

24-HOUR CLOCK

Clarity is the first essential in any timetable. So, to avoid the ambiguity of the 12-hour method, in which the morning and evening hours can be confused, Western Region is gradually changing over to the 24-hour system of timing. Part of the initial stage can be seen on our principal stations where train departure sheets, incorporating the 24-hour system, have been posted. This comparatively simple aspect of the conversion is being extended to include many other stations. The last stage will be reached when the Western Region timetable changes over to the 24-hour clock.

The hours of the 24-hour clock are numbered (as shown on the dial below) from 1 to 24, and the conversion from the existing to the new method takes place at one in the afternoon—which becomes 13.00 (or 13.05 or 13.59, depending on the minutes after that hour). Thus, by adding the appropriate standard hour figure to 12, three p.m. becomes 15.00, nine p.m. becomes 21.00, and so on, up to 24.00, denoting midnight. The figure of 24.00 signifies a train *arriving* at midnight, but a train *departing* at that time is represented by the figure 0.00. Times of arrival and departure between midnight and 1 a.m. are shown by the figure 0.01 to 0.59.

