

THE  
**Electrical Association for Women.**

President - LADY MOIR, O.B.E.



**Seventh Annual Report**

Presented at the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Association, held at the Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1, on April 14th, 1932,

BY

CAROLINE HASLETT, C.B.E., Director.

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# SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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**T**HE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Association is a record of achievement and great vitality, which is all the more remarkable considering the very difficult period through which the country has passed during recent months. In every direction the Association has found new avenues opening up, and the amount of work achieved has only been limited by the fact that the Association, being still young, has but a small Staff and a comparatively small income. On all hands there have been signs of the real usefulness of the Association, and of the fact that it is now taken as a serious and integral part, not only of the Electrical world, but in the national life. During the past year still more emphasis has been laid upon the Educational side of the Association's work and upon the fact that it has no commercial object to serve, being primarily an Organisation representing the consumer's point of view.

## 1931 GLASGOW CONFERENCE.

The Second International Conference of the Association was held in Glasgow from June 3rd—5th. The success of the Conference was largely due to the splendid co-operation and work of the Officers and

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Members of the Glasgow and District Branch and of the various Electrical Engineers in Glasgow who contributed to the enjoyment and entertainment of the Members.

Important Papers were contributed by Mademoiselle Paulette Bernège on "Electrical Education in France," by Madame Silfverhielm on "Electrical Education amongst Housewives in Sweden," and by Madame Karen Braae, M.B., on "Electricity and its Employment in Denmark."

Undoubtedly this International work, the interchange of ideas and the valuable suggestions obtained by contact with representatives from other countries, is of inestimable value in enabling women from various parts of the Globe to view domestic electrical development as a World Problem.

A feature of the Conference was the Paper given by Mr. A. E. McColl, District Engineer, Central Electricity Board, on "The Grid in Scotland."

The Annual General Meeting was held in London during the One-Day Conference in April, at which a very successful Luncheon and Ball were held, The Lady Mount Temple (Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley) receiving the Guests at the Ball.

The speeches at the Luncheon were devoted to "Electricity and the Country Woman," and the speakers included such experts as Sir Douglas Newton, K.B.E., M.P., Mrs. Wintringham and Sir John R. Brooke, C.B.

#### BRANCHES.

Our Branches throughout the country continue to expand in influence and membership, and they have done much good work in the various local centres by giving lectures to other organisations and generally acting as an electrical education stimulus in many directions, as is shown by the Reports appearing each quarter in "The Electrical Age."

The successful work of the Association is largely due to the splendid voluntary work which is being done by the Branch Officers throughout the country.

The policy of the Association has been to encourage existing Branches to expand their work in their own districts, and not to encourage the formation of too many small Branches all over the country, which are difficult to administer from Headquarters. Already the number of Branches of the Association makes it very difficult for the limited staff at Headquarters to cope with them. In order to carry on the organisation successfully, it would appear desirable to organise the Branches of the Association into larger units.

#### THE LONDON PROGRAMME.

This has been especially interesting this year, the most outstanding Lectures being the two given by Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser at the Institution of Electrical Engineers on "Electricity and Health." These Lectures were very well attended, and the Association is fortunate to have secured such an outstanding Medical exponent of electrical treatment as Dr. Sloan Chesser.

The Lecture by Mrs. Pender Chalmers entitled "By Air to Baghdad, Babylon and Ur," proved to be specially interesting, as was also that by Mr. Grierson on "Various Forms of Electric Heating."

Visits included the Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition at Olympia and the Faraday Exhibition in September, the Gerrard and Regent Telephone Exchanges in November, the New Electrical Showrooms of the Sun Electrical Co., Ltd., in December, the New Showrooms of the Brompton and Kensington Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., in January, and the Holophane Demonstration Theatre and the International Refrigerator Co., Ltd., in March.

The visit arranged by Mr. J. H. Parker to the L.C.C. Central Tram Repair Depôt was very enjoyable, and the journey by water to Greenwich was very much appreciated.

