

FAREWELL TO KEYHAM

BY

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The following article from the *Western Morning News* of 19th November appeared on the day that 'Keyham', which so many of us knew, was transferred to the Dockyard Technical College. The writer, Instructor Commander L. W. Martinnant, M.C., R.N. (Retd.), served for many years on the Staff at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Keyham, and is well known to countless engineer officers.

Not quite all of the old College was transferred for this purpose. On the same day, the Constructors Training Office was also officially opened. This took over the whole of the north end, including the library, north ante-room and dormitories above, which are now converted into excellent drawing offices and lecture rooms. The Constructor Officers under training there before their Greenwich courses are accommodated in *Thunderer* and are very much integrated with their engineering contemporaries for their first period in the Royal Corps.

The opening ceremonies of both the Dockyard Technical College and the Constructors Training Office were carried out by the Director-General Ships, A. J. Sims, Esq., O.B.E., M.I.N.A., R.C.N.C., and it was most appropriate that he was accompanied by the Admiral Superintendent, Devonport, Vice-Admiral L. A. B. Peile, C.B., D.S.O., M.V.O., who himself had commanded H.M.S. *Thunderer* and had been trained at Keyham.

What is left at Keyham? The old test shop still survives; but already many new I.C.E.s have been installed in new and fully instrumented test cells in No. 3 Hangar at Manadon: (the historic Vickers Diesel comes too!). It will not be long before the new steam test shop is actually started. The electrical test shop (and the ever-young 'Jock' Russell!) still survive, but extensive new electrical machinery and electronics laboratories (with an instructional cinema to seat 400) are in the drawing stage and will be built alongside the gymnasium at Manadon. As soon as all the playing fields at Manadon have been levelled (half have been started) we shall give up the Keyham fields.

In fact, within 4 to 5 years 'Keyham' will be but a memory. But no-one who has seen the present facilities in *Thunderer* can regret the change.