

NORTH BRITISH NEWS



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Heathhall's New Technical Laboratory Opportunities for Our Young Technicians

"WITH the acquisition of this high-precision equipment the Technical Laboratory at Heathhall is now self-supporting and therefore independent of all external facilities," said Factory Manager F. E. Lalley. "I feel Dumfries folk will be interested to know something of the lengths to which the North British technicians go in their day-to-day work to maintain product leadership. Scotland's rubber and plastics industry is indeed in sound hands. To young people with a leaning towards science it is good to know that here in Dumfries there are opportunities to carve out interesting careers."

With these remarks, on 13th March, Mr. Lalley welcomed the Mechanicals management group, who had the opportunity to tour the enlarged Technical Laboratory, with its array of advanced modern testing equipment. He also thanked, on behalf of Heathhall employees, the Board of Directors for their confidence in turning over to Heathhall this scientific laboratory to yield still better products.

With the ever-increasing rate at which fundamental scientific discoveries are being made, it is vital that industrial concerns pursue their policy along sound scientific and technological lines if they are to make their full contribution to the welfare of the community at large.

At Heathhall, as we expand our interests

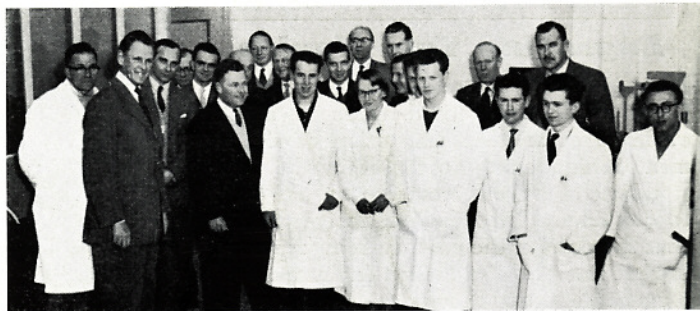
in the rubber and plastics field, greater emphasis is placed on the technological resources required to meet these developments. Today Product Engineering are a vital factor in the development of every product. The contributions they make in the manufacture of quality rubber footwear, flooring or conveyor belting, is seldom fully appreciated. In the last few years new products have been advanced, and again the technical staff have been the basis of every product. P.V.C. flame-resistant belting for the National Coal Board has had a highly successful acceptance. Only a few weeks ago

it was revealed that the exclusive U.S. Tredaire carpet underlay was being manufactured at Heathhall—and with encouraging results. Next month Norflex plastic flooring goes into production.

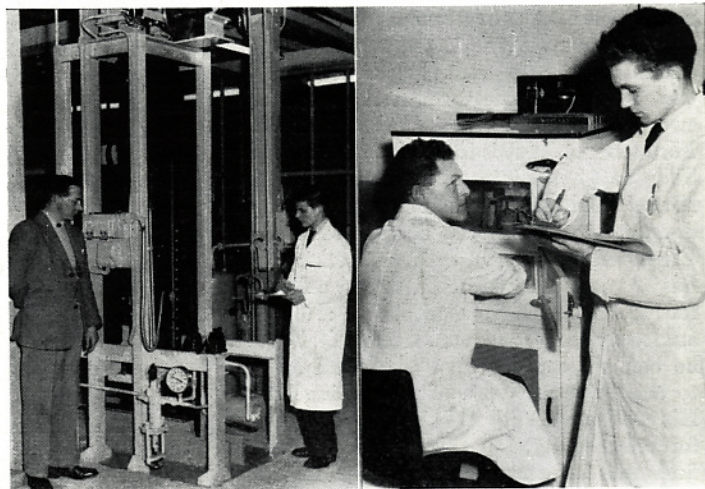
This new Technical Laboratory has four functions. Firstly, all raw materials must

Left—Chemical Laboratory.—A section of the chemical laboratory showing laboratory assistants engaged in carrying out analysis work: Freda Hope, refractive index of liquids test; Harry Allan, Latex stability test; Alice Moore, using dessicator.

Right—Humidity Controlled Room where tests are made of samples of the finished belt. Equipment shown on left being operated by G. C. Tulloch, is the Avery test machine, capable of testing the strengths of conveyor belts used in collieries and other installations up to 60,000 lbs. On the right is a machine used for routine tests on all types of belting materials. It is capable of testing the adhesion and strength of fabrics in the finished belt, up to 2 tons. W. Chapman is in the process of carrying out a test. On the wall are instruments which record the temperature and humidity within the room, which is kept at 70° F. and 65% humidity.



The group photographed during a tour of the new Technical Laboratory. Second from left our Managing Director, Foster M. Stewart, and sixth from left F. E. Lalley, Factory Manager.



Above—Impact Tester.—This machine was made in the factory to meet certain specifications, and is used for special tests on conveyor belts. The belt is subjected to a series of blows of known force, by a sharp-edged instrument until it ruptures. From these results the probable working life of the belt can be determined. R. Wild is checking point of rupture, whilst R. Dyke is taking readings. Right—Hot and Cold Cabinet.—This equipment is used to test the flexural rigidity of a conveyor belt under load, at varying temperatures from freezing point and upwards. The comparative curve made on the belt under varying temperatures indicates its flexing ability under service conditions. G. Perry and H. Allan are seen operating this machine.

be tested to ensure adequate uniform quality level. Secondly, all new materials, compounds and material combinations are analysed, their properties and characteristics assessed. Then during processing there is technical testing of material parts, and finally there is the testing of the finished product to make sure that it meets customer specification. During a detailed tour one was able to appreciate the thorough testing at all stages being carried on twenty-four hours of the day.

Take conveyor belting, one of the major developments at Heathhall. The Cresswell Colliery disaster some years ago resulted in the development of flame-resistant anti-static conveyor belting for all underground installations of the National Coal Board, and a major contribution to safety within the mining industry. The rigorous specification with which P.V.C. conveyor belting must comply necessitates equipment for the measurement of flame-resistance, anti-static qualities, tensile and tear strength, flexibility,

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