Obituary

MR. CHARLES HAMILTON

THE CREATOR OF BILLY BUNTER

Mr. Charles Hamilton, creator of the famous schoolboy character Billy Bunter, and one of the most prolific writers of boys' stories of any generation, died on Sunday at his home near Broadstairs, Kent, at the age of 86. He was best known by his pseudonym Frank Richards. It was the name which he preferred to his own.

Billy Bunter was only one of scores of popular schoolboy characters created by Hamilton, whose works have been eagerly read by millions. He was born in 1875 and began to write boys' stories as a youth of 17, but it was not until the publication of the weekly papers *The Gem* (1907) and *The Magnet* (1908), each of which contained a single long story, that his fecundity found full scope. In *The Gem*, as Martin Clifford, he wrote about the school of St. Jim's, where Tom Merry was the leader of the "Terrible Three" and Arthur Augustus D'Arcy ("Gussy") was a monocled "silly ass". For *The Magnet*, as Frank Richards, he created Greyfriars, with Harry Wharton heading the "Famous Five", one of whom was the quaintly spoken Hurree Jamset Ram Singh. Billy Bunter, "the fat Owl of the Remove", gradually became the leading character of *The Magnet*. A looter of tuck, a prevaricator, a pretender, affably fatuous, forever trying to borrow on the strength of a postal order which never came, he was everybody's butt: George Orwell described him as "a really first-rate character". Yet in the nineties Hamilton had offered the idea of Bunter to a publisher who "saw nothing in him".

For more than 30 years Hamilton wrote a large number of Greyfriars stories in *The Magnet* and no mean portion of *The Gem*. His annual output was estimated at a million and a half words (the equivalent of about 20 ordinary novels) and, on his own testimony, he "very frequently exceeded that quota".

Under the name of Owen Conquest, Hamilton chronicled a third school, Rookwood, in *The Boy's Friend*. As Hilda Richards, he created Bessie Bunter, a female counterpart of her brother, whose adventures were told, mostly by other pens, in schoolgirl papers; and as Ralph Redway he wrote Western stories. It was not until after *The Gem* and *The Magnet* had been discontinued, early in the Second World War, that the extent of Hamilton's industry became widely known. His readers had always been led to believe that Frank Richards, Martin Clifford and Owen Conquest were three distinct individuals. *The Gem* and *The Magnet* were not revived but in the postwar years Billy Bunter achieved the distinction of being published in book form and he had also figured in B.B.C. television programmes.

For much of his life Hamilton lived on the Continent. In his fifties his sight began to fail, but he was able to continue writing. Quick to fly to the defence of his schoolboy creations, he could be irascible when faced with patronizing criticism. In 1940 he joined issue with George Orwell, who had discussed his works in *Horizon*. In particular he resented the suggestion that his stories were deliberately written in a style which could easily be imitated. Stylized they were in many ways, notably in their "Ha! Ha! Ha!'s" and exclamations like "Oh, haddocks!" but Hamilton could legitimately claim to have brought much more to them.

He kept up his prolific output until very recently, completing his last book in November.

In recent years Hamilton, who was unmarried, lived at Kingsgate-on-Sea, Kent. As Frank Richards, he published a reticent autobiography in 1952.

THE VEN. W. R. PARK

The Venerable William Robert Park, C.I.E., O.B.E., a former Archdeacon of Rangoon, died on Monday at his home in Beccles, Suffolk, at the age of 81.

The son of H. G. Park, he was born on January 12, 1880, and educated at Christ's Hospital and Exeter College, Oxford. He was ordained in 1905 and after serving as a curate in the parishes of South Hill, Cornwall, Holy Trinity, Oxford, and Holy Trinity, Margate, he was organizing secretary of the Church Missionary Society for the Gloucester and Hereford dioceses from 1910 to 1912. It was in the latter year that his long service in the Rangoon diocese began.

During the First World War he became Assistant Principal Chaplain to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force in 1916, and Senior Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Indian Army Corps in 1917—the year in which he was made C.I.E. He was made O.B.E. in 1919.

Park was Archdeacon of Rangoon from 1934 until his return to this country in 1937. He was then successively rector of Campsea Ash and vicar of Stalisfield with Otterden before his retirement in 1958. From 1942 to 1949 he was Rural Dean of Wilford.

Park married in 1910 Rosamond Ella, daughter of the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, of Canterbury, by whom he had three daughters. His wife died in 1932.

M. HENRI CHARPENTIER

M. Henri Charpentier, who had been described as one of the last of the great French chefs, died in his café-home at Redondo Beach, California, on Sunday at the age of 81, Reuter reports.

At 16 he was maître d'hotel at Monte Carlo's Cafe de Paris. Later he became chef at the Savoy in London and Del Monico's in New York, but his fortunes changed with the end of the age of elegance and the coming of the motor car.

He arrived in the Los Angeles suburb of Redondo Beach with only about $10 but opened one of the world's most unusual restaurants, serving one meal a day for a few discerning gourmets, many of whom travelled hundreds of miles for the privilege.

Charpentier limited his guests to 16 and charged each one a modest eight dollars. The meal took all day to prepare and four hours to consume.

