Then & Now

The advent of licence agreements for air filter equipment in the concept of high velocity terminal control system packaged central plant, and supercharging of the existing air filter range with additional products from the Cambridge Filter Corporation of Syracuse through this vast expansion in production space was vital and the premises were extended to a site at Aylesford, Nr. Maidstone. By the middle of 1974 a corporate decision had provided for the closure of the Rochester plant to concentrate the entire production and administrative functions under the one roof at Aylesford. In April 1975 Ozoneair was acquired by the Senior Engineering Group Ltd and became a member of the Air Handling & Plastics Division along with Henry Hargreaves & Sons Ltd, and Plastics Design & Engineering Ltd.

Potterton

Thomas Potterton Ltd was founded in the 1890s as a firm of general contractors; but it was under the founder's son, Thomas Potterton, that the company began pioneering the gas-fired boiler market concentrating on gas usage and bulk heating. By 1894 the zig-zag flue for solid fuel ranges had been designed – a precursor of the secondary heating surface in modern boilers. The first ever gas-fired central heating boiler was introduced by Potterton in 1903 – the "Victor" which was installed in four vertical banks in Eugenie Sandow's Physical Culture Institute, causing a sensation in the heating trade. This was the forerunner of today's modulating Diplomat.

Thomas Potterton, Jr., was succeeded by his two sons, A. B. Potterton and T. F. C. Potterton.

Then followed the introduction of large boilers like the celebrated Rex "D" series, a source of central heating and hot water in town halls, department stores and such. In 1935 the "Diplomat" gas-fired boilers made their debut and the company entered the oil-fired boiler market with the introduction of the "DOA" series.

In 1961 the first balanced flue appliance was introduced by the company, and in 1973 the gas-fired wall-mounted boiler -- the "Netaline" -- was introduced.

A. B. Potterton was HIVE President in 1926, and Ernest Brooks in 1989.

PUMPS

It was in 1868 that Mr. Frederick A. Pullen, a 27-year-old son of an Isle of Wight schoolmaster, started business in the City of London as an importer and export agent for engineering products. His intention was that the products he handled and the service he offered should be second to none, and early in his business career he realised the value of specialisation, dealing mainly with pumping equipment for water supplies.

Mr. Pullen's business proceeded, and his sons joined the company at the turn of the century, both having served engineering apprenticeships, and bringing with them a wide range of experience in mechanical engineering. At the time of Frederick Pullen's death in 1918, various sidelines in both sales and manufacturing had been adopted, and the business was showing a steady rate of growth.

The year 1912 saw a move to King William Street, and within a couple of years, Frederick A. Pullen & Co. found themselves deeply involved in the war effort. As was the case with so many firms, they found that meeting the demands of the War Office stretched their production capability to the maximum, and by 1916 they were installed in a factory in Vauxhall, with a labour force of 40 women engaged upon munitions work.

This move to the much larger premises was justified after the war, with an increased demand for pumps and pumping equipment. The Pullen brothers started the manufacture of a new range of centrifugal pumps to supplement their existing steam and vacuum pump ranges, thus establishing a close connection with the heating and ventilating industry. This connection was further strengthened by the decision taken shortly after 1925, when Mr. Percy Jones, the present Chairman, joined the company, to concentrate on pump manufacture.

World War II again resulted in the company working at fever pitch to meet military demands. The pump design and production programmes were vastly accelerated, and in addition the company diversified, producing such equipment as mobile dissolved acetylene gas plants, the famous "Wobby Wheel Roller" self-propulsion machine, and the pre-fabricated bituminous surface laying machine used extensively in airfield construction and generally known as the "Stamp Licker".

The post-war years saw a relaxation in building restrictions, enabling property developers to realise their plans for multi-storey office and apartment blocks. This in turn brought a call for more efficient and sophisticated fire prevention, heating and cold water boosting equipment. Pullen's rose to the occasion with the wide range of pumps developed during the war, plus their new automatic cold water pump booster systems.

