



New Design Centre for M.I.

THEY ARE busier than ever at the St. Albans factory of M.I., designing and making test equipment for sale in sixty-eight countries. Indeed, the growing demand for this test gear has made it necessary for the Company to provide a 22,000 square feet extension to the factory.

All the development activities of the Company will be rehoused and centralised in the new building, so providing maximum efficiency and convenience of operation. This is now being built, and

ABOVE: A 'crazy eye' view of the roof steelwork, with the water channel in the centre



BELOW LEFT: Building the water soakaway. It is forty feet deep, reaching down to a layer of chalk. The walls are brick built, with interstices between the bricks

BELOW: Painting the outside of the purlins. Soon after this picture was taken, the corrugated asbestos roofing was laid



will comprise two bays, each of 40 feet span and 260 feet in length, plus an annexe with a floor area of approximately 800 square feet. The building will provide ideal facilities for the Development engineers, the main Drawing Office and the Model Shop.

The latest ideas have been incorporated in the plans. For instance, continuous fluorescent lighting will be used, and heating will be by radiant strips, providing maximum emission at the most economical cost; an additional boiler house, which will be fitted with oil burners, is being constructed.

The new extension will not only give improved facilities for design and development but will release floor space needed for production in the main buildings. Office accommodation will also be increased.

Good progress has been made with the building work, and occupation of the extension is planned to take place in the coming autumn.

In the ten years since the Works was centralised at Longacres, it has increased many times its original size. In 1949 a new building was added, and a further extension was provided in 1953.



An interior view of the new Design Centre. The workmen are unloading corrugated asbestos roofing. The building will include a conference room and a library

BELOW : The east end of the new building, with a concrete mixer in the foreground