MRS. J. L. S. HALE

A friend writes:—

Many people will feel that their world has become duller with the death of Barbara Hale. Her distinguished father, the late Colonel Henry Worsley-Gough, was a leading figure in Anglo-French cultural exchanges between the wars, and from him she had inherited a passionate interest in things French. It was this and her Irish ancestry to which she owed her remarkable wit and her unusual powers as a conversationalist, and which inspired the long list of lively and successful books—best-selling novels, studies in English manners and even cookery books—published under her maiden name, Barbara Worsley-Gough. After the tragically early death of Jim, her barrister husband, she set about to build herself a new life in Carlyle Square, where her large and superbly furnished drawing-room became the nearest thing that most of us will ever know to a *salon*, and where she was able to bring light and life and gaiety to many drab lives. There will be not a few, also, who will remember with gratitude her hospitality at Ballymore Castle in co. Galway. The courage and cheerfulness with which she bore her last illness was no surprise to those who knew her.

THE REV. J. N. SANDERS

DEAN AND BURSAR OF PETERHOUSE

The Rev. Joseph Newbould Sanders, Fellow, Dean, and Senior Bursar of Peterhouse, and University Lecturer in Divinity, died on December 22 in hospital at Cambridge, at the age of 48, after an illness of some months.

He was born on July 19, 1913, at Lancaster, and was the son of J. N. Sanders, a stained glass artist. He attended Lancaster Royal Grammar School and went to Peterhouse with a major scholarship in Classics in 1932. He obtained Firsts in Classics and also in Theology and won many College and University awards. In 1936 he was Lady Kay Scholar at Jesus College; in 1937 Senior Scholefield Prizeman, Crosse Student, and Carus Greek Testament Prizeman; in 1938 Bye Fellow of Peterhouse. He had joined Westcott House and was ordained Deacon in 1936. Priested in 1939, he became Officiating Curate-in-Charge of Wilburton, in the Diocese of Ely in 1940.

Before that, from 1938, he had been Assistant Chaplain of Peterhouse. After some years teaching at Denstone College, he was incumbent of two country parishes: first, in 1943, of Glaston with Bisbrooke, Rutland; and then, in 1946, of Rampton, near Cambridge. He combined this last cure with a research fellowship at his college. On his appointment as Dean of Peterhouse in 1953 he was elected into an official fellowship. In the meantime he had become University Lecturer in Divinity (1950), and Domestic Bursar (1951). To these labours he lately added those of the Senior Bursarship.

His publications include *The Fourth Gospel in the Early Church* (1943), *The Foundations of the Christian Faith* (1951), and contributions to *Studies in Ephesians* (1956), and to *Studies in the Fourth Gospel* (1957). For many years he had worked on St. John's Gospel and his early death cuts off in his prime a distinguished scholar and is a blow to theology at Cambridge and to New Testament studies. Of conservative instincts, he yet combined these with a penetrating critical acumen. Cambridge and the Church of England have lost a first class teacher and preacher, a formidable apologist for Christianity, and a stalwart Anglican of something of the seventeenth century flavour. An inimitable blend of college don, country parson and patient genial administrator, he never spared himself. He was much respected and beloved.

He married Dorothy Clayton and she survives him with their three children.

MR. L. N. GOLDSMID-MONTEFIORE

Mr. Leonard Nathaniel Goldsmid-Montefiore, who died on Saturday, was born on June 2, 1889. He was the only child of Claude G. Montefiore, the theologian and philanthropist, who died in 1938, and by choice he lived in his father's shadow, supporting the causes and furthering the ideals which his father sought to advance.

He was educated at Clifton and Balliol College, Oxford. His father's home in Portman Square was the scene of many early meetings of the London Society for the Study of Religion, and the company of theologians became known to him from an early age. After going down from Oxford he became a resident at Toynbee Hall for some time. An officer in the Hampshire Territorials at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, he was on active service for the ensuing five years.

After his demobilization he occupied himself with occasional business interests, but he was concerned principally to continue, in a self-effacing but unflagging manner, the tradition of personal service to public causes which his father and many members of his family had established before him. As the scion of two of England's best known Jewish families he felt first the call of the Jewish community. He succeeded his kinsman Mr. (later Sir) Osmond d'Avigdor Goldsmid as president of the Anglo-Jewish Association in 1926, holding that office until 1939, and serving subsequently as treasurer (until 1945) and thereafter as vice-president. He gave devoted service to the West London Synagogue for over 30 years, and he was an active member of the Council of the Jewish Colonization Association for almost as long. The Jewish Board of Guardians, the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women, and the Bernhard Baron Settlement (to which his lifelong friendship for Basil Henriques gave him a special tie) all claimed his active support.

When the Jews of Britain were called upon to succour their German co-religionists Montefiore was among the leaders of the movement for their help. He was associated with the Central British Fund for German Jewry from its inception, and at the offices of the Jewish Refugees Committee he gave long hours to individual casework. In this way he came to be engaged in the battle against oppression on two fronts, for as president of the Anglo-Jewish Association during this period it fell to him (in conjunction with the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews) to seek the British Government's intercession, both directly and through the League of Nations, on behalf of persecuted Jews. He had been initiated into this work by Lucien Wolf (who in a similar capacity had been influential in urging the international protection of minorities) and strove to continue his work at a time when the dictators' lawlessness more and more dominated the European scene.

However undramatic the results, Montefiore was singularly happy in his relations with the Foreign Office. By 1939 the mounting wave of persecution on the Continent had turned Jewish opinion more decisively in favour of Zionism, with which he, though his opposition was always passive, never sympathized. He was inclined then to give up his public work, but when the outbreak of the 1939-45 War endangered some of the institutions to which he was attached he renewed his active connexion with their affairs.