In 1950, the Pullen brothers' partnership was dissolved, and Fred A. Pullen & Co. Ltd. was formed with the brothers and Mr. Percy Jones as Directors; shortly afterwards they were joined by Mr. F. T.
Having a mining background no doubt influenced the founders in taking up the manufacture of pumps. The initial idea of applying engineering to other interests was largely due to Edmund Howl, who had passed through an apprenticeship at Crowe.

During the early years the company produced many machines other than pumps, notably refrigeration plant. However, for many years, the sole interest has been in the manufacture of pumps, and over the years the range has been developed into one of the widest in the UK, ranging from small hand pumps to power driven units with outputs of up to 3,900 m³/h.

The company is fortunate in having many men who have worked for them all their lives, and there have been instances of three generations being employed. The present Managing Director and Chairman is Mr. O. B. Howl, a grandson of one of the founders.

London Waterworks

The origins of Worthington Simpson go back to the late 18th century. Although the earliest Westminster Directory shows that in 1726 there was an engineering firm in Exckleton Street, Pimlico, London, in the name of Simpson & Thompson, it is known that as early as 1790 Thomas Simpson, the father of James, was working as an engineer in Westminster installing and maintaining steam pumping plant at various London Waterworks, and undoubtedly by this date he had established workshops for this purpose. It is also clear from the Westminster Directories that in 1829 Simpson & Thompson became known as Simpson & Co of Belgrave Road, and thereafter in 1842 the firm was known as William Simpson & Co of Belgrave Road; the latter moved to Grosvenor Road in 1860. The first indication of registration as a Limited Company was in 1889 when James Simpson & Co., Ltd. was formed to carry on the business of pump manufacturers and engineers contractors in a factory built in 1899 at 101 Grosvenor Road Pimlico, on the Embankment alongside the river Thames.

The original buildings were demolished in 1936 to make room for the existing Pimlico Estate and they were still used by the firm up to this date, although new engineering works had been built at Newmarket-on-Trent, in 1901.

The Association of James Simpson & Co with the Worthington Pump Corporation of America in 1886 resulted in world-wide expansion of the British firms' activities and the company became Worthington-Simpson Ltd in 1917. In 1960 Worthington-Simpson Ltd was fully integrated into the Studleyworth-Worthington International Corporation.

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A standard product made World War I has an interesting link with present day production. This was a simple type of follower accelerator consisting of a hand-driven drum which Sirius pump mounted over a pipe which it was connected and into which was fitted a non-return valve. This arrangement was redesigned in 1926 and the new unit given the name 'Selfex'. This was the first type of pump by any manufacturer in the UK to connect directly into the pipeline and dispense with beds and concrete foundations. Holden and Brooke's current Selfex line is the modern derivative of the basic idea.

Heat exchanger manufacturer was transferred to a new factory which had been built at Sharston in 1938 thus enabling Sirius Works to expand production of centrifugal pumps to meet an increasing demand.

Shortly after World War II, the nearby firm of Frank Pearn and Co Ltd was incorporated and the famous 'Pearn' reciprocating pumps became part of the Holden and Brooke range. Pearn works now manufacture the Trimax series of high pressure, triple ram pumps. Holden and Brooke at present offer one of the most comprehensive range of pumps and ancillary equipment for the building services industry. These products are in use in many countries throughout the world where the experience and skills of so many years have earned a reputation for quality and reliability.

VALVES AND FITTINGS

Last year Royles Ltd celebrated their centenary. The business was started in 1876 by Mr. J. J. Royce in Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester, manufacturing steam traps, reducing valves and other steam fittings. Later, in the last century, Mr. Royce was joined by O. M. Row, President of the
Institution in 1911, the inventor of the patented tube, and the company commenced manufacturing heat exchangers incorporating the patented tube—in fact the word "colorier" was originated by Royles at the beginning of the present century, and it is now the accepted designation for all tubular heaters used for providing hot water supply or heating services in every type of building.