#### HOUSING EXHIBITION.

An invitation was received from the Voluntary Housing Societies in London, who organised a Housing Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, in December, to co-operate by showing a Model of an



Electric Working Class Kitchen. With the financial help of the British Electrical Development Association, the Association was able to show an excellent Model, which was based on the kitchens of the working class flats of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society.

In order that the exhibit should be a practical demonstration of the possibility of electricity in the working class kitchen, figures had been collected with the help of Mrs. Barclay and Miss Perry, of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society, to show the cost of running these kitchens electrically. These figures proved to be a very convincing argument to visitors to the Model. The Exhibition was opened by H.R.H. The Duchess of York.

Lectures were given during the Exhibition by the Director on "Women's Interest in Electricity," Miss V. Norvick on "Electricity for the Bachelor Woman," Miss G. Sharp on "Keeping the Home Clean Electrically," Miss V. Brice on "Electricity and the Working Woman," and Mrs. H. L. Dover, B.Sc., on "The Cost of Running a Home Electrically."

The Model has since been shown at the British Industries Fair, and will eventually be taken as part of a Travelling Exhibition to various centres throughout the country.

#### ELECTRICITY IN THE SCHOOLS.

During the year the Association has received many enquiries from schools throughout the country for information with regard to simplified electrical training. Lecturers have been found for various Education Authorities and Syllabuses sent to schoolmasters and mistresses.

The Lectures given by Dr. C. F. Smith, M.I.E.E., have been reprinted from "The Electrical Age for Women" in the form of a pamphlet, which has proved to be very popular amongst educational folk, quantities of the pamphlet having been purchased by various Educational Authorities throughout the country.

#### THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Second Summer School on "Electricity Applied to the Home" was held at Berridge House, Hampstead, from July 28th—August 11th, under the auspices of the Board of Education. The Director of the E.A.W. was again appointed Organiser of the Course, and the main lecturers were Miss Partridge, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., Miss D. Vaughan and Miss E. Purvis, with the assistance of Mrs. Flack and Miss Nowell.

The success of the Course was largely due to the generous co-operation of all sections of the Electrical Industry, who helped in supplying the necessary equipment.

The Syllabus again included practical Lectures on Simplified Household Repairs, and a Course on Lighting Instruction at the E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau.

Visits were paid to the Marylebone Power Station, the Osram Lamp Works, the G.E.C. Wembley Research Station and the Ediswan Showrooms.

Visitors to the Course included Sir Henry Richards, the Chief Inspector of the Board of Education, Mr. Morgan Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, Miss A. G. Philip, the Chief Woman Official of the Board, and a large number of H.M. Inspectors. Sir John R. Brooke, C.B., Vice-Chairman of the Electricity Commission, gave a welcome to the Students.

#### THE COUNTRY WOMAN AND ELECTRICITY.

During the year the Association has co-operated with the National Federation of Women's Institutes in promoting the more rapid development of Rural Electrification.

Lectures to various Women's Institutes have been given by Mrs. Edwards and Councillor Mrs. Gregory from Headquarters, and our Branches have co-operated with the Women's Institutes in their respective districts.



**"LUMENS AT LAW."**

The clever Mock Trial written jointly by Miss Foster Jeffery, the Barrister Honorary Secretary of our Manchester Branch, Mr. R. C. Hawkins and Mr. W. A. Barnes, has been performed during the year at Glasgow, Newcastle and London. This Trial shows the great possibilities of dramatic work as an educational force.

We have to express our thanks to the producers and various actors throughout the country who contributed to the success of the Trial, which in London resulted in substantial donation being sent to the funds of the Electrical Trades Benevolent Institution.

**FARADAY CELEBRATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ILLUMINATION CONGRESS.**

During the Summer the Association, both in London and the Branches, co-operated in the Faraday Centenary Celebrations. In addition to an official visit to the Faraday Exhibition at the Albert Hall, the Association was instrumental in arranging a Dinner at the Forum Club to the wives of distinguished visitors attending the Faraday Celebrations; the guests included the Princess Ginori Conti, Mrs. Elihu Thomson and the Marchesa Marconi.