Contact with him revealed immediately a bearer of European culture of the finest pre-1914 water. Through his own choosing his scholarship was less widely recognized. Unlike his father, who published several contributions to thought, he wrote nothing substantial. Scattered through Jewish publications of varying obscurity will be found a number of reviews and articles, all written in first-class style, backed by sound learning and enlivened by telling wit. He will be remembered too as an accomplished lecturer and occasional preacher. Those who knew him closely realized that his interest in theology and Bible studies revealed the mind and equipment of a scholar. But he will be remembered also for his personality.

Oddities were one of his great delights. Those who sought alms at his door he rewarded according to the originality of the untruths he thought they were telling; he would keep a man on a committee because he enjoyed his genial vulgarity, or protect an official because it amused him to see the man extract tips. He bespattered friends and colleagues with notes written in a delicate hand that seemed to linger in amusement over the letters it formed, and in them a Greek epigram or extempore rhyme might jostle with a peep at the skeleton in some family cupboard. He had an unfailing memory for the oddities of all the various characters with which he had associated.

In 1924 he married Muriel, daughter of the late Sir Adolph Tuck, and there were two sons of the marriage.

The former S.S. Major-General Kurt Meyer, who commanded the 12th Panzer Division during the fighting in Normandy, died on Saturday at the age of 51, Reuter reports from Luedenscheid, west Germany. He was sentenced to death by a Canadian court martial in 1945 for responsibility in the murder of 18 Canadian war prisoners. The sentence was commuted to life, then cut to 14 years, and he was released in 1954.

Lady Wiggin, wife of Sir Charles Richard Henry Wiggin, third baronet, died on Monday. She was Mabel Violet Mary, daughter of Sir William Jaffray, second baronet, and she was married in 1916.

MR. BARRY O'BRIEN

THEATRICAL MANAGER AND AGENT

Mr. Barry O'Brien, the theatrical manager and dramatic agent, died at his London home on Monday after a long illness. He was 69.

The son of Richard Barry O'Brien, he was born in London on December 23, 1892, and educated at St. Paul's School. He started his career as an actor, became a dramatic agent in 1925, and began production work in the same year when he revived *The Young Person in Pink*.

Later his presentations included such notable figures in the theatrical world and show business as Evelyn Laye, Marie Lohr, Fay Compton, Ivor Novello, Gladys Cooper, Dame Sybil Thorndike, Yvonne Arnaud and Alistair Sim. His first London production was *Meet the Wife*, presented at the St. Martin's theatre in June 1927. Among his later productions were *The Merry Widow* and *Lilac Time*. In 1940 he presented a season of repertory at the London Coliseum.

From 1940 to 1945 O'Brien took a number of shows on tour. After the war, he ran repertory seasons at Bournemouth, Southsea, Shanklin and Ryde. He arranged tours for the international ballet from 1947-50, including seasons at the Casino and the Coliseum.

In 1953 he ran repertory seasons at the Peoples' Palace, East London, and the Royal Theatre, Exeter, and began presenting the New Malvern company at Torquay in 1955. During this period he was taking on tour such plays as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Seagulls over Sorrento*, and *Reluctant Heroes*. He arranged a tour for the International Ballet in 1956. His last work for the ballet was to present Alicia Markova and Ram Gopal at the Princes Theatre, London, in 1960.

With his partner, Mr. Michael Hamilton, he had been working on preparation for a production of *Doctor at Sea* starring Ronald Shiner. The production will go into rehearsal shortly.

O'Brien was a bachelor.

COL. G. H. GARDNER McLEAN

Colonel G. H. Gardner McLean, O.B.E., director and former chairman of the Scottish building centre, and a well known Glasgow architect, has died at the age of 75.

He was a former president of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Institute of Architects, a vice-president of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and a former chairman of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of Scotland.

George Hunter Gardner McLean, the son of J. G. McLean, a Glasgow solicitor, was born in 1885 and educated in Glasgow and Londonderry. In the First World War he served in the Royal Engineers, being mentioned in dispatches, and in the Second World War was successively Deputy Chief Engineer, Scottish Command, and Chief of the Directorate of Emergency Works in Scotland.

He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1935 and in 1950 became a Deputy Lieutenant of Lanarkshire.

In 1935 he married Mary Hutchison, daughter of Robert Pate of Glasgow, by whom he had one son and one daughter.

MR. F. MEINHOLTZ

Mr. Frederick Meinholtz, director of the *New York Times* communications system for 30 years, died in hospital in New York on Saturday after a long illness. He was 71.

Meinholtz became a clerk with Western Union in his home town of St. Louis when he was 16, and remained in communications work all his life, pioneering in the development of short-wave radio news broadcasting. In the 1920s he was one of the founders of Press Wireless Inc., and remained a director until his death.

He was an inveterate monitor at home of long-distance radio communications between the newspaper and distant correspondents. One such incident in 1928 became famous.

The *New York Times* was in direct radio communication with Admiral Byrd's expedition to the South Pole, with exclusive rights to the Admiral's story. One night Meinholtz was at his home in a New York suburb, "listening in" to the exchanges with the explorer, when there was suddenly a break in the Admiral's dispatch, and he heard this message: "Meinholtz, Hilferty at the *Times* wants you to hang up your telephone receiver so that he can call you on the telephone."

