

Professional Fire Brigades' Association. London Private Fire Brigades' Association.

A meeting of the Governing Council was held at Birkenhead on February 10th, the president, Superintendent R. Newsham, being in the chair. Other members present were: C.O.'s Cartwright, Mardon, Thompson, Ex-C.O.s Sloan and Butler, and the secretary, Ex-C.O. Burns.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Firemasters Methven and Paterson.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the widows and families of the late Firemaster J. S. Weir and the late C.O. W. Blott.

Station Officer J. E. Norman (Port Sunlight), Station Engineer J. E. Page (Gillingham), Fireman A. G. Tomkins (Bromley), Fireman E. Ball (Birkenhead), Salvage Officer B. W. R. Smith (London Salvage Corps), Station Officer T. A. Donaldson, Fireman J. W. Bottomley, Sub-Officer W. F. Marks and Fireman H. Gordon (Eston) were elected to membership.

Several applications for Long Service Medals and bars were granted.

On a recommendation received from C.O. A. R. Tozer, Acting Officer R. Longden, of the Birmingham Fire Brigade, was granted the Association's Certificate of Honour in recognition of rescue work carried out by him on January 16th.

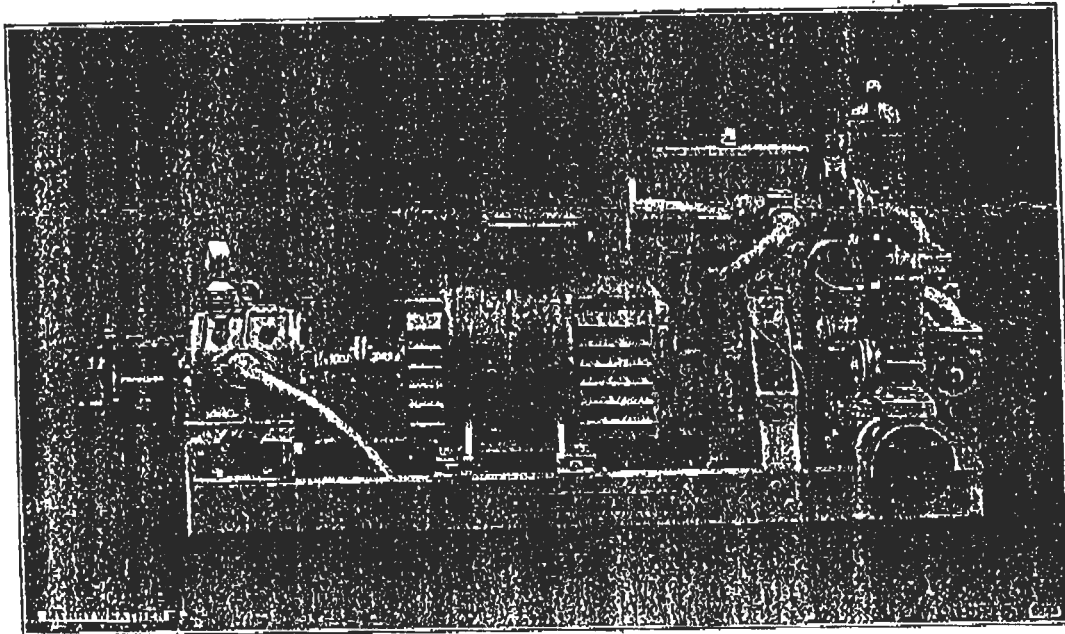
The annual concert and presentation of prizes was held at Cannon Street Hotel on Friday, February 4th, Mr. Julian M. Leonard being in the chair. Among the guests were Lieutenant-Commander Fordham, London Fire Brigade, and C.O. Westbrook, of the Home Office.

The trophies were presented by Mrs. Hendriks and an interesting feature of the proceedings was the handing of an illuminated address to C.O. Stillwell, hon. secretary of the Association. The address was signed by the Lord Mayor of London and by Mr. Leonard, and was accompanied by an electric standard lamp, an electric fire, a suite of easy chairs, and a wireless set.