The Association felt honoured in being asked to send a Speaker to a Conference at Kingsway Hall, arranged by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the other Speakers being such eminent authorities as Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir Josiah Stamp, Mr. Llewelyn B. Atkinson and Mr. J. S. Highfield, with Mr. C. C. Paterson in the Chair.

The article contributed by the Director in the special Faraday issue of "The Times" on "Electricity in the Home" has been translated into French.

The International Illumination Congress, which was held in Great Britain for the first time, and which was responsible for the Flood-lighting of London, absorbed a good deal of the Association's attention

during the Summer months. The meetings of the Women's Committee were held in our Offices, and a good deal of secretarial work was undertaken by the E.A.W.

A Paper was presented at the Glasgow Session of the Conference on behalf of the Association by the Director and Miss Nora Miller on "Home Lighting," this being the first occasion on which a Paper had been presented by women to the Congress.

**INCORPORATION.**

During the year it has been decided that the Association should apply for Incorporation, as it was felt that this would give added dignity and status in view of the work which the Association is contemplating undertaking in the issuing of Diplomas. It is a matter for great gratification that a promise to bear the cost of the Incorporation has been jointly made by Lady Moir, the President, and Mrs. G. Z. de Ferranti.

**DIPLOMA.**

Perhaps the most outstanding piece of work carried out by the Association during the past year has been the inauguration of an Electrical Housecraft Diploma. In order that the whole matter should be put on a satisfactory basis, and in view of the fact that this work was so entirely new, the Association decided to call an inaugural Conference to discuss the matter, and this was held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, in October. The Conference was very well attended, and included representatives of the electrical and educational worlds, women demonstrators, etc.

At this Conference, it was decided that there was need to establish the training of women demonstrators on a national basis, and that some award or diploma should be inaugurated as the hallmark of training for the women already in the Industry and those who are about to undertake this work.



At the Conference a Committee representing the following interests was elected: The Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Central Electricity Board, the British Electrical Development Association, the Provincial Electric Supply Association, the Electric Lamp Manufacturers' Association, the Electrical Contractors' Association, the Incorporated Municipal Electrical Association, the London Electric Supply Association, the Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, the Colleges and Polytechnics, and the Women Demonstrators and Saleswomen.

We should like to pay a tribute to the men and women who have worked so splendidly on this Committee; especially to Mr. R. S. Downe for his work as Chairman of the Sub-Committee and for loaning committee rooms, and to the Institution of Electrical Engineers for the use of committee rooms and advice and help on many occasions.

After careful deliberation the Committee decided that the first important step was to issue the Diploma to women who had had at least four years' experience in the Industry and had done work of a responsible nature, on the satisfactory completion of an application form. This decision met with a very happy response, and although so short a time has elapsed, the first batch of over 100 E.A.W. Grade I. Demonstrators' Diplomas is being presented by the President at the Annual General Meeting. This shows clearly that the women in the Industry realise the need for some indication that they have had training and experience both in domestic science and electricity.

After the first year, the Diploma will be granted only on examination, and the Committee have drawn up a suggested Syllabus of Electrical knowledge, which also indicates the kind of domestic training necessary for the work of the Electrical demonstrator. Other grades of Diplomas are under discussion, and it is hoped that during the year the Syllabus will be distributed to Training Colleges and Polytechnics and that the other grades of the Diploma will be finally worked out.

### SURVEY OF ELECTRICAL SHOWROOMS.

In addition, the Committee has drawn up a Questionnaire which has been sent to all Electrical Showrooms throughout the country to find out the number of women employed in Showrooms, what training is given to them, and what Showrooms will be prepared to take trainees in the future. A splendid response to this Questionnaire has been received from the Electrical Industry which makes it abundantly clear that this is a matter which is regarded as a very important one by the majority of electrical engineers throughout the country. It is also evident that some scheme of educational training should be put in hand as early as possible in order that trained women demonstrators may be available and some indication of their training given to prospective employers.

The Committee hope in the near future to issue a Report giving a summary of the replies received from the Electrical Industry on the question of work and training of women in the Electrical Showrooms, which should make interesting reading.

### WOMEN IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

A good deal of the time of the Staff at Headquarters is taken up with giving information re training and employment in Electrical work and arranging for trainees to get experience in Electrical Showrooms. From indications received it would appear that the demand for well-trained experienced women in the Electrical Industry is greater than the supply.