This message had gone from the *New York Times* office more than 21,000 miles to the South Pole and back. Meinholtz complied with the instructions from the South Pole, and called his office, only 18 miles away.

In 1922 he married Mae M. Mackall, who survives him with their two sons.

MR. IKE HATCH

Mr. Isaac Flower Hatch, who was a well-known coloured singer under the name of Ike Hatch, was found dead in his London flat yesterday.

A member of the famous Kentucky Minstrels, he came to this country from New York in 1925. For the past five years he had been appearing almost nightly at a London club, although he had suffered from somewhat poor health recently.

MR. RONALD HORTON

J. H. B. writes:—

Britain, in its special relation of "Home" to many New Zealanders, has lost a good friend through the untimely death of Ronald Horton. His regard for this country was deep and affectionate.

He paid frequent visits here to keep abreast of developments in the newspaper world, but these visits were also a means of nourishing his appreciation of things British. In his own surroundings at Auckland his outward manner had more of English restraint than New Zealand ebullience in it, and more than one visitor from the Old Country, expecting a more uninhibited greeting, was disconcerted to encounter something of the withdrawn shyness which he thought had been left behind.

Those who came to know him better soon found this exterior concealed a generous and sympathetic solicitude, especially for those going through the sometimes trying experience of settling in a new home in a new country.

To the conduct of the *New Zealand Herald* and its sister papers, Ronald brought a touch of personal autocracy inherited from his parent, Sir Henry Horton, in his day a formidable yet fatherly figure, cast in the same mould as many an English captain of industry of a bygone era.

Under Ronald's guidance the old-established *Herald* cast off some of its Edwardian trappings and took its place as a modern newspaper in the best sense. He watched that it never pandered to ephemeral popularity and it was, and is, always calm, measured and responsible, reflecting in so many ways the personality of its chairman and the men he chose to produce this great Commonwealth newspaper.

In his own circle Horton was a loved and loving parent and kindly host, ready at all times to share in those pleasures of seashore and bush which come so readily to New Zealanders

DR. W. B. TURRILL

H. M. M. writes:—

Dr. Turrill maintained his connexion with Chelsea Polytechnic for several years after taking his degree, as a part-time teacher. His courses of evening lectures on evolution, heredity, and ecology attracted a wide circle of students and professional and amateur botanists. None of us who listened to him will ever forget the vivid impression of his enthusiasm, the freshness of his approach to his subject, and the extraordinary range of his interests and knowledge. All of his teaching was suffused with his warm personal qualities, which came out especially in a most informal and delightful way at the many field meetings with which he supplemented his lectures.

STRONG CHESS ENTRY

FIVE GRANDMASTERS FOR HASTINGS

FROM OUR CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ST. LEONARDS, Dec. 26

The thirty-seventh annual Hastings international chess congress will be opened here tomorrow at the Sun Lounge, St. Leonards, by Dr. J. Bronowski. There is a record entry of 215 players, divided among 25 sections, and the quality and nature of the entry is such that there can be no doubt that this congress will turn out to be a historic one.

The players in the Premier tournament, in the order of the draw, are J. Littlewood (Great Britain), M. Botvinnik (U.S.S.R.), M. Aaron (India), L. Barden (Gt. Britain), J. Penrose (Gt. Britain), K. Robatsch (Austria), A. Bisguier (U.S.), S. Flohr (U.S.S.R.), R. Wade (New Zealand) and S. Gligoric (Yugoslavia).

From the point of view of mere strength the entry is outstanding, containing as it does five international grandmasters, Botvinnik, Gligoric, Flohr, Bisguier and Robatsch, and three international masters, Aaron, Penrose and Wade. There should be much fine chess played here during the course of the next 10 days.

EVEN FIELD

The most striking point, however, is the return of the world champion Botvinnik to the scene of one of his rare tournament failures. For he was last here in the 1934-35 congress when he came equal fifth and sixth with Lilienthal and was beaten by both Sir George Thomas and Dr. Euwe, who tied for first place together with Salo Flohr. If his play in the last world championship match against Tal is any guide, then Botvinnik should efface this lapse by winning first prize here.

His chief rival is the Yugoslav grandmaster Gligoric who has won first prize here at the last two events in succession. He, too, would seem to be in great form at the moment, as shown, for instance, by his equal third place at Bled last October together with Keres and Petrosian. It should however be observed that the world champion almost always held the whip hand in his individual encounters with the Yugoslav, so that the likeliest result appears to be Botvinnik first and Gligoric second.

The attractively even nature of the field is such as to make it practically impossible to designate a favourite for either third or fourth place, but your Correspondent at any rate would not be surprised if the British champion Jonathan Penrose were to figure in one of these positions. His defeat of Tal at the last Olympiad at Leipzig shows that he is capable of beating any player in the world, and all British chess players will be hoping for something like this here.

SOVIET MASTER

Another interesting figure this time is the Soviet grandmaster Flohr. In the 1930s, when he was regarded as a contestant for world championship honours, he had a most impressive series of first prizes at Hastings, where he came first three years in succession. Nowadays, however, the keen edge of his play has become blunted, first by excess of tournament competitions and latterly by much journalistic work. In consequence, though still a great player he has a marked tendency for too many draws and so does not really come into consideration for the highest honours.

