

LIGHTWEIGHT MOTOR CYCLES FOR BEAT DUTY

1. The experiment of using "Velocette L.E." lightweight motor cycles for beat duty in the Metropolitan Police District has proved a great success and, as a result, the use of these machines will very shortly be extended when constables have been specially trained as riders. About 450 officers will eventually receive this training at the Metropolitan Police Driving School at Hendon.
2. The objects of this new scheme are to offset the shortage of manpower by mechanisation but at the same time to retain the status of personnel as foot duty constables; with this end in view two or more beats (foot or pedal cycle) have been grouped into one which can be covered effectively by an officer on a lightweight motor cycle.
3. A total of 90 Velocette machines will be operational in suitable areas in the outer divisions of the Metropolitan Police District by next October. The heavier Triumph Twin Machines, at present operating on beats and beat patrols, will in due course be replaced by Velocettes which have advantages of an almost noiseless approach and better manoeuvrability at slow speeds.
4. Patrolling on foot will remain an essential part of the duty of these beat motor cyclists who will be required to park their machines and patrol all the vulnerable parts of their beats on foot.
5. Beats will be patrolled at slow speeds in order that the officers may be easily available to members of the public, as the man on the beat has hitherto been. These officers should be regarded by the public as normal beat patrolling officers who may be called upon for any normal purpose for which a police officer may be required. The word "POLICE" appears on the windshield of each machine to emphasise this.
6. As a further experiment, in four selected areas, Sergeants will use Velocette machines for supervision purposes.
7. To make them easily distinguishable from Traffic Patrols, the officers will wear the usual foot duty uniform but the helmet, which is identical in appearance with the normal helmet, has been specially designed and reinforced and provides superior protection against head injury to that afforded by the special protective helmet worn by police motor cyclists. The Road Research Laboratory co-operated in designing it.

New Scotland Yard
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