

CHRISTMAS 1971

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and prosperity in the New Year.

This has been a long year during which the most exciting event was the efficient changeover to decimalisation. There has been a definite shortage of customers in both our redeveloping towns and the most effective credit squeeze for a generation, so effective that the country's bankers are pleading for borrowers. We are lucky that we operate in low unemployment areas and luckier still that we are not trading in Northern Ireland. These disaster areas have clouded the thoughts and actions of ourselves and our customers. Let us hope that the New Year will see a big change for the better in both of these problems.

This year, also, we have lost two fine members of the staff, Miss Ashby and Mr. Tomlin, both of whom had been with us for twenty-five years. Those of us who knew them well will want their families to know that they will be remembered with gratitude.

Our best wishes go to those who have officially retired during the last year - Mr. Plumtree, Mr. Collett, Miss Brooks, Miss Waddams and Mr. Taylor from the Uxbridge store, and Mr. Rumble, Mr. Benton and Mr. Hodges from Slough. I am very pleased that we shall continue to see most of them, keeping the youngsters up to the mark, in the New Year.

1972 should show improvement in trading conditions, both nationally and locally - most certainly in Uxbridge where the new shopping centre and our own new shopfront and shopfitting should be completed.

In Slough a small section of the new shopping centre - the row of shops at the eastern end near Waitroses - is due to open in April. Although I cannot see much benefit to us, at least it is a step in the right direction - as the route from the multi-storey car park to the High Street should be shorter by 200 yards.

In conclusion, I express the appreciation of your Directors for the strenuous efforts made by everyone to maintain our sales figures this Christmas.



D.C. Suter,
Managing Director.