Special Visits for the women in the Industry which enable them to keep abreast of modern electrical developments have been arranged, including one to the Showrooms of Messrs. The Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., in February, when a short talk was given on "New Tendencies in the Design of Domestic Apparatus," and one to the Showrooms of Messrs. Falk, Stadelmann & Co., Ltd., in March, when a special display of Period and Modern Lighting Fittings and General Domestic Appliances for the Home was arranged.



**"THE ELECTRICAL AGE."**

Interest in the Journal is steadily increasing, not only among the E.A.W. members, but also among professional women. It is more and more regarded as a source of reliable information on general applications of Electricity as well as domestic electrical appliances.

The title has just been adapted to this broader scope with its appeal to the wider general public.

**GENERAL.**

The Association would like to express its unstinted thanks for the wonderful support which it has received throughout the year both from the Electrical and the Lay Press. Not only are we appreciative of the considerable space which has been devoted to our work and activities, but we should like to offer our personal thanks to the Editors of the various Technical Journals for many kindnesses received throughout the year.

The Association continues also to write articles and statements for Papers concerned with the Domestic Uses of Electricity, and articles have appeared during the year in the "Children's Sketch," "Electrical Trading," "The Electrician" and "The Electrical Review."

Considerable time also has been devoted to the supply of notes and information for speakers and writers on electrical subjects.

The E.A.W. continues to be represented on many important committees in the Electrical and Women's world, and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking the many organisations who invite us to their Conferences throughout the year, particularly mentioning the Incorporated Municipal Electrical Association and the Electrical Contractors' Association.

During the year the Association has taken part in work in connection with the International Scientific Management Congress, British Provisional Committee (Domestic Section), and also in connection with a new movement for Safety in the Home; inaugurated by the National "Safety-First" Association, which has been formed to endeavour to prevent home accidents.

Our thanks are due to the many people who have lectured to us throughout the year, and in particular to our own Officers and to Lady Brooke, M.B.E., who has travelled and spoken at many of our Branch Meetings.

The E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau has continually loaned us the use of its Lecture Room, and we should like to thank Mr. Jones and Members of his Staff for the many ways in which they have co-operated with us. To the Institution of Electrical Engineers we also tender our thanks for the use of committee rooms and lecture rooms, and also to the Telephone Development Association for co-operation in lecturing work.

The many activities undertaken by the E.A.W. throughout the year would have been impossible without the financial support so generously given by the British Electrical Development Association and other Electrical Organisations. To Mr. Llewelyn B. Atkinson, the President, to Mr. A. C. Cramb, the Director, and the Staff of the British Electrical Development Association we are especially indebted for many kindnesses.

**CONCLUSION.**

With the continued growth of the Association it is impossible for me, as Director, to give my full attention to the detailed work of the Association which I have hitherto done. I should like to pay a tribute to the extremely loyal and efficient work of my Staff at Headquarters and the splendid way in which Members co-operate for the good of the Association. From the President, Lady Moir, I have received the utmost encouragement and support in all the work of the Association, while under the Chairmanship of Mrs. G. Z. de Ferranti the Committee Meetings at Headquarters have been very well attended and the spirit of help and goodwill has considerably added to the smooth running of the work of the Association. We have to thank our Honorary Treasurer, The Dowager Lady Swaythling, for many practical ways in which she has shown her interest, and to Councillor Mrs. Gregory, who has ever been ready to take over lecturing and other duties.



In this Report it has only been possible to give a brief indication of all the many activities undertaken by the Association throughout the year. The innumerable requests for information both by letter and over the telephone indicate the fact that the Association is undoubtedly playing a very definite part in Domestic Electrical Development.

We are confident that the Association is on the verge of much greater development, and will embark upon a new era of usefulness, with the move to larger premises which we feel must come this year.

To the Officers, to the Branches, and to all the individual Members of the Association we would express our appreciation of the loyal support and interest in the activities of the Association carried out during the past year, and look forward to another year of even greater activity and fulfilment.



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