At the turn of the century the business had expanded to such an extent that it was necessary to seek larger premises, and new works and offices were erected at Irlam, where the company still is. New products were introduced, including pipeline strainers, for which the company now enjoys a world-wide reputation.

In 1970 Royles took over the pipeline speciality section of Lancaster and Tenge Ltd of Pendleton, Manchester, thus further expanding their range of products. In 1975 the company became a member of the Leeds based Fairbairn Lawson Group and embarked upon a further expansion programme, introducing a range of valves designated primarily to meet the needs of the petrochemical, oil and associated industries.

Recently the company was appointed sole UK distributors for the Commercial Filters Division of the Carborundum Company. It has been said that the history of Hopkins & Turner organisation is also that of the progress of valve design and manufacture. The founder established from the outset the principles of technical competence and quality of product.

The Hopkins & Turner Engineering business started in 1843 by Joseph Hopkins has grown to employ a workforce of around 2,000 people. Hopkins & Turner's valves, boiler mountings, actuation, smoke boilers and control gear now serve the power and process industries throughout the world.

One of the most striking characteristics of Hopkins & Turner is the completeness of direct control over the manufacturing process. Hopkins & Turner is one of the very few valve manufacturers to have not only their own non-ferrous foundry but also a steel foundry. The same concern for the highest standards of manufacture is reflected in the wide use of numerically controlled precision machine tools and the latest manufacturing techniques.

Hopkins & Turner view of testing is comprehensive. It extends from the closest examination of all materials through every stage of manufacture to final proving. (Hopkins & Turner have the rare distinction of A.S.M.E.N. stamp approval—internationally recognised as the highest possible rating for work in the nuclear field).

The supply of valves, controls, heat exchange plants and other auxiliary equipment for the heating industry has been an integral part of the service offered by the BSS Group of Companies since its foundation in 1899. Although the Group, which became a public company in 1963, is one of the largest organisations of its kind in the United Kingdom, now has interests on a broadly diversified basis, the heating engineer and contractor still account for a significant percentage of its turnover.

With head offices at Leicester and widespread branch warehouse facilities at nearby Lutterworth, the British Steam Specialties Limited and its associate companies in the North of Ireland and Elsewhere control a multi-million pound distribution network throughout the British Isles. These companies offer a complete industrial pipeline and heating equipment service, covering both supply and technical back-up facilities from a network of over 20 depots strategically located throughout the country. All BSS branch warehouses provide a trade counter service for off-the-shelf or urgent collections by customers in addition to the normal prompt delivery service.

The comprehensive range of items carried in stock include tubes and fittings of all types including plastics, valves suit all applications, steam and air traps, condensate pumping sets, pumps and pumping equipment, heat exchange equipment instruments and...
Then & Now

Cockburns Ltd of Glasgow have been manufacturing valves for over a century and their products are in service on land and sea throughout the world. Cockburns began in 1862 when David Cockburn, a marine engineer, conceived the idea that there was a demand for small boilers and tubular steel vessels. He opened a small factory in McNeill Street, Glasgow, having as his chief assistant his son, Robert Cockburn. During the early years the production of small boilers was abandoned and the valve side of the business developed, from which evolved the Cockburns safety valve.

In 1899 Robert Cockburn took over the business of his brother, George Cockburn, also a valve manufacturer, and from that association emerged the company of Cockburns Ltd, of Cadder. The demand for Cockburns valves steadily grew, pushing factory resources to the maximum. After World War II additional premises were sought and in 1953 a new branch works was opened at North Shields. Growth continued throughout the fifties, with further production and sales facilities being opened in Holland in 1958 (Cockburns Nederland N.V.). In 1959 a further link in the development of the organisation occurred with the opening of Cockburns (Springs) Ltd, with premises adjoining the main Cadder works.

Throughout the company's long history it has developed by virtue of several factors: reliability, special applications, and research.

