

# THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE

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## PROCEEDINGS

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute will be held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday, 19th April, 1944. The programme for the day will also include a Luncheon, the Mather Lecture and Afternoon Tea. Full details of arrangements will be supplied to members in the near future.

### Mather Lecture

The Mather Lecture, which is to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, will be given by Professor G. D. H. Cole. His subject will be "Educational Reconstruction with some Special Reference to the Textile Industries."

### Chairman of Council

Mr. J. E. Dalton, who has been Chairman of the Council since May, 1943, has recently tendered his resignation from the Council and from all Committees because of health reasons. The members of Council have accepted the resignation with great regret. Mr. Dalton has served the Institute in many capacities over a long period, and his presence will be greatly missed. He still remains as a member, however, and his advice will always be available. The vacancy created on the Council will not be filled until the Annual General Meeting.

Mr. H. G. Greg, who was the Vice-Chairman, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Council at the February meeting.

### Election of Officers, 1944

Normally ten members of Council retire annually, but in 1944, because of casual vacancies which have occurred during the year, there will be twelve vacancies. The names of those due to retire are shown in the following list, and in addition there are two other vacancies which occurred recently and which will not be filled until the Annual Meeting.

C. H. Colton (Manchester)  
H. G. Greg (Styal)  
H. Hardy (Morley)  
R. Lord (Lancaster)  
F. Pickles (Leeds)

E. J. Poole (Bradford)  
R. J. Smith (Manchester)  
J. B. Speakman (Leeds)  
A. J. Turner (Belfast)  
H. A. Turton (Nuneaton).

It has been decided that if a ballot is necessary, the first ten candidates who are elected shall serve for a period of three years, the eleventh candidate for a period of two years and the twelfth candidate for a period of one year.

Election takes place at the Annual General Meeting, and nomination forms are being supplied to members of the Institute so that nominations for the twelve vacancies occurring in 1944 may be made.

The Council has nominated Mr. T. H. McLaren, of Dundee, for election as President for the year 1944-45. Mr. F. W. Barwick (Manchester), Mr. F. Kendall (Shipley), and Dr. J. C. Withers (Manchester) have been nominated for election as Vice-Presidents.

## Institute Membership

The following applicants were elected to membership at the February meeting of Council:—

### *Ordinary.*

- Frank Bailey, Messrs. Frank Bailey Ltd., Beechwood Mills, Ovenden, Halifax (Dyer and Finisher).
- Robinson Buck, A.C.A., B.Com.Sc., Robert R. Buck & Sons Ltd., Nelson Street, Carlisle (Textile Manufacturer).
- P. F. Burns, 6, Marine Drive, Fairhaven, Lytham, Lancs. (H.M. Inspector of Schools).
- Brindley Jack Brown, A.M.C.T., 24, The Oval, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire (Research and Development Executive, Thos. French & Sons Ltd., Chester Road Mills, Manchester, 15).
- Fuller E. Callaway, Junr., Callaway Institute Inc., LaGrange, Georgia, U.S.A. (President, Callaway Mills, LaGrange, Georgia, U.S.A.).
- Brian Greaves Campbell, 7, Redburn Avenue, Shipley, Yorks (Director and Sales Manager, Allied Colloids (Bradford) Ltd., Valley Road, Bradford, Yorks.).
- Joseph Henry Chapman, "Mayfield," 9, Clifton Grove, Mansfield, Notts. (Chief Engineer and Technical Adviser, Forster, Clay and Ward, Mansfield).
- J. Clarke, 2, Lucknow Drive, Mansfield, Notts. (Maintenance Mechanic, Quortex Ltd., Mansfield).
- Reginald Garner, 6, Sparthfield Avenue, Rochdale (Head Salesman, Wilson & Co. (Barnsley) Ltd., Barnsley).
- William John Hopkins, 232, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (Assistant Manager, S.A.A. (Components), Carpet Trades Ltd., Kidderminster).
- Ronald L. Kitchen, 2, Mount Street, Cowlersley, Huddersfield (Dyer, John Kaye & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd., King's Mill, Huddersfield).
- Charles B. Ordway, B.S., M.S., 2712, Roswell Avenue, Charlotte, N. Carolina, U.S.A. (Textile Chemist, American Aniline Products, Inc., 301, East 7th Street, Charlotte, N.C., U.S.A.).
- James Jackson Sanderson, 6, Beechwood Avenue, Stanwix, Carlisle (Textile Factory Manager, Robert R. Buck & Sons Ltd., Nelson Street, Carlisle).
- Maurice Schofield, 1, Clough Park Avenue, Grasscroft, Greenfield, Nr. Oldham (General Manager, Buckley & Co. (Greenfield) Ltd., Kinders Mill, Greenfield, Nr. Oldham).
- Charles Smith, c/o Dunbar Mills, Shamnagar, B. & A. Rly., Bengal, India (Weaving Master).
- Philip Walter Smith, B.Sc., Ph.D., 203, Park Road, Bolton (Chemist & Dye-stuffs Technician, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester).

