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ROBOT GASWORKS:

Keeping a gasworks going used to be a job for squads of men built like Carners; today, it's almost a white-collar job. This big new plant at Birmingham is run by four workers and a foreman. Ernest Rackert here is checking from a set of gauges, how the various automatic sections are functioning. Most of the time, Foreman Smith and his colleagues have little to do but keep an eye on this huge robot, which can produce 11 million cubic feet of gas in a day. They don't even have to pull levers - the plant pulls its own!

The plant's electrical nerve-centre controls all the automatic operations such as leading and cleaning, which used to mean hours of heavy manual work. Tommy Street checks the ash disposal. Charging is automatic, too, and the coke has been automatically screened. Bill Cott is another of this little team of men whose everyday work is a foretaste of the industrial pattern of tomorrow.