

Mr. F. HOPE-JONES, M.I.E.E., F.R.A.S.,
AND
THE SYNCHRONOME Co. Ltd.

Send you this

Christmas Greeting

Nulli Putabilis
Dabitur Mora
Irrevocabilis
Labitur Hora
Ne Sis Inutilis
Semper Labora
Neve Sis Futilis
Vigila: Ora

To mortal thought
Is given no power to stay
Nor yet recall
The hour that glides away:
So lest you useless live,
Work every day
And lest you work in vain
Both watch and pray.

(Translation by the late Rev. K. Hope-Jones)

DOOKING back upon the year 1926, there are two outstanding achievements of the Synchronome Co. at the opposite ends of the scale of horological effort—this clock of Liberty's, which may be called London's Latest Toy, and the installation at Greenwich Observatory of the second Synchronome FREE PENDULUM (clock Shortt No. 11) to accompany the first installed two years ago. They have been keeping together within one hundredth of a second, and the checking of their performance reveals a precision far surpassing the instrumental accuracy of the telescope.

Christmas, 1926

32/34, CLERKENWELL ROAD,
LONDON, E.C. 1

LIBERTY'S TURRET CLOCK.

IT is an easy matter to gather together a crowd of curious idlers in London; a policeman and a note-book are a certain draw at any time. But it needs something of more than usual interest to gather together the same crowd, at the same time each day, to wait five minutes or more to "see" a clock strike.

Messrs. Liberty's new clock, on the arch spanning Kingly Street, and forming a bridge between their two buildings, attracts four small crowds each hour. At the first stroke of the chimes the stragglers break into a run so as to miss nothing of the sight, proving pre-knowledge of what they expect to see and unabated interest in it.

It is a wonder jewellers do not make greater use of automatic figures in connection with outside clocks. They make a very attractive advertisement with a mild aura of fame reaching far beyond the immediate district. At one time Bennett's clock in Cheapside was one of the sights of London which the small boy up from the country simply had to see.

Liberty's clock is gaining fame because of its novelty. In the triple arched canopy above the dial is seen St. George and the Dragon, a grouping which is reminiscent of the west gallery of St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle, illustrated on page 215 of the Journal for November. The dragon is a fearsome beast in green and gold, while St. George is a knightly figure, armed cap-a-pie, on a white charger. When at rest the two figures remain in full view. At a quarter past the hour the dragon flees, with St. George in pursuit. One circuit is made at the first quarter; two at the half hour; three at three quarters. It is always a chase, but not a hopeless one. Although the handicap of the pursuer appears to increase, the dragon is held fast at the fourth circuit at the hour, and St. George victoriously prods him at each stroke of the hour bell. Every hour the dragon is vanquished before the eyes of a delighted audience. The builders of the clock deserve the thanks of London for providing the citizens with a never-failing source of amusement.

The clock faces towards Gt. Marlborough Street, and is the outstanding feature of the bridge. The keystone of the arch is a figure of Father Time, and on the corbel carrying the clock-dial is the following inscription, carved in stone along its whole length:

"No minute gone comes ever back again,
Take heed and see ye nothing do in vain."

The dial is four feet in diameter, and has

on either side sculptured figures of chanticleer and an owl, representing morning and night. The stone panels forming the backgrounds of these figures are pierced for the emission of the chimes.

The five bells are housed in a chamber behind the dial, striking the hours and Westminster quarters, their combined weight is in the neighbourhood of a ton. The entire outfit is a marvel of compactness, the clock being in circuit with the "Synchronome" system with which the store is equipped; the chiming action, and the St. George and dragon movement are actuated by small electric motors.

The outstanding feature of the installation is the contrast presented between the "Synchronome" system and the old style turret clock. In the one case the hands are operated by a small movement practically concealed by the centre boss, and the chiming and striking actions are accommodated between the bells. A turret clock to do the same work would call for a three-part movement, measuring at least five feet long and weighing several hundredweights. Also the maintenance would call for winding once or twice weekly. The turret clock at Windsor Castle, illustrated in this issue, calls for a thousands turns at its cranks once a week to keep it going. It is obvious that the modern electric clock offers possibilities of economy in building costs, in weight and in labour.

The purpose of the arch over Kingly Street is to join up Messrs. Liberty's new building, fronting on Regent Street, with their Elizabethan building in Gt. Marlborough Street. The difficulty of forming a link between these two buildings, one excessively modern in character and the other an erection of rare distinction in the half-timbered style, has been successfully achieved by the Architects, the late Mr. Edwin T. Hall and Mr. E. Stanley Hall, F.R.I.B.A.

Mr. E. P. Roberts, of Messrs. Liberty's studio, is responsible for the inception of the design of the clock, and the figures, notably the dragon, were designed by Mr. Kruger Gray, F.S.A., the well-known heraldic artist. The modelling was carried out by Mr. Lawrence Turner.

The design and execution of the electro-mechanical installation was the work of Mr. Hope-Jones, M.I.E.E., F.R.A.S., and his assistant, Mr. J. C. S. Davies, A.M.Inst.C.E., being carried out by the Synchronome Co., Ltd. The bells were cast by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank.



LIBERTY'S NEW ELECTRIC CLOCK

BLOCKS AND PRINTING *by*
ARTHUR TREMAYNE, LTD.
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