Lieut. Commander Fordham congratulated the competitors upon their efficiency. He had seen the competitions and the trophies have been well won. Private brigades, he said, were already important, but they were destined to be even more important in future. C.O. Westbrook also congratulated the competitors upon their excellent work.

The annual report of the Association, which has just been issued, records another year of steady progress.

Sympathetic reference is made to the deaths of C.O. J. F. Jessop, who for many years was honorary general secretary, and Superintendent W. J. Blyth, of the London Salvage Corps.



"PNEUMASUDS" FOAM PLANT ON TRINITY HOUSE VESSEL "PATRICIA."

The secretary reported that the question of amendments to the Fire Brigade Pensions Act was being dealt with by the Joint Council of the British Fire Service, and that the sub-committee had strongly recommended to the Council that the Fire Brigade Pensions Act should be brought into line with the Police Pensions Act, 1921.

C.O. W. H. Cartwright was appointed as a representative of the P.F.B.A. on the British Fire Service Council.

The secretary's report on the Insurance Scheme for the past ten months was approved, as were the report and the balance sheet of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

Institution of Fire Engineers.

We understand that the entries for the March examinations bid fair to reach record figures. Even without the entries from South Africa and New Zealand which are due at the end of February

Thirty-six members were awarded long service medals and bars during the year, and 28 qualified for the bronze medal for ten years' service, and three for the bronze bar for fifteen years' service.

The balance sheet showed an excess of income over expenditure of £24 3s. 11d., a total asset of £311 18s. 6d.

Montreal Fire Department.

Mr. A. T. Oulment became Director of the Montreal Fire Department on December 22nd last. He has been a member of the department since he was seventeen years of age, was promoted to Lieutenant in 1908, Captain in 1911, District Chief in 1932 and Deputy Chief in 1933.

Director Oulment has made a life-long study of fire protection as applied to building construction, and is recognized as an expert

Merryweather Fire Fighting Equipment on Trinity House Vessel, "Patricia."

On this page we reproduce a photograph of a Diesel-electric vessel built to the order of Trinity House by Messrs. Smith's Dock Co., Ltd., of Middlesbrough. This vessel, like her predecessor which was also named "Patricia," will combine the duties of a yacht, in which the Elder Brethren of Trinity House make their tours of inspection round the coast, and also that of a tender for relieving lightships, laying buoys, etc.

The "Patricia" is 218ft. in length and has a moulded breadth of 35ft. 6ins.; her gross tonnage is 1,150, and she is capable of a speed of 14 knots.

The main propulsion equipment consists of two 755 b.h.p. Diesel engines. The ship has accommodation for the Committee comprising smoke-room, dining-saloon and vestibule, and six state rooms, while the master and officers and crew are accommodated in the large deckhouse amidships, separate messrooms, etc., being provided for each section of officers and men.

The builders placed an order with Merryweathers for a special fire extinction plant and this is arranged on the main

