the trend as early as 1906 and very soon the Company was operating a successful "Motor Car Department" which held agency agreements for several well-known makes.

Both the founders were themselves pioneer motorists and the excursion into this market may have grown out of their noticing how many clients sought their advice on the purchase of a horse-less carriage. In 1908 the company published a pamphlet entitled "The Choice of a Car" and four years later the after-sales service featured two free inspections during the first twelve months after purchase.

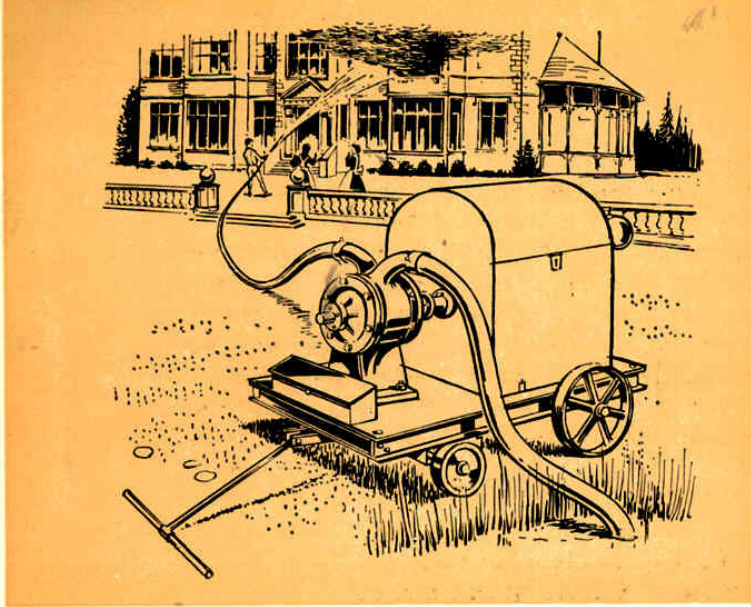
Before leaving the subject of the internal combustion engine it is worth recording that what might well be the first reference to car mileage appearing on an expense account is to be found in the minute of a directors' meeting held in 1905. It states that "where the Managing Directors use their cars while engaged in the Company's business they shall receive expenses that would otherwise have been incurred."

Somewhat paradoxically perhaps the Company's entry as selling agents into the electrically propelled vehicle market was not until 1913. It was well timed, however, for the shortage of horses resulting from the outbreak of war in the following year created a considerable demand for these vehicles, particularly from local authorities, who used them a good deal for refuse collection. In 1916 it was reported that the Edison batteries with which they were equipped could be used for over 60,000 miles without renewal, and by the end of the war the only difficulty connected with electrical transport, so far as the Company was concerned, was to satisfy the demand.

Inevitably, the war meant a temporary halt in country-house installations but work at munition factories, Service camps and other undertakings connected with the war effort more than made up for this loss. One exceptionally large contract was for the provision of a complete generating station for the United Alkali Company. It contained three turbo-generating sets of 1,000 kW each and one of 250 kW. In 1917 the "Girder" fitting for lighting machine tools was invented by a member of the staff and was still in production in 1948; the same year the Company was appointed sole concessionaires for Wilkins unloading gear for lorries, a device used on a considerable scale in France.

The post-1918 era opened auspiciously with a move to new, more roomy headquarters in Grosvenor Gardens.





*Early private fire-fighting machine.*

The financial omens were promising too, for in 1919 the balance sheet showed results greatly exceeding those of any year since the formation of the Company.

Although arrears of country house work interrupted by the outbreak of war had to be caught up with, this type of installation, always remembered with affection by the founders and those employees who had worked for them from the start, had already ceased to be one of the Company's major commitments. The scale of domestic architecture (with the exception of blocks of flats) was shrinking; commercial and industrial buildings, on the other hand, were getting larger and larger, and it was with the provision of electrical installations for projects of this kind that the name Drake and Gorham now became chiefly associated. And with the name went the reputation for supplying nothing but the best in materials and workmanship which had been earned in the days when the partners introduced "the electric light" into the country's stately homes.

*The Bank of England.*



An order, in 1926, for the complete electrical installation at the rebuilt head office of the Bank of England in Threadneedle Street might have been designed expressly to prove a claim to produce work able to stand the test of time. The Directors of the Bank desired to have an installation that would last for over a century, and to meet this requirement all the wiring embedded in the structure was enclosed in heavy gauge screwed copper conduit and all outlet and switch boxes were manufactured from Admiralty gun metal. This installation also included one of the earliest Floor Box Systems, enabling connections to lighting, bell and telephone service at intervals of two and a half feet over all office floors.