Fifth Generation

For a family business to survive—let alone thrive—for nearly 100 years in the competitive and highly cyclical brass foundry business requires both consistent initiative and an equal degree of flexibility. So Meynell Valves of Wolverhampton are almost unique nowadays for the way the company is still very actively managed by the Meynell family themselves—the fifth successive generation to do so. To quote the present Deputy Chairman Hugh Meynell—"over the years our product range has steadily changed, and at any given time we have concentrated on trying to produce whatever England has required."

In 1988, as Boulton & Watt were still trying to develop their range of steam engines, "Meynell & Sons"—as they were then called—wisely hitched their star to the four-leafed variety of horse power. The earliest surviving catalogue shows the simple, but very robust, pump for deep well operations—operated by a lone horse plodding steadily round and round. Later in the 19th century, in line with increasing standards of affluence, a range of ornate gas chandeliers was produced—the intricate and detailed designs being a lasting tribute to the skills of British brassfoundry men.

In war time as in peace, the diversity continued. In 1914 production was switched to provide equipment for mobile water carriers for the British Army in France. In the last war by contrast, Meynells provided both equipment for refuelling submarines at sea and for fighting fires on land.

Recently, a brewery in Oxfordshire highlighted yet another facet of the company by suddenly ordering items from a supposedly extinct catalogue dating from the 1930's. In those years the firm used to make brass beer pumps.
A set of four such pumps, each topped by a handpainted porcelain handle and all mounted inside a precision made mahogany cabinet, cost just £2.10.0—and of course trade discounts were available.

After the last war a decision was wisely made to find areas where the firm could build its own viable future. The most successful of these efforts has proved to be in the area of mixing valves. Instead of importing foreign designs under licence, Maynell concentrated on developing their own. Having a pattern shop, tool room, drawing office and foundry on site made this easier—but the real reason for the success lay in the way the company sought to find out what customers actually needed the valves to do. Before producing a thermostatic hot and cold water mixing valve for example, Maynell deliberately went to the most critical user—the hospital—to find out both what they needed and why.

The result has been the outstanding success of the “Safexm” range of domestic mixers, and the “Blencarn” range of manually operated blending valves.

UNUSUAL APPROACH

Another interesting example of a firm that has approached building services from a different direction is Hall & Kay Engineering Ltd. It was established as sheet metalworkers in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1878. In its early years it

connections with the textile industry led it to supplying equipment for controlling ventilation and humidity in the local mills. “Air conditioning” in 1890 was not quite what we mean today, but it gave the company a start from which it has never looked back.

Today the firm has accumulated a vast store of knowledge in the design, manufacture and installation of air conditioning, ventilating, fume extraction, heating and other services, the protection and electrical installation and instrumentation throughout the USA and all over the world. For many years the name of Humphreys & Glasgow was synonymous with the water gas process.

With the advent of natural gas the company rapidly diversified into the oil, chemical and petrochemical industries and about the same time in 1967 formed HGS to exploit natural gas conversion. HGS grew rapidly and at the peak period of gas conversion had over 1500 technicians and 900 vehicles with three schools for training conversion fitters.

Again when conversion work began to fall off, HGS moved into the field of mechanical services relating particularly to heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing and boiler changeover. This was further extended to include general mechanical equipment on a large scale with HGS providing all the necessary services, procurement and skilled labour but organising the whole scheme to give the minimum inconvenience to residents.

More recently HGS has become involved in North Sea Oil and Gas projects working alongside the parent company both on offshore production platforms and onshore terminals.

HGS with an annual turnover of £16 million is only ten years old but is a worthy offspring of the Victorian born parent, Humphreys & Glasgow.

MAINLY DOMESTIC

Domestic appliances are not expected to last 100 years, but ironically enough, the latest fuel cost figures show that one of the best performances in fuel conversion is turned in by a stove that has scarcely changed in design for almost this period.

It was in the 1880s that the family firm of Pither acquired the patents of a continental slow-combustion anthracite stove. Stoves on this principle have since been made and marketed under the Pither name ever since.