George Johnson Warburton, "Sunnyside," Roscow Avenue, Brightmet, Bolton (Spinning Manager, Vantona Textile Ltd., Moor Mills, Parrot Street, Bolton).

*Junior.*

Reginald George Barr, 7, Union Street, Portadown, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland (Apprentice Factory Manager, Wm. Ewart & Son Ltd., Tavanagh Factory, Portadown).

Brian Eatock, 203, Belmont Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancs. (Student, Manchester College of Technology).

Jacob Gitkinas, 181, Legrams Lane, Lidget Green, Bradford, Yorks. (Designer and Production Clerk, David Pike & Co. Ltd., Ebor Mills, Bingley, Yorks.).

### Diplomas

Elections to Fellowship have been completed as follows since the appearance of the previous list (December issue of the *Journal*):—

MILTON HARRIS, B.Sc., Ph.D.,

Director of Research, Textile Foundation, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

ALEXANDER MELVILLE, M.I.Mech.E.,

Chief Engineer, Standish Co. Ltd., Wigan.

### John William Nasmith (1860-1943)

J. W. Nasmith, Honorary Fellow of this Institute, can be said to have been nurtured in the textile machine industry. His father, John Nasmith, who came originally from Ecclefechan and was born within about 300 yards of the birthplace of Thomas Carlyle, joined the firm of John Hetherington & Sons, Ltd., some time in the 1840's. In 1851 he patented an improvement on the Heilmann comber, and was, at that time, a foreman in the firm of John Hetherington. J. W. Nasmith served his apprenticeship at John Hetherington's and subsequently after serving for some little time in Italy, went to reside at Mulhouse in Alsace, from which centre he travelled the Continent and sold Hetherington's preparatory and spinning machinery. Even while he was doing this he was inventing, but did not invent anything material in relation to a textile machine. Still it showed his trend, and all the time he was located in Mulhouse, until 1900 or 1901, he was perfecting the invention with which his name has been subsequently connected, namely, a very revolutionary improvement on the old Heilmann type of comber. It was in 1901 that he took out his first patent (B.P.13,758, July 6th, 1901) for the Nasmith comber and ever since that date until the time of his death, he was perfecting the machine, improving it and applying to it further inventions which were the subject matter of a number of patents. It was only a day or two before he died that he completed some further improvements in connection with combing mechanism. He also made some inventions in relation to a wool comber as distinct from a cotton comber, and no doubt at a later date we shall hear something about this. The writer is given to understand that it has been already subjected to trials.

Subsequent to the date he took out his first patent he interested himself in other matters, particularly in box-making machinery, and he certainly invented an automatic machine which was a big advance on anything that had been previously produced, because most of these machines came from Germany in the first place. He also invented some steam appliances, particularly the Nasmith steam trap in which he employed the principle of the "lazy tongs." In addition, he made himself a master in the use of the slide rule and wrote a very concise and informative little text book on the instrument.

He was educated at the Chorlton High School under John Angell, and perfected himself in Latin so that at a later date, as he said himself, he easily acquired a command of foreign languages, particularly French. His residence in Germany also enabled him to perfect his knowledge of German.

He was an extremely active individual all his long life and even up to a few days before his death he was busy in the workshop at his residence, in applying certain new ideas to his already very much improved type of combing machine. He stated quite candidly when the Honorary Fellowship was presented to him in 1931\*, that he was imbued with two ideas, one to make a little money for himself, and the other to present to the Industry a machine which would be an improvement on anything that had yet been introduced and would give higher production and a better quality of product. He achieved both objects and he was very definitely proud of the fact that the Textile Institute thought him worthy to be numbered amongst the men on whom they bestowed the Honorary Fellowship.

FRANK NASMITH, F.T.I.