Karl Robatsch is a fine player from Austria who attained the grandmaster title by his excellent record on top board for that country at the 1960 Leipzig Olympics. He should do well on his first appearance here, though he may be handicapped by lack of practice. The American, Arthur Bisguier, on the other hand, seems to have been playing almost continuously during the last half year. He, too, should prove a dangerous opponent for the very best players.

Little is known in this country about the Indian champion Manuel Aaron. He played well on top board for India at Leipzig where he beat Dr. Euwe, and he has recently won a match with some ease against the Australian master C. J. S. Purdy, thereby qualifying for a place in the forthcoming interzonal tournament. He must, therefore, be of good master strength, and it would be only just and proper if the country from which the game of chess originated should be represented by a prizewinner here.

AGGRESSIVE PLAYER

Of the home players—for though Robert Wade has been classed as New Zealand in the programme he has been resident for so long in England as to come in this category—perhaps the most interesting is John Littlewood, a Lincolnshire schoolmaster. His style is enterprising and aggressive, and he may well do better than some of his more experienced rivals. Wade too is a fighting player, likely to upset even formidable opponents, while Barden, the openings expert par excellence, has nearly always done well at Hastings.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

BIRMINGHAM

The university have accepted a gift of £50,000 from Mr. J. R. H. Sumner. It is intended to be applied for the better equipment, improvement, and maintenance of the new rheumatism wing of the clinical research annexe to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where the research work of the clinical departments of the university is carried out.

EXETER

At a Congregation to be held on May 3 next the Chancellor, the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, will confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Councillor A. P. Steele-Perkins, Mayor of Exeter. The ceremony will take place during celebrations by the city of the 800th anniversary of the grant of its first charter.

Dr. A. M. Parfitt, B.A., M.B., B.Chir. (London), of University College Hospital Medical School, has been appointed Senior Lecturer (Clinical) in Medicine at Queensland University.

Dr. W. Layton, B.Sc. (Durham) Ph.D. (Durham), of Durham, has been appointed Lecturer in Geology at Queensland University.

Dr. R. E. White, M.Sc., Ph.D. (New Zealand), of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Nuclear Physics at Auckland University.

CLUB LEADER DIES AFTER SHOOTING

Miss Angela Old, aged 23, shop assistant, of Treburgett Farm, St. Teath, Cornwall, was discharged from hospital yesterday after being treated for a bullet wound received in an incident at her home on Saturday night when a youth club leader was fatally injured.

He was Mr. John George, aged 21, also of St. Teath, who died in hospital at Truro on Monday morning. He had a bullet wound in the head. Police visited the farm and took possession of a revolver.

ATTACKED MAN DIES AFTER PARTY

Detectives waited at the bedside of an injured man in St. Bartholomew's Hospital yesterday to interview him after a drinking party on a bombed site in Yalford Street, Whitechapel, E., on Saturday night.

Frank Harrington, aged 32, of no fixed address, who was jabbed several times in the face with a broken bottle during a fight, died in London Hospital on Sunday afternoon.

Finance, Industry, and Commerce

Communications for the City Office should be addressed to 15, George Street, E.C.4 (Telephone, Mansion House 4702 & 1378 and Mincing Lane 6654). All other communications to THE TIMES should be sent to Printing House Square, E.C.4 (Telephone, Central 2000).

COMPANY NEWS

S.A.I.'s RESEARCH EXPENDITURE AT HIGHER LEVEL

HARVEY & SONS' £238,630 ACQUISITIONS

A higher level of expenditure on research and development work since the end of the financial year has been approved by the directors of the Scottish Agricultural Industries, controlled by Imperial Chemical Industries. This is necessary, states the report, if the company is to continue to hold its own as one of the leaders in technological development in the fertilizer industry.

Fertilizer prices have been reduced in each of the last three seasons. With demand rising and with efficiency increasing and costs consequently falling, it was possible to initiate these price reductions, the board add, and sustain them for a considerable time without thereby depressing profits. During 1960-61, however, there was no further increase in demand beyond the exceptional level reached of the previous summer. Some costs tended to increase and, in the absence of any further rise in the volume of sales, the reductions that were made in the prices proved to be, to some extent, at the expense of profitability.

The low freight rates payable in recent years on imported raw materials are now moving upwards and the prices paid for some of these raw materials were also higher. Experience gained from recent experiments with phosphate from the Kola peninsula of Russia gave promise of satisfactory results and the company has accordingly made arrangements to secure a portion of its supplies from this source over a period of years.

Site work has begun on the project, estimated to cost £1,250,000, for the conversion of Sandilands Works, Aberdeen, to the production of ammonium phosphate and the more concentrated compounds which can be made from it. Although final completion of the project will be somewhat delayed it is expected that some of the new plants will come into production in 1962.

MAINTAINED DIVIDEND FORECAST

Harvey and Sons, producers of quality leathers and components for the shoe industry, has acquired the businesses of Stamina Shank, of Leicester, Harvey and Sons (Lasts), of Leicester, T. Pryce Hamer (Leather), and J. Duxbury and Sons, of Blackburn, for a total consideration of 636,348 ordinary 5s. shares of Harvey and Sons, quoted at around 7s. 6d.