The story of Pither’s survival into the last quarter of the twentieth century is a startling one for people who regret the continuing disappearance of small specialist firms in monster mergers. For Pithers have been able to reverse the trend. They have twice been swallowed by larger firms but have managed to come out unscathed.
It is, alas, no longer possible to make the proud claim of the earliest surviving Pithier catalogue c.1890 that “The fire burns 12 hours without Attention, Trouble, Dangers, Direct or Waste at a cost of 1/0d.” But today Pithier claim that their small Studio stove will heat an average sized room for about only 1p per hour.

War and Peace

The Founder of Carron Company in 1759 at Falkirk in the midlands of Scotland was Dr. John Roebuck, of Sheffield, an eminent scientist and mineralogist, Samuel Garbett, of Birmingham, chemical manufacturer, and William Cadell, of Cockenzie, merchant. The famous engineer, John Smeaton designed and built the water-powered furnace bellows for Carron over two hundred years ago.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1773, the company’s strength has been due to a readiness to recognise the ever-changing demands of her customers, and to develop techniques to meet those demands. James Watt came to Carron for cylinders for his steam engine. William Symington, who has been called the father of marine engineering built at Carron the engines for the first steamship. The Duke of Wellington would have only Carron shot and Carron cannon. Lord Nelson had “Carronade” guns on Victory at Trafalgar. Major-General Henry Shrapnel, R. A., chose Carron castings for his new shell.

In the arts of peace, Carron designs for domestic equipment were guided by John Adam, eldest of the four famous brothers Adam, who led the renaissance of English interior decoration. John Adam was one of the earliest partners in Carron Company and he with the brothers William and Henry Haworth, designed a complete series of dog-crates, register-grates and surrounds for the discriminating taste of the day. At present time baths, sinks, cookers, radiators are designed and made at Carron.

Drawings Non Existent

Hattersley Brothers Ltd is the “oldest” or “taasted born” of the UK Companies that constitute the Stelrad Group. Thomas Hattersley made the kitchen range in our picture with skilled moulder at Swinton, Mexborough, Yorkshire, more than 100 years ago, along with other cooking ranges and hot water boilers.

In these days drawings were non-existent. A pattern was made and then from it with green sand from Mansfield a mould. After enough modifications to make it a “good fun” that was it. Over 100 different Yorkshire Ranges could be ordered with details such as “wrought iron drainboards with rack” – “Bright free” – “wrought iron crown”. You could also order Hotel. Restaurant or Mansion Cooking Ranges, Vegetable Scourers or Steam Jacketed Boiling Pans that eventually satisfied the appetite in the countries largest hotels. The Yorkshire Range we show was only taken from daily use and put into a South Yorkshire Industrial Museum earlier this year.

Change has been successfully made from those days when coal was the king fuel and Hattersley’s 80 Page catalogue included an article on the Art of Cooking well.

Now the main products are gas-fired Vulcan Continental and Verona Domestic Heating Appliances. These units have been developed completely by Hattersley, and their patented cast-Iron heat exchangers have the advantage of a close grain porous free structure. This is the result of continuous line production from resin bonded cores.

Vulcan Ranges are of course not intended for home cooking as were their earlier family but they do give warmth throughout the house and lots of hot water that would delight the original Thos. Hattersley and no doubt get a nod of approval from him.

Radiation Group

In 1886 John Wright, a tinsmith from Essex, set up a workshop in two attics in Broad Street, Birmingham, to make gas appliances, considered a dangerous occupation at the time! By 1872 he had organised a hire service for gas cookers and was also making convector heaters. In 1879 he handed a new thriving business over to his two sons. Demand grew so much that production was transferred to the present site at Essex Works, Birmingham, which was named after John Wright’s birthplace. The company at the turn of the century had sold over 850,000 “Farewa” cookers, and were also making ornate gas fires in metal surrounds.

Left: A Kitchen range made by Thos. Hattersley, well over 100 years old.
Then & Now

The Wright brothers sold out to young Henry James Yates, the first man to establish commercial laboratories with qualified chemists and physicists. It was he that persuaded five other companies to join with him to form Radiation Ltd in 1919. In 1964 the decision was taken to concentrate on making gas fires only, and the company became known as Radiation Gas Fires Ltd.

