

was the daughter-in-law of Eli Lees, one of the four purchasers of the Park. As the Radcliffe and Platt families had abandoned their interests the Lees family had acquired most of the shares in the Park. After Dame Sarah's death, Miss Marjory Lees, her daughter, with the assistance of her own niece, Mrs Dorothy Macaulay, bought the outstanding shares and then presented the Park to Oldham Corporation. In June 1936 the Corporation opened Werneth Park for public recreation.

XII *Consolidation and New Approach*

It transpired that the impediment to further rationalisation and consolidation of TMM's loose knit collection of Operating Companies was to last nigh on six years and in that time so disrupted were the textile machinery making facilities in the works of the Operating Companies, in 1945, a virtual fresh start had to be made. In most respects, a fresh start was a blessing in disguise although to accomplish it, in a realistic time, demanded from everyone involved in the planning and implementation an effort of the most supreme order which was devotedly and enthusiastically given. Unlike the pattern of events which had existed in the first world war, when a sizeable amount of textile machinery was manufactured in parallel with munitions, in the second world war, save for the occasional manufacture of textile machines in answer to an essential wartime requirement (which could be regarded as 'war work') the works of all the Operating Companies were given over, day and night, seven days a week, to the production of a host of various armaments and their supporting services (eg. assembly jigs for Lancaster bomber wings). Department after department had to be cleared of textile machinery making plant and equipment to receive the plant and equipment which was necessary to make the wartime products. Platt Brothers was allocated the task of renovating machine tools which had been damaged during enemy air raids on industrial areas all over the country, a task which might be seen as a tribute to the engineering abilities of the textile machinery maker for the skills and innovations this work demanded were legion. Platt Brothers was also charged with the running of a training school, on behalf of the Man-power Board, to prepare men and women for service in munitions factories throughout the land. Over eight thousand people passed through the school in the course of the second world war.

The mills, at home and overseas, had been starved of the supply of machinery for six years and replacement machines were needed desperately, so that when the post-war metaphorical gates were opened the orders came flooding through. It was said in those immediate post war years salesmen were not required, all that was necessary was clerks to book orders. In preparation for the post-war boom steps had already