Excluding the profits of these businesses, which are expected in a full year to contribute not less than £40,000 before tax, profits of the group for the year ending March 31, 1962, are expected to be in excess of those of last year. A dividend of 10 per cent (same) and a tax-free distribution of 3 per cent (same) out of capital profits are foreshadowed on the capital as increased by the above acquisitions. The board is "satisfied" with progress made in the current financial year.

BRITISH ENKALON ISSUE FAILURE

About 1,025,000 of the shares provisionally allotted to the former minority stockholders of British Enka have been subscribed for. Underwriters will therefore be required to take up 84.87 per cent of their commitments.

KALI (JAVA) RUBBER ACQUISITION

The Kali (Java) Rubber Plantations, already foreshadowed, propose to acquire all the issued share capital, not already owned, of Productofoam Rubber (London) and a 94.3 per cent interest in an associated company, Latex Surgical Products Ltd., for a total consideration of £67,290. The purchase price is to be settled by the issue of 652,590 Kali ordinary shares valued at par. The combined profits of the group, comprising Latex, Productofoam, and its subsidiary, Sebec, for the year to April 30 last, amounted to £22,518.

Profits in the current year should be at least equal to those of last year. On that basis, the board would recommend a dividend on increased capital of not less than 7½ per cent. Such a payment would be covered about three times, says the board. No dividend has been paid since 1956.

S. SMITH AND SONS' OFFER FOR LODGE PLUGS

The formal offer by S. Smith and Sons (England) for the issued share capital of Lodge Plugs has now been sent to shareholders. As already announced the offer is 19s. cash for each 5s. ordinary stock unit of Lodge. Mr. V. Martin-Jones, chairman of Lodge, in referring to the offer of 16s. 6d. a share made previously by Morgan Crucible, says that the board were not prepared to recommend any offer which was not in excess of 20s. a stock unit. The view taken by the directors as to the position and prospects of Lodge remains unchanged. They anticipate that the net profit for the current year will be about the same as for the preceding year but that there should be some growth in 1962 and the following years.

Account has been taken, however, of the fact that the £250,000 Convertible Notes held by Morgan Crucible give them if converted 22.2 per cent of the equity. This is of importance to any proposing purchaser although Smiths has not attached any conditions on this point. Accordingly in the present circumstances the directors recommend stockholders to accept the offer from Smiths.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING BUREAU

A new company limited by guarantee without share capital called the Evening Newspaper Advertising Bureau has recently been registered. The original number of members is 100 each being liable for £100 in the event of winding-up. The subscribers are:—Birmingham Post and Mail; Birmingham Dispatch and Mercury; Thomson Organization; Westminster Press Provincial Newspapers; Express & Star (Wolverhampton) and the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo.

PROVINCIAL TRACTION PROFITS LOWER

In a circular to shareholders of Provincial Traction the chairman, Mr. D. E. Webb, states that group profit for the year to December 31 will show a "material" reduction over that for the past year. It is clear also that group resources at the present time must be conserved. As already announced, the interim dividend has been passed, but a final will be considered when the year's full results are known, taking into account conditions as they are at that time. The board is hopeful that as a result of steps already taken and further reorganizations to be introduced the company's motor trading section will once more trade at a profit in 1962, but it is not possible to forecast the future while the trading of the motor industry generally remains at its present level. The directors have abandoned their plans for a rights and a debenture issue and propose to fund £300,000 of a special loan out of sums to be raised by a three-year mortgage on certain properties. Having regard to available bank facilities, they are of the opinion that the group has sufficient working capital for present requirements. The entire indebtedness of the group as at December 18 amounted to £578,899.

AMALGAMATED PACKAGING INDUSTRIES

Following the formation of a holding company in Canada, Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries (Copi) as owner of its three subsidiaries in the West Indies, the directors of Amalgamated Packaging Industries, incorporated in South Africa, propose, in effect, to give shareholders one share of 25 cents in Copi for every share of 50 cents in Amalgamated and to offer to them a rights issue in Copi shares at par on the basis of 10 for 24. Permission is being sought for a quotation of the shares of Copi on the Stock Exchanges in London and Johannesburg.

ASSAM TRADING (HOLDINGS)

Sir Frederick C. Bourne, chairman of Assam Trading (Holdings) tells shareholders in his annual statement that profits for the first six months of the current year show an improvement over the figures for the similar period last year. In general turnover continues to improve and the increased utilization of the group's manufacturing capacity is beginning to be reflected in trading margins. Income from investments was satisfactory, adds Sir Frederick. However, the outlook for the current year is not so happy, owing to the increased world production of tea and the fall in prices.

BOVIS HOLDINGS

Bovis Holdings has acquired for £88,000 in cash the remaining 50 per cent interest in B.K. Developments, which has now become a wholly-owned subsidiary in the group. The arrangement between the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society and Bovis through B.K. Developments will continue.

FORWARD TRUST

The accounts of Forward Trust, a hire purchase subsidiary of Midland Bank and Clydesdale & North of Scotland Bank, show a profit before tax of £6,000 for the year ended October 31 compared with £33,000 for the previous year. This is after a subvention payment from the Midland Bank of £1,300,000; last year no such payment was made. Hire purchase debtors were £44,401,000 (£28,137,000) after provision for bad debts and less unearned finance charges of £4,680,000 (£3,265,000).

The directors do not recommend payment of any dividend on the ordinary shares.

