

competition. One way this could be done was to use concentrated tannin extract that was being produced cheaply in South Africa. No longer would tanners have to go through the expensive and laborious process of extracting tannin from wattle bark locally.

CM's first shipments of imported tannin extract were sold in July 1959. Needless to say, it was a change that was to have a profound impact on the company's own wattle bark division. The local bark trade quickly weakened, and when mineral tannin eventually superseded vegetable extracts, CM's bark business faded from the scene. The company's mill at Moruya was one of the first to close. Lying west of the township, the mill consisted of a large shed that housed a good grinder and long conveyors. Jim Shortis, who had managed the operation since 1942, was transferred to Head Office in August 1959 to help in the rapidly developing local seafood business. The company's mills at Eden, Bermagui, Marulan, Braidwood and Nelligen closed soon afterwards.

During the late 1950s CM's wine and spirits trade was flourishing. By the end of 1958, table wines had really caught on and CM was busy supplying the Sydney restaurant market, the company's main outlet. Percy Paris, who had a sound knowledge of French wines gained through trading experience in Cairo, Egypt, joined the staff. From then on the company's list included the names of some well-known French wines, a Spanish champagne that proved a best-seller and several lines of bottled beer. These last included a small quota produced locally by Tooth's and Tooheys as well as supplies from Boags of Launceston, Tasmania, and from the United Kingdom and South Africa.

In 1956 Avondale Wines Pty Ltd had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of CM and soon afterwards the name had been changed to Craig Mostyn & Co. (Q'land) Pty Ltd. From the outset CM had registered the brand names Bouquet and Avondale for its wines and Flinders for its

## Medical grants

Mirroring RL's own sense of responsibility towards the world at large, in 1959 Craig Mostyn & Co. made the first of five annual grants of £2,500 to the Post-Graduate Medical Foundation at the University of Sydney. The foundation's aim was to support medical study and research, and from the time of its inception until 1963, it had channelled some £350,000 into a number of different projects, including:

- Research into the effects of thalidomide on unborn babies;
- Establishment of a school to train medical staff to carry out smear tests for cervical cancer;
- Advancing research into Parkinson's disease;
- Construction of a multi-beam ophthalmoscope for use in eye research.

*Alert* reported that through these grants "we (and that includes all staff) have, in effect, become partners in this enterprise to help humanity not only in Australia but in places the world over. What better aspirations could we have?"

The annual grant became known as the Craig Mostyn Research Fellowship in Medicine. Its particular focus was to be research into haemophilia.

In 1962, CM gave £12,500 to the fund for the study of haemophilia, anaemia and other blood disorders.

The company continues its grants to the foundation to this day.

## Good causes

In 1966, CM fulfilled its commitment to provide \$25,000 in annual grants to the Post-graduate Medical Foundation of the University of Sydney. After that the company made other grants to various medical causes, including \$15,000 to the Victor Copleston Memorial Appeal, \$500 a year after 1968 to the Sir Frank Packer Fellowship in Ophthalmology, and \$30,000 to the Post-graduate Medical Foundation for the purchase of deep freeze equipment for long-term tissue and organ preservation. The company also made annual grants to the Post-graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, and to the CSIRO to help study food preservation and flood mitigation. It also donated money to Legacy, hospitals for young and aged people and a number of other causes.

destinations as far apart as Hong Kong and Hamburg. Victoria shipped nearly twice as many pears as it had done the year before.

In 1965 CM set up a branch in Stanthorpe, in Queensland's Granite Belt fruit-growing region, under the management of John Walker. In that year 1.1 million cases/cartons were sold, earning CM £2.4 million. In 1971 fruit sales passed the 1.5 million mark when 1,551,620 cases/cartons were shipped overseas.

An important development in the storage of fruit came in 1966 when the company initiated a working arrangement with the Whirlpool Corporation, of St Joseph, Michigan, in the United States, to operate its TECTROL (Total Environment Control) system for preserving perishables. Food scientists had long known that after fruit and vegetables have been harvested they deteriorate through a process of oxidation or respiration. Refrigeration slows this process, but the TECTROL system was able to slow it even further by generating a special storage atmosphere containing reduced amounts of oxygen and increased amounts of nitrogen.

In May 1966 Piesse & Co. began operating the new storage system in its cold store at Cradoc, on the Huon River south-west of Hobart, under the supervision of Whirlpool technician Jake Baker and with the help of the CSIRO. More than 10,000 bushels of apples of different kinds and from different growers were placed in the room. Nearly six months later, on 2 November, the room was opened before a gathering of some 50 people, including representa-