*A view of  
Dolphin  
Square flats  
in London.*

Drake & Gorham, incidentally, installed the first generating plant at the Bank of England as early as 1888 and Mr. Bernard Drake acted as the Bank's consulting engineer for 25 years.

Complete electrical installations at Lloyd's Bank's new head office and at Martins Bank's main London office were also provided during this period. Other highlights of the late 1920s were installations for the Masonic Peace Memorial building in Great Queen Street; for the British Broadcasting Corporation (including the main cabling and other services at the Brookmans Park, Daventry and Droitwich transmitting stations), and at two of London's leading stores.

Mr. Bernard Drake died suddenly in 1931 at the age of 73 and his son Mr. R. H. M. Drake, then 33 years of age, became Chairman and Joint Managing Director. Mr. W. Parker was later appointed Co-Managing Director with him and whilst adhering strictly to the principles of high quality and first class workmanship they introduced many innovations which lead to the rapid growth and greatly increased prosperity which the Company now enjoys.

In the 1930s came the heyday of the super cinema and many of these luxurious dream palaces could have included "electricity by Drake and Gorham" among their credit titles. The company also played a part in a newly arrived form of live entertainment, carrying



out the whole of the elaborate installation at Harringay, one of the first ice hockey rinks to be built in this country.

The building of mammoth blocks of luxury flats was also a feature of this period and one of the most impressive undertakings carried out in this field was at Dolphin Square, which could then claim to be the largest single block in Europe.

In tune with the sombre note on which the decade closed was work carried out for the Admiralty, including generating sets, over-head transmission, and special wiring in subterranean oil storage caves at Lyness and Invergordon.

During the second World War the company undertook a great deal of specialised and often highly secret work on behalf of the Air Ministry. Installations were also provided at several large Army camps and at a variety of factories producing materials necessary for the war effort.

In 1945 it was realised that the company must be reorganised to allow the maximum expansion and the manufacturing activities were transferred from the parent company to a subsidiary incorporated under the name of G.M. Engineering (Acton) Limited. This company, after a change of name and location, became Ottermill Switchgear Limited in 1954 with its headquarters at Ottery St. Mary in Devonshire. During the same year the contracting staff played an important role in the drive to rehouse people whose homes had been destroyed by bombing, and were responsible for the installations in many thousands of small prefabricated buildings.

A very different project undertaken the same year was the complete rewiring and relighting of Canterbury Cathedral; some three years later the company was responsible for renewing their 1905 installation at Lambeth Palace, the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In 1948 work began on long-term projects for the Steel Company of Wales. Still in progress and costing to date over one-and-a-half million pounds, it has consisted of heavy power cabling, lighting, heating, small power and instrumentation installations. Two years later an equally long-term project was undertaken on behalf of British Nylon Spinners Limited.

In 1951 another reorganisation took place and Drake and Gorham Limited became solely a holding company; Drake and Gorham (Contractors) Limited being formed as a subsidiary alongside G.M. Engineering and Drake & Gorham (Wholesale). This latter company was closed down in 1957 to concentrate the company's resources in the engineering field.

At home the 1950s and early 1960s have been great years for building projects of all kinds and the Company has taken full advantage of this and has been successful in obtaining a considerable portion of the electrical content. The work has been too varied and too extensive to mention all of it, but a few examples of electrical installations handled by Drake & Gorham (Contractors) are the

Bank of London and South America, Queen Victoria Street; the Bank of England offices at New Change; the new head office building for Barclays Bank; the mechanised foundry at Fords, Dagenham; the Cancer Research Buildings; the Royal College of Surgeons; the B.B.C. extension; the B.O.A.C. headquarters building at Victoria; the head office of the Esso Petroleum Company and a number of installations for I.C.I., Ferodo, Unilever and other well known companies.

In contrast to these essentially modern undertakings was some particularly interesting work done at Gloucester Cathedral in 1956. A new and successful system of lighting, known as "designed appearance lighting" was installed, replacing the original installation carried out by the company almost fifty years before.

Between 1953 and the present time the Company has also been responsible for the main cabling at the Central Electricity Board's power stations at Roosecote, Skelton Grange, Wakefield, Agecroft, Fleetwood, and at High Marnham which at the time the contract was awarded was to be the largest power station in Europe.

From the time of its formation the Company has been active overseas and over the past twelve years an impressive amount of work has been done in two of the newly independent African states, Ghana and Nigeria. The largest installation in Ghana was at the Accra University. It included a power station equipped with three 1,020 kW. and two 382 kW. 11 kV. diesel generating sets.

University buildings, department stores, cinemas, flats, offices, and a hospital—these are only examples selected at random of new buildings in Nigeria where installations have been completed by the company.

In 1952 work began on some interesting projects, connected with plant for the manufacture of precast building materials, in Kuwait. Other major installations have been completed in South America and the Middle East, and the company is at present operating a branch in the Rhodesias.

