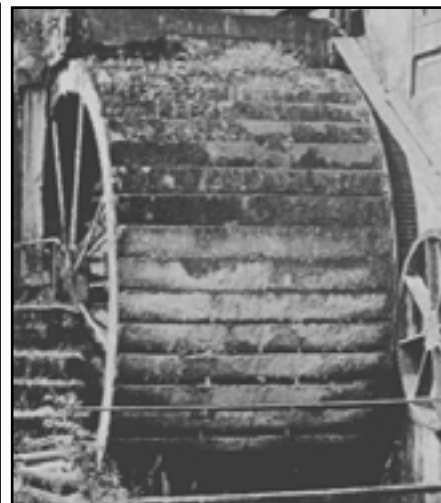


## Presidential address in an historic venue

Newcomen Society President, Dr Frank A J L James, gave his presidential address in the historic lecture theatre at the Royal Institution in central London, in which Faraday himself lectured and which is well-known for the RI's televised annual Christmas lecture for young people. Appropriately, he was assisted by his son, Christopher, as the picture shows.



The 1771 wheel at Cromford

## BRITAIN'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

### AUTUMN STUDY TOUR IN THE DERWENT VALLEY

In 1769 Richard Arkwright achieved his first patent for a spinning cotton machine using multi-speed rollers and built the first horse-powered continuous spinning mill in Nottinghamshire in 1771.

The tour visited Cromford mill, Darley Abbey mill, Belper North mill, Masson mill, the Cromford canal, the Middleton Top winding engine, the Cromford and High Peak Railway workshops, Leawood pumping station and Heage windmill.

A day of lectures covered water wheels, textile machinery, the Arkwright mills, fireproof buildings, the introduction of steam power and other topics.

This tour brought home to the party the problems faced by the pioneers and their triumphs in overcoming them.

## news and views

Part of the forward smoke stack from Brunel's *Great Eastern*, which had been used as a strainer at Sutton Poyntz water works in Dorset since 1860, was retired recently. A picture shows it being hoisted out of the pit where it had served the people of Weymouth for 143 years.

\* \* \*

A correspondent follows up the article about Brunel's 'lost' bridge (*Links* June), with a description of the Wolverton cast iron beam bridge. Some of the original elements almost certainly remain and it is therefore a structure of national importance.

Another correspondent discusses early anti-counterfeiting devices in Britain and the United States.

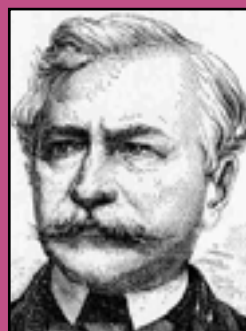
## features

Britain's dynamic history of invention, innovation and development was in part due to encouragement by technical societies. One of these was the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, now known as the RSA, which has its 250th anniversary this year.

The engineering 'greats' which were bound up with the history of the society included Abraham Darby, Bryan Donkin, Joseph Jacquard, Michael Faraday, Joseph Bramah, Marc Brunel, Thomas Telford, Henry Maudslay, Robert Fulton, Robert Stephenson, John Scott Russell, Thomas Cubbitt, John Cuthbert and many others.



An annual feature in *Links* is the list of anniversaries which will occur in the coming year. Ferdinand de Lesseps (right), of Suez canal fame, was born on 19 November 1805. Other birthdays include, Joseph Locke, Thomas Bras-



sey and G R Stephenson. Benjamin Outram died that year. In January 1955 BR proposed elimination of steam traction and in October 1855 Bessemer patented his steel converter. In March 1805 Blisworth tunnel opened.