

away from Oldham, was complete. A further move of the Head and Registered offices was made, in 1978, to 10, Grafton Street, W1. In time, the shift from Oldham, the town with which the Company had been incontrovertibly synonymous, applied not only to the Company itself, but even to the Textile Machinery Division.

XVI *The Final Era – Platt International, Platt Saco Lowell and Scragg Division*

The years between the ITMA Exhibition, at Milan, in the autumn of 1959, and the next in the series, at Hanover in 1963, was a period when a very intensive programme of development was completed on the range of cotton machinery so that, at Hanover, the Platt Brothers (Sales) stand was able to show an extensively improved Card, two revolutionary types of Drawframe, an extensively developed model of the Comber and an entirely new Ringframe. So impressive was the exhibit that a very senior executive member of one of the arch-competitor companies was overheard to say 'Platts are back in business'. He was right, for over the next few years these machines brought a highly successful reward from the market place, both at home and widely overseas, resulting in the Company receiving several Queen's Award to Industry. Neither was the woollen machinery neglected for a much more sophisticated Feeder for the Cards and two new models of Ringframe (light and heavy versions) were developed. In the meantime, TMM(R) was pursuing investigations into an automated cotton spinning line which would enable the cotton to proceed from the bales and continue through the process, to the point beyond the Drawframe, without the need for manual attention. A proto-type line was installed in a Lancashire mill from which, over an extended period of trials, it was shown that the revolutionary (metred chute) system for feeding the cards direct from the Blowroom machines was immediately viable and, henceforward, became the predominant method for that stage of the cotton spinning process. The remainder of the concept was adjudged to be 'before its time' and it was decided it had to be 'put on ice'. Nevertheless, the concept was acknowledged as a considerable innovation and contributed to the Textile Institute Jubilee Award being given to TMM(R) in recognition of the leading part it had played in the understanding and development of the textile processes and machinery.

The practice of buying into new forms of textile machinery was continued when such action was thought to be necessary. Concern had been caused by a prediction, in textile trade circles, that fabrics knitted from