



THE STORY OF THE HANWELL BAND

FORMED in 1891 as "The Hanwell Town Band" and later known as Hanwell Silver, this ensemble has for many years been in the forefront of bands in the South of England and has also acquired a national reputation.

Progress made, particularly in recent years, shows that an unsponsored band can succeed. It was the first subscription band to make a programme L.P. record in 1962; often heard in radio programmes, Hanwell attained its "broadcasting century" this year, and currently holds the London and Southern Counties Area Championship.

The Band has been fortunate in choice of conductors who have included William Greenwood, J. C. Dyson, George Turner and George Thompson (it is of interest to note that George Thompson was the first to qualify for the L.G.S.M. bandmastership diploma in 1933).

ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Band is run on democratic lines. The usual Band Committee appointments obtain, plus a Public Relations Officer, and the Committee meet once a month. Secretary Reginald Bravington (father of the present conductor) is in his 44th year of office, a remarkable achievement of devotion and continuous service.

During 1963 a quarterly magazine, *Crescendo*, was launched and is already being widely read. Self-supporting, finances are almost entirely from contest prize money and engagement fees which necessarily mean that Hanwell is a busy band!

Up to August this year the season's engagements included the Area, Tunbridge Wells and Romford Band Contests, three broadcasts, one L.P. recording, more than 20 outdoor concerts, and programmes at the Victoria Palace, London (with Jimmy Edwards), Royal Albert Hall (C.W.S. Centenary), The Dome, Brighton and Richmond Theatre. Hanwell has also acted as demon-

stration band for examinations sponsored by Trinity College of Music and Guildhall School of Music.

CONTEST RECORD

The Band has a fine contest record. In 103 post-war contests it has been awarded 42 first prizes, 20 seconds, 9 thirds and 11 fourths; Hanwell came second to Fodens in the 1950 National Championships and a "hat-trick" of Brighton Open Contest wins, 1951/2/3, is included in this analysis.

In addition to band contests, Hanwell personnel have always maintained a keen interest in solo and small ensemble contests. In 1944 the Hanwell Quartet Party comprising Eric Bravington and Fred Lack (cornets), George Slatter (horn) and William Morby (euphonium) won the first National Quartet Contest promoted by Morris Motors Band. Eric Bravington was placed second in the British Cornet Solo Championship Contest of 1946.

PERSONNEL

Several outstanding soloists have been associated with Hanwell, notably Arthur East (who was for many years principal cornet), Victor Saywell (euphonium) and the present principal cornet, David Allison. Personnel are mainly artisans and students, and numerous former Hanwellians have successfully entered the music profession.

Arthur Wilkinson (composer and arranger), Stanley Brown (trombone, Philharmonic Orchestra), Ronald Dyson (trumpet, Covent Garden and London Philharmonic Orchestras), Norman Burgess (trumpet, BBC Concert Orchestra) and Albert Hall (trumpet) have all been members. Conductor Eric Bravington was formerly principal trumpet of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and is now Managing Director of that orchestra.

(To be continued)