JAMES ROTHWELL

The directors of James Rothwell Ltd., textile manufacturers, recommend the offer of 6s. a share by Europa Textiles for the whole of the 3,480,000 ordinary stock units of 2s. The directors' holdings total 958,500 stock units. In the statement recommending the bid the directors say that in the current state of the textile trade and the uncertainties about the Common Market they cannot be sure of improving on the average profit of the past five years. There was an increase of £17,000 in the profits before depreciation and tax for the first half of the current year but these are not necessarily a guide to the results for the year as a whole. For the year to April 30 last profits totalled £172,000 before tax.

INVESTORS' MORTGAGE SECURITY CORPORATION

In accordance with the Chancellor's request the board of the Investors' Mortgage Security Corporation are maintaining the total distribution at 16 per cent with a final payment of 10 per cent. Gross revenue for the year ended November 30 amounted to £782,698 compared with £738,452 in the preceding year. The taxation charge was £324,492 (£292,777), leaving £370,224 (£358,056).

R. A. LISTER

Net current assets of R. A. Lister at September 30 amounted to £8,079,005 compared with £7,941,004 a year ago. Balance at bankers and cash in hand was £1,043,133 (£786,198). Stocks increased from £4,807,384 to £5,619,189.

LONDON SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST

The directors report of the London Scottish American Trust states that in the past year the trust's net income rose by 6 per cent compared with an increase of 13 per cent in the preceding year. In general, the continuing trend is for United Kingdom industrial companies to report declining profits and, in some cases, to reduce dividends. However, increases in dividends from dollar holdings should balance any likely decrease in sterling income.

MARSHALL SONS

For the sixth year in succession Marshall Sons, general engineers and machinery manufacturers, are paying a dividend of 5 per cent on the ordinary 5s. shares. Group net profit increased from £71,008 to £97,479, after tax of £107,482 (£78,339) and after crediting provisions in respect of previous years no longer required of £7,982 (£11,499).

John Fowler & Co. (Leeds), a subsidiary of Marshall Sons, manufacturers of diesel crawler tractors, &c., had a net profit for the year ended September 30 of £27,054 compared with £32,442 in the previous year, after tax of £16,850 (£34,099).

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS

No preference dividend for the half year to December 31 is being paid by Raphael Tuck and Sons. The last preference payment was 3.495d. paid in 1959 on account of 1957.

SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST

The balance sheet of Scottish Investment Trust shows that investments with a book value of £4,085,000 (£3,876,000) had a market value of £14,617,000 (£12,583,000). This represents an appreciation of 258 per cent compared with 225 per cent a year ago.

Mr. T. J. Carlyle Gifford, the chairman, says that the outlook for investments in Great Britain does not suggest that they will produce an increase of revenue for the current year but there are grounds for hoping for some increase from investments in the United States. The percentage of investments in North America has been increased from 40 per cent last year to 48.8 per cent.

TAVERNER RUTLEDGE

Taverner Rutledge, manufacturing confectioners, has acquired for cash the whole of the share capital of Messrs. Taverner and Sons, of London. It is stated that the similarity of names is not entirely coincidental, the principals being distantly related, but it is only in recent months that the benefits of merging became apparent. It is felt that the merger will broaden the base of the parent company, and offer "considerable" benefits in sales, distribution and purchasing to Messrs. Taverner and Sons. Both companies will continue to operate independently.

WILLIAM E. DUNN

With the new blast furnace in operation the profits of Goldendale Iron Works, a subsidiary of William E. Dunn, are likely to improve for the current year, says Mr. C. H. Lea, the chairman. He reports in his annual statement that the demand for the parent company's trade in non-ferrous metals is also improving.

AFRICAN INVESTMENT TRUST

Mr. A. H Ball, chairman of the African Investment Trust, says in his annual statement to shareholders that at the date of the balance-sheet (September 30), the total market value of the company's investments was £16,000 below the book value. At the time of writing his statement there is an appreciation over the book value of £1,020,995 of some £44,000. The bulk of the investments—in fact, two-thirds in value—are in companies operating in Africa. Of the other one-third of the portfolio, 22 per cent comprises United Kingdom commercial and industrial companies and 11 per cent American, Canadian, and other companies.

CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER

Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate are reducing the total payment for the year ended June 30 by 15 points to 30 per cent, with a final dividend of 20 per cent (32½ per cent). Net profit amounted to £94,343 compared with £116,095, after tax of £26,906 (£46,698).

CEYLON AMALGAMATED TEA ESTATES

Ceylon Amalgamated Tea Estates announce that they have been advised by their Colombo agents that the contract for the sale of Karagahatenne Estate for Rs.400,000 (£30,000 at 1s. 6d. to the rupee) has been signed and the 10 per cent deposit received. Completion of the sale will be effected on February 1 and in accordance with Exchange Control regulations the sale proceeds will be placed in a blocked account.

INDUSTRIAL FILMS

WORLD CIVIL ENGINEERING

BUILDING HARBOURS IN W. INDIES

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

With so many large scale building and civil engineering projects in various parts of the world it is not surprising to find that several films have been made on this subject in recent months.