Undoubtedly so far as the cotton spinning world is concerned the name of Nasmith is welded into history. No one ever exercised so much influence on the process of cotton combing as did John William Nasmith. Even Heilmann, the originator of the first cotton combing machine was eclipsed by the life's work of Nasmith. All the great names of the cotton combing world are evoked by his passing: Pinet Lecour, Hetherington, Gegauff, Hübner, Delette, Schlumberger, etc.

The cradle of the best cotton combing machinery was in Alsace from whence J. W. Nasmith was recalled by Messrs. Hetherington to assist in producing the "Delette" comber for the cotton trade in general. In the course of this work he fortunately conceived the idea of combining three rival methods of combing into one machine. The resulting machine was a revolutionary success as it combined great elasticity with increased production and wonderful simplicity. Previously cotton combing had been an expensive operation on account of the meagre productions and the too sensitive mechanisms of the existing combing machines.

The Nasmith comber brought cotton combing within reach of the masses among spinners, whereas it had previously been the privilege of the few who used only long-stapled cottons.

T. ROSS.

## Obituary

The Institute regrets to announce the death of the following member:—

N. KEMP, Galashiels.

## Employment Register

The following announcements are taken from entries in our Register of Members whose services are on offer. Employers may obtain full particulars on application.

No. 233—Young man, age 31 years, desires position as Manager in Narrow Fabrics or Hosiery Manufacture. A.T.I. 10 years' experience in all branches of Narrow Fabrics. Practical experience of mill management in all departments. Exempt from military service.

No. 234—Chemist (39), M.Sc.Tech., F.T.I., desires to take up a position where full use could be made of his wide experience in the practical finishing of cellulosic fibres as well as in fundamental and technical research.

\*See *Journal*, 1931, Vol. 22, *Proceedings*, page 49.

## Science and Industry

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce is holding a series of four lectures in Manchester on "Science and Industry." The Institute holds a number of tickets for these lectures, and if any members wish to attend will they please apply to the Acting General Secretary for the appropriate ticket.

The lectures are as follows, each commencing at 11.30 a.m.

Friday, 3rd March—"Research and Industry: The Need, the Ways and the Means," by Rt. Hon. Lord Riverdale of Sheffield, G.B.E., LL.D.

Thursday, 16th March—"Fundamental Research: Its Practical Importance," by Sir Edward V. Appleton, K.C.B.

Friday, 31st March—"The Application of Research," by Dr. Andrew McCance.

Thursday, 20th April—"Research Workers: Their Education and their place in Industry," by Dr. A. P. M. Fleming.

## NOTICES: INSTITUTE MEETINGS

### IRISH SECTION

Tuesday, 21st March, 1944—Annual General Meeting of the Irish Section in the College of Technology, Belfast, at 5.0 p.m.

Wednesday, 22nd March, 1944—Lecture: "Modern Light Sources and Lighting Practice," by R. O. Ackerley, M.I.E.E., at the College of Technology, Belfast, at 6.30 p.m.

### LANCASHIRE SECTION

Friday, 10th March, 1944—Lecture: "Colour from the Artist's point of view," by L. F. N. Reid, D.A. (Edin.), F.R.S.A. (Salford School of Art), at 1.0 p.m. at the Institute's premises.

Saturday, 25th March, 1944—Annual General Meeting of the Lancashire Section at the Institute's premises, at 2.45 p.m.

### LONDON SECTION

Tuesday, 21st March, 1944—Annual General Meeting of the London Section in the rooms of the Rayon & Silk Asscn. (Inc.), 229-231, High Holborn, London, W.C.1, at 5.0 p.m.

### MIDLANDS SECTION

Wednesday, 8th March, 1944—Joint meeting with the Midlands Section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists. Lecture: "The Influence of Knitting on Finishing Processes," by W. A. Dutton, A.T.I., at the College of Art and Technology, The Newarke, Leicester, at 6.45 p.m.

Saturday, 18th March, 1944—Annual General Meeting of the Midlands Section at the Mechanics' Institute, Burton Street, Nottingham, at 3.0 p.m.

**YORKSHIRE SECTION**

Thursday, 16th March, 1944—Lecture: "The Protection of Wool against Insects and Micro-Organisms," by J. Barritt, B.Sc. (Wool Industries Research Association) at the Midland Hotel, Bradford, at 6.30 p.m.

Monday, 20th March, 1944—Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Section at the Midland Hotel, Bradford, at 6.30 p.m.