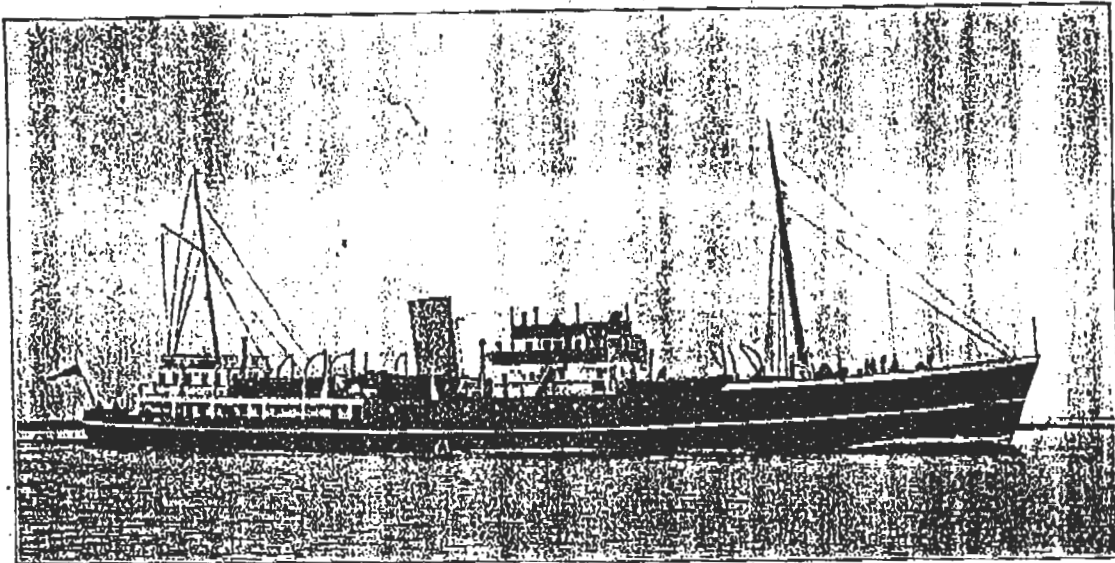
The air compressor is capable of delivering approximately 40 cubic feet of air per minute compressed to 10 lbs. pressure when running direct-coupled to the electric motor at a speed of 1,350 r.p.m.

The foam solution pump is of the rotating double gear type, to be driven at suitable speed from the speed-reducing gear.

The venturi apparatus is constructed in accordance with Merryweathers' patent 426513, and the outlet of the venturi is provided with connection for carrying pipe to the foam hydrant system.

The "Pneumasuds" apparatus is capable of delivering 20 gallons of fire-extinguishing foam per minute through one or more of the foam hydrants equipped with 30-foot length of canvas hose, and the plant is self-contained. The complete apparatus is mounted on a steel framework.

A sluice valve and strainer boxes are fitted to the ship side below water-line with flange for connection of the fixed suction piping between the strainer box and the water inlet. The accessories also supplied include a foam delivery hydrant two 40-foot lengths of Merryweathers' 2½ inch London-made canvas delivery hose and couplings, a superlumin branch pipe with two foam-distributing nozzles, also brackets for the ho



TRINITY HOUSE VESSEL "PATRICIA."

deck amidships. It has a self-contained "Pneumasuds" apparatus, the principal components being an electric motor, a double-acting reciprocating pump for water, a rotary air compressor, a small rotary pump for foam solution, a venturi apparatus and a foam solution tank.

The electric motor is capable of developing 7 h.p. at a speed of 1,350 r.p.m. A shaft projects at both ends of the motor, one end being direct coupled to the air compressor, and the other end to a speed reducing gear which intervenes between the motor and the water pump. The motor is fitted with a marine type terminal box with glands to accommodate lead-covered cables. A marine-type bulkhead-mounting starter is also provided.

The water pump is of Merryweathers' "Ravensbourne" type, the pump casing being entirely of gunmetal. The pump is capable of delivering 40/45 gallons per minute at a pressure of 50 lbs. The pump is designed for picking up water on deep suction lifts without the use of priming arrangements as those supplied to British and foreign Admiralties for fresh-water and other purposes.

and fittings, a quantity of hose and fittings for fire and general purposes, also 14 Merryweather two-gallon double-seal pattern fire suds extinguishers, each with bracket.

The design and specification were prepared for the Corporation of Trinity House, under the supervision of their Surveyor of Shipping and Marine Engineer, Mr. R. Kingdom, and it is of interest to note that the "Pneumasuds" plant is the third of its kind which Merryweathers have supplied for Trinity House vessels, the others being the "Reculver" and the "Strathearn."

No Telephone for Chief Officer.

The Oxford Mail reports that at a recent meeting of Eynsham Parish Council, a recommendation that the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade should be provided with a telephone was lost by two votes. The mover of the amendment which was carried said that the telephone was unnecessary, and his second remarked that the brigade had already cost the parish £80.