The Place Where I Work (Colour: 28 minutes) made for the Nuclear Power Group (whose member companies mentioned in the film comprise Associated Electrical Industries; Clarke, Chapman & Company; Head Wrightson & Company; Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons; C. E. Parsons & Company; A. Reyrolle & Company; Strachan & Henshaw; John Thompson; and Whessoe Limited), tells of the progress of the Bradwell Nuclear Power Station from early 1958 to 1961. One of the first two commercial nuclear power stations in Great Britain, a base load station having a net electrical output of 300MW, it is due to be completed next year. The story is well told through the eyes of the chief resident engineer, Mr. Andrew Young, by means of some first rate photography. The film, made by Films of Today in association with the Film Producers Guild, was produced and directed by Mr. G. Busby and photographed by Mr. J. Wiles.

Deep Water at Bridgetown (Colour: 30 minutes) produced by the Richard Costain Film Unit with the cooperation of the Government of Barbados not only tells the story of the construction of the new deep water harbour built by Richard Costain with Coode and Partners as consulting engineers but also touches on the harbour's effect on the economic and social life of a Caribbean island. Particularly impressive is the underwater sequence showing how divers directed the placing of massive concrete blocks 40 feet below the surface in order to construct the breakwater. The film was produced by Mr. Mike Healy and the music composed by Mr. Edric Connor.

£1,300,000 PROJECT

A new film produced by John Laing and Son gives an interesting account of vital stages in the building of the recently completed factory for Bowater Packaging on an 18-acre site at Gillingham, Kent. This was a £1,300,000 project covering 400,000 sq. ft. and comprising a main production block, offices, ancillary buildings and external works, the building of which was completed in 46 weeks. Called *Building as a Team* (Colour: 25 minutes) the film stresses the value of good organization based upon sound planning, costing, work study, and the close integration of services resulting in efficient control from tender to completion.

In order to successfully combine light entertainment and sales promotion one needs a good script, competent acting, and where domestic scenes are involved a certain warmth and sincerity, essentials that are to a certain extent lacking in *To Last a Lifetime*, a film produced by the Irish Linen Guild to illustrate the qualities of Irish linen, the variety of types and finishes available and their uses in the home. While the sales promotion sequences in this film are reasonably effective, the story around which the film is constructed fails to convince. *To Last a Lifetime*, made by Technical and Scientific Films in association with the Film Producers Guild, was produced by Mr. Cyril Randell and directed by Mr. Godfrey Jennison.

The vital necessity to ensure hygiene in the home and so avoid food poisoning and other illnesses forms the subject of a new Unilever film entitled *Room for Hygiene* (Colour: 16 minutes) intended mainly for schools and domestic science classes but also suitable for showing to factory personnel associated with the working of the factory canteen. The film shows how bacteria are always present in the home and among other things emphasizes the importance of washing the hands, keeping working surfaces clean, cooling cooked foods quickly and wrapping and burning rubbish. It was produced by Knight Films, was directed by Mr. Derrick Knight and includes photo micrography by the St. Mary's Hospital Photographic Unit.

21. BRITISH OIL AND CAKE

FILM LIBRARY

The British Oil and Cake Mills have nearly 50 films available on free loan on various aspects of cattle and pig and poultry farming including a number on modern production methods and the control of diseases. A complete list of films available may be had on application to the press relations officer, the British Oil and Cake Mills, 2, Kingscote Street, London.

INDEBTEDNESS OF LATIN AMERICAN IMPORTERS

Draft indebtedness of Latin American importers to United States exporters increased in November to the highest level since July, 1953, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has announced. The debts of Latin American importers increased in 15 of the 23 countries, according to the bank's monthly survey of 11 large commercial banks.

United States exporters drew $46,500,000 in new drafts on Latin American importers during November, while $42,500,000 in outstanding drafts were paid by these importers. Accordingly total drafts outstanding increased by $4m. to $230,800,000 at the end of the month.

The report said outstanding draft indebtedness of importers in Argentina rose by $2,800,000 to $28,300,000 at the end of November, a new high for that country. New drafts drawn on Argentine importers were also at a record totalling $6,300,000 in November, $2,600,000 more than in October. Drafts paid increased by $400,000 to $3,500,000. For the other countries the reported changes in total outstanding draft indebtedness were small.—*Comtelburo.*

MORE INDIAN JUTE MILLS UNSEALED

CALCUTTA, Dec. 26

The Indian Jute Mills Association decided on Friday, as a further means of relieving the shortage of goods ready for shipment, that member mills should be permitted during January to unseal another 2.5 per cent of their looms, thus reducing the sealed proportion of looms to only 7 per cent—the lowest level for several years.

The association says that in spite of measures taken in the past few months to increase output the shortage of ready goods persist because of the pent-up demand arising from overseas consumers running down their stocks. For fibre the problem is no longer a shortage of supplies, but rather the maintenance of price levels against an unusually large quantity placed by sellers. The association, with the object of supporting the price, has directed member mills to ensure that arrivals in Calcutta are being fully taken up.

BUSINESS CHANGES

Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. announce with great regret that Sir Harold Howitt is retiring on December 31. He has been a partner for 50 years.

G. Maunsell and Partners, consulting and chartered civil engineers, of London and Melbourne, announce that Mr. P. H. F. Andrew and Mr. E. P. C. Hughes have been appointed associates of the partnership. The address of their Australian office is now 277, William Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr. C. W. Hampton, financial secretary of the Royal and the Liverpool & London & Globe insurance companies has been appointed financial secretary also of the London and Lancashire and Law Union & Rock insurance companies with effect from January 1, 1962. The "London and Lancashire" and "Law Union & Rock" investment departments will move to Bow Bells House, Bread Street, London, on January 1.