Finally, this account of work either completed or in progress can be concluded with a look into the Atomic future—the award of the lighting and small power contracts for the nuclear power station now under construction at Trawsfynydd.

*Artist's impression of a modern atomic power station.*



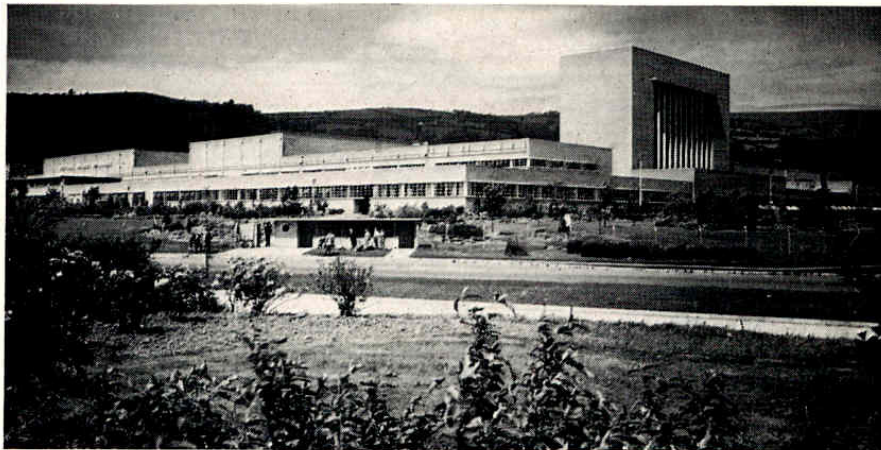


# OTTERMILL SWITCHGEAR

ALTHOUGH young in name Ottermill Switchgear Limited is in fact a direct descendant of the early workshop opened by the partners in London to produce switches and gear, not then available in the open market, for their own lighting installations. Because of the high quality of the articles manufactured this facet of the business also flourished.

In the early 1930s the production included high tension switch-board equipment and although this was discontinued in 1935 some of this gear may still be in use today.

Large quantities of equipment were also made for Totalisators Limited for use in their installations at many of the best known greyhound racing tracks, such as those at Wembley, Harringay,



*The factory of British Nylon Spinners Limited at Pontypool, Wales, equipped with Ottermill Switchgear Ltd. equipment.*

and White City. This experience in engineering to very fine limits was later especially useful when switchgear came to be manufactured in Devon.

During the last war the Company's works at Acton were employed almost entirely on Government orders of a specialised nature for the Air Ministry and the Admiralty. In the last weeks of the war design work began on a new range of switchgear for use in time of peace.

In 1945 (see Page 16) the manufacturing side of the business was transferred to a subsidiary company, G.M. Engineering (Acton) Limited, the name being derived from the special flush fronted switch (the so-called G.M. Switch) designed for the installation in Glyn Mills Bank and developed between 1935 and 1939.

# LIMITED



*The Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation building in the West Indies, also equipped with Ottermill products.*

Immediately after the war the parent company acquired a factory at Ottery St. Mary, in Devon, intending to manufacture substantial quantities of a water heater known as "The Densacone." Owing, however, to Government restrictions on electricity consumption and the increase of Purchase Tax to 100 per cent in 1948 there was an almost complete cessation of demand in the home market, and in April 1949 the manufacture of Bus-Bar Trunking was transferred to the Ottery factory to replace water heater production.

In 1950 severe shortage of space at Acton led to the remainder of the business being transferred, and from that time large additions have been made to the Ottery factory in order to cope with the ever increasing demand for the products manufactured there.

*Ottermill rising main equipment is installed in the new building of the South African Permanent Building Society in Johannesburg.*







*At Harringay Arena the installation was carried out by Drake & Gorham Ltd.  
Main switchgear was constructed at the Acton factory.*

In 1954, having no further connection with Acton, the name was changed to Ottermill Switchgear. It is an entirely separate organisation, its only link with Drake & Gorham (Contractors) Limited being that both companies use the same capital source.

Ottermill Switchgear products are manufactured under licence in India, Australia and South Africa.

Since its formation there has been a significant growth of the activities of this company, a very tangible proof of the inherent quality of its products, and although space does not permit a long list of work carried out it is interesting to note that Ottermill products are to be found in the following places: The dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Bank of England, the first floating oil-drilling rig to be constructed in the U.K., most of the South African gold mines, cotton mills in Sudan, India and Pakistan. No less than eleven universities and twenty hospitals in Great Britain, London Airport, the factories of three major motor car producers. The Downing Street and Treasury reconstruction, Buckfast Abbey and hundreds of other important buildings and plants covering every major industry in the country.