In 1969, new members of the Tube Investments Group, Radiation Gas Fires joined with other famous gas names—Ascot and Parkray, to form New World Gas Heating Ltd. In January 1977 New World Gas Heating and Glow-worm combined to form a new company called TI Gas Heating Ltd.

In 1858, three brothers set up a small foundry in Queen Street, Belper, and, by 1882, their bill-heads announced the company's products as including 'stove grates, kitchen ranges and all kinds of castings to drawings or patterns'. By the turn of the century, increased demand meant The Park Foundry Co. Ltd., moving to a new 13½ acre site at Derby Road, where it remains today. The clay on the site also proved excellent for brick-making and for some years the foundry operated as a brick producer as well.

In 1929, The Park Foundry Co. Ltd., became part of Bains Collier Ltd., which in turn joined the Radiation Group in 1936. Rationalisation in the post-war period saw the Park Foundry specialising in the manufacture of solid fuel appliances, taking over the combined interests of Wilson and Mathews of Leeds, and the Eagle Range of Birmingham until they separate areas in the Group.

The Radiation Group was taken over by Tube Investments Ltd. in 1967, and today Parkray are entirely responsible for the Group's solid fuel appliance production. In addition the Park Foundry also undertakes work for other members of T.I. Domestic Appliances.

Since World War II Parkray has done much to revolutionise the whole concept of solid fuel domestic heating, with the introduction of 'open fire' convector heaters and glass fronted solid fuel heaters.

In November 1934 Amos Whiteman, his sons and six others left the Park Foundry—now Parkray—and set up the Derwent Foundry at nearby Milford. They paid £500 to an established London company for patterns and the right to use the Glow-worm trade name, and began manufacturing solid fuel boilers, wood burning cookers and combination grates. In 1937, entrepreneur Lionel King bought the company, and it proved extremely profitable, but he in turn sold to the South Western Industrial Corporation in 1949. This company was split up a few years later, and a new company, Midland Aluminium, was set up including both Glow-worm and Tower Housewares.

The 1950s saw the development of a range of thermostatically controlled solid fuel boilers and the Thermosteam boiler, Glow-worm's first gas-fired appliance. Their real entry into the gas market however came with the acquisition of Bains Ltd. in 1966, which had patented a new heat exchanger design. The boom period meant expansion for Glow-worm, and they moved part of their operation to a new site at Belper, two miles away.

In 1975 Midland Aluminium became part of T.I. Domestic Appliances Limited, reinforcing Glow-worm's position in the gas central heating market with their domestic boilers and gas fires.

Electrical firms belong to the 20th Century but Creda can trace their origins back to 1898 when they were called Simplex Steel Conduit Ltd. Later the company changed its name to the Creda Ltd. and was based in Oldbury, near Birmingham. In 1905 Creda introduced their first electric cooker. Electricity was then still new and revolutionary and few people felt it would become an indispensable national fuel with considerable benefits. Creda became one of the founder members of Tube Investments Ltd in 1919. The Blythe Bridge works, in Staffordshire was acquired in 1945, and remains the headquarters of the company today, producing a wide range of electrical appliances.

In April 1973 Jackson Electric Limited of Yale merged with Creda, taking over...
the production of the comprehensive home laundry range and some crockery. Also in 1978 Creeda increased their hold on the electric heating market when they took over the marketing of the Sunhouse range of electric fires and heaters. Creeda continue to maintain their reputation as innovators today, the modern electric cooker owes much to their research and development as do the heating and home laundry products.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tubes and Fittings

The history of some of the constituent parts of Y.M. Ltd., an IM company devoted solely to the design and manufacture of copper and copper alloy tubes, plates and fittings, can be traced back almost 200 years. An organisation of six factories and subsidiaries, its headquarters and large manufacturing unit are located at Leeds at the site of a 19th Century racocours.

First industrial use of the site dates from 1889 when Elmore Depositing Co produced tube by depositing copper on mandrels using a patented process of electrolysis. This company later became the Leeds Copper Works. The enterprise failed to prosper and in 1899 the Yorkshire Copper Works was incorporated to acquire the undertaking. After initial difficulties the YCW began to make steady progress and demand for its products created by the 1914-18 war firmly established it. The 1920s saw the company making a name for itself as a producer of high quality condenser tubing and from 1930 onwards the works expanded rapidly as the use of copper for domestic plumbing became more widespread. This development was aided by the introduction of the now famous 'Yorkshire' integral ring capillary fitting in 1934.

After World War II considerable re-equipment and the adoption of modern production methods for both tube and fittings gave rise to another period of steady growth leading to the merger in 1958 with ICI Metals Division and the formation of the Yorkshire Imperial Metals that we know today.

Behind Y.M. Ltd. lies the accumulated skill and knowledge gained from years of experience working with copper and its alloys producing high quality products for the construction and engineering industries throughout the World. Products include: capillary fittings, compression fittings, microbore heating components, stopcocks and valves, copper and copper alloy tubes.

A Consulting Engineer in 1862

Although consulting engineers are not considered to have entered the building services industry until after World War I there is at least one exception.

In November 1862, Henry Lea, at the age of 23, started his career as a consulting engineer, and created the firm of Henry Lea & Son. He advised people to whom he thought that fact would be of interest by means of a letter, in copperplate writing, a copy of which appears here. It is interesting to note that even as long ago as 1862, he was concerned about the efficient use of fuel.

He was joined in the Partnership by his son Frederick, who took over the running of the practice in 1912 when Henry died. Frederick in turn took into Partnership Donald Lea in 1938, who was left in 1929 as sole Partner when Frederick died in that year. In 1939 Henry Lea & Son amalgamated with Edwin S. Hoare & Partners and formed the firm of Hooke Lea & Partners.

With the onset of war, the sort of work to which the Partnership had been accustomed—mostly hospitals, schools and all types of public building—ceased almost overnight. At the same time many of the staff joined HM Forces.

However, the building of factories, extensions of airfields and similar work became vital and extremely urgent. Of the remaining staff, some were deployed to work at airfields, etc., and after the bombing of Liverpool, were employed on the provision of emergency housing for the bomb-damaged people. Others were engaged designing bomb factories and similar essential works.

After the war, the firm became engaged again in the design of services for the peak school-building programmes of the 1950's and 60's, and followed this with a massive turnover of work for new and re-furbished hospitals.

With the current fall off in works in the U.K., the present Partners have enlarged their activities overseas, and have made regular trips to overseas markets throughout the year.

Builders Merchants

In 1905, a wholesale ironmongers premises at 49 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth trading as F. Betts, was sold to the shop manager and his traveller. These men were Richard...
Then & Now

Kennedy and William Trafford Clegg. Both came from the North of England—Richard Kennedy having been born in Ashton-under-Lyne in about 1670 and William Clegg, the son of a well known Rochdale writer and publisher, John Trafford Clegg. The business supplied building materials to an expanding Bournemouth which was fast becoming a fashionable holiday resort. It was not until 1912 that a private company was formed, Kennedy’s (Bournemouth) Ltd. In 1937 the company opened one of the most modern builders’ merchants premises in Southern England in Commercial Road, Southampton and also in that year the company opened extensive electrical goods showroom at 167 Holdenheight Road, Bournemouth. For most of the company’s first 30 years it relied upon its good reputation for quality, style and competitive prices to the building trade and it was not until 1931 that the first general illustrated catalogue was introduced.

The second catalogue appeared 30 years later in 1961 followed by a third in 1967 and the fourth in 1975. A glance at the company’s catalogues over the years shows the vast increase in sales of tools, paints and decorating materials.

Today Kennedy’s (Builders’ Merchants) Ltd forms the main trading arm of the Kennedy’s (Builders’ Merchants) Limited Group of Companies.

Chimneys

The scientific design of chimneys and flues is of comparatively recent origin. One leading firm, however, has a long history. F. E. Beaumont Ltd, the industrial chimney and air pollution control specialists, was established in 1876, when William G. Beaumont founded the firm of industrial painters and sheetmetal workers. After W. G. died in 1924, the firm continued in operation under the direction of his sons Percy and Albert. A year later Albert founded F. E. Beaumont to extend the sheetmetal work, and was joined in 1927 by his son Max.

Just before the outbreak of the 1939 war the firm was engaged in traditional sheetmetal work as well as the building of 200 ft. and 350 ft. high radar towers for the Air Defence of the UK. Later in the war the firm carried out the salvage of sunk shipping and also in the demolition of dangerous structures using high explosives.

In 1944 plant was purchased for the fabrication of steel chimneys and this grew considerably as the years passed. In 1958 a further factory was purchased and equipped for the fabrication of aluminium cladding for steel chimneys. By 1956 orders had outstripped the production capacity of the two London Works and a new factory of 30,000 ft. was built at Mere in Wiltshire. This was the first factory in the world designed solely for the mass production of individually designed steel chimneys. Output from the Mere factory is now approaching 50 tons of steel chimneys each working week, and this year Beaumont’s anticipate they will export and erect more chimneys overseas than in any previous year.

Max’s two sons Nicholas and Michael joined the Company in 1969 and 1973. Beaumont’s have designed, manufactured and erected 350 ft. high self-supporting and guyed chimneys, but continue to manufacture chimneys of all sizes above 1 ft. diameter.

Water Treatment

The Company now called Beaumont’s (Bournemouth) Ltd was founded in 1897, as a result of the initiative of a young American chemist named William Edgar, whose curiosity had been aroused when he chanced to see a scaled boiler being removed from a plant after only one year’s service. He decided to work out the chemistry of the problem and to look for a way of solving it. Now a division of the Chemco Corporation, the Beaumont operation covers two continents. Its research laboratories are based in the U.S.A., Canada and Widnes, England. The U.K. field force of over 70 professional chemists and engineers helps solve the water treatment problems of thousands of industrial users.

The primary objective of the Beaumont field specialist is to maintain customers’ plant at peak efficiency by the prevention of surface deposition and corrosion—whether the plant be used for steam generation, cooling, process, air-conditioning, or general plant services.

Emphasis in recent years has moved towards realising the potential of water-treatment technology in the sphere of energy and water conservation. Better blowdown heat recovery systems, for

Demolition of an old chimney by Beaumont’s in the 20's

Continued on page 777.
instance, are now a standard part of the Dearborn range of services.

Instruments
Foster-Cambridge have recently moved from two separate premises in North London, into a new purpose-built factory located just off the A1 near to St. Neots in Cambridgeshire. Joining Foster-Cambridge in this move are Fielden Electronics and Metawatt, creating one of the largest instrumentation companies in the UK, and bringing together expertise in electronic and mechanical process control instrumentation, level instrumentation, multi-meters and portable test equipment, as well as other specialised equipment. The new factory is the latest development in the history of a company whose origins go back to the beginning of the 1890s. Over the last 85 years, it has developed from a small concern housed in a single workshop, into one of the largest manufacturers of temperature control instrumentation in the U.K.

In 1891 Robert W. Paul started an instrumentation business in Hatton Garden, London, and in 1897 he moved his instrumentation manufacturing facilities, along with other business interests, to premises he had erected previously in a field at Muswell Hill. In 1920 the company was amalgamated with the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company and took the name of Cambridge and Paul, and in 1924 the company's name was again changed to Limited.

In 1964 the Cambridge Group of companies joined forces with the George Kent Group to make the largest independent British manufacturers of industrial instruments. After reorganisation, the industrial companies were separated from those involved in scientific and medical products and the Foster Instrument Company of Letchworth was amalgamated with Cambridge Instruments to form Foster